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Weekly highlights from the
North Carolina Department of Commerce



(Left-right) Fountain Powerboats founder and President Reggie Fountain, Liberty Associates CEO and Fountain Chairman Bill Gates, Liberty Associates Vice President and COO, and Fountain Powerboats COO John E. Walker, III, and N.C. Dept. of Commerce Sec. Keith Crisco

Fountain Powerboats to bring 411 jobs to Beaufort County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 22 announced that Fountain Powerboat Industries Inc., a designer and manufacturer of offshore sport boats, sport fishing boats and cruisers, will expand its current facility in Beaufort County. The company plans to create 411 jobs and invest \$5.1 million over the next five years in Washington. The project was made possible in part by a \$150,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Donna Phillips was the developer on this project.

"While companies around the globe are wisely choosing to open up shop in North Carolina, Fountain Powerboats is already one of our valued corporate neighbors," Perdue said. "Their expansion, and the many jobs that come with it, demonstrate that Fountain has long known what many other companies are concluding: that North Carolina has well earned our national acclaim for a top-ranked business climate."

Fountain Powerboat Industries has its executive office and manufacturing facilities on a 65-acre campus along the Pamlico River in Beaufort County. FPBI has been in business since 1979 and in 2008 added an entirely separate product line, Baja Boats. FPBI currently employs 75 full-time employees in North Carolina. Fountain is privately owned by Liberty Associates, LC. Liberty Associates is also the parent



Kevin Scott, president and CEO of Electrolux Major Appliances North America, and Gov. Bev Perdue at the Electrolux North America Headquarters opening doors event (Photo: Business Wire)

Perdue helps celebrate Electrolux opening

Electrolux executives and employees, together with state, county and city officials, gathered Nov. 18 at Electrolux North America's new headquarters in Charlotte to commemorate the company's relocation to the city and officially celebrate the formal opening of the facility.

"It was just 11 months ago that we announced our decision to open our new North American headquarters in Charlotte," said Kevin Scott, head of Electrolux Major Appliances North America, "And four months ago, the first employees from our Major Appliances and Professional Products sectors started working in this building."

"Today, Electrolux North America in Charlotte is 450 people – both long-time residents and new Charlotteans – working in this great, repurposed facility. It's fair to say that we've accomplished a lot in a short time," Scott said. "We are still hiring, and we are on track to meet our projection of 738 employees in Charlotte within five years." [Read more.](#)

[Appliance manufacturer brings hundreds of jobs to Charlotte](#) (WSOC - Charlotte, Nov. 18)

company of Donzi Marine, LLC and Pro-Line Boats, LLC. Both of these Florida-based boat lines will move to the Washington location. [Read more.](#)

[Boat manufacturer to add 411 jobs in Beaufort County](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Nov. 22)

[Boat jobs to buoy county](#) (The Washington Daily News, Nov. 23)

FAS Controls to bring 52 jobs to Cleveland County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 19 announced that FAS Controls Inc., a manufacturer of custom designed electromechanical components, will expand its current facility in Cleveland County. The company plans to create 52 jobs and invest \$1.5 million over the next year in Shelby. The project was made possible in part by a \$45,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Uconda Dunn was the developer on this project.

"This is the second jobs announcement for Cleveland County in one week," said Perdue. "Monday was computer services, and today is cutting edge manufacturing. These new jobs highlight how companies continue to be attracted to North Carolina's trained, educated workforce and top-ranked business climate."

FAS Controls is a manufacturer of custom designed electromechanical components primarily for vehicles. The company's current product offerings include custom flow control valves for diesel engines, heavy truck transmission shift control valves, pressure switches, and other electromechanical assemblies. Originally founded in 1911, FAS Controls moved to Shelby in 1973, where it currently employs 149 people.

"We are very pleased to be able to expand in Cleveland County and bring growth to a community that has served us well for many years," stated William Brown, president of FAS Controls. "We are also proud that the state and local governments remain in strong support of their incumbent manufacturing base." [Read more.](#)

[FAS Controls to expand in Shelby](#) (The Charlotte Business Journal, Nov. 19)

Malt-O-Meal to create 80 more jobs in Randolph County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 18 announced that Malt-O-Meal, a national cereal manufacturer, will expand its breakfast cereal and oatmeal manufacturing facility in Randolph County. The company plans to create 80 jobs and invest \$135 million during the next three years in Asheboro. The project was made possible in part by a \$350,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Melissa Smith was the developer on this project.

"Malt-O-Meal already knew what a steady stream of companies are quickly learning: that North Carolina is the best place to do business," Perdue said. "I want to congratulate Malt-O-Meal for their expansion and new jobs. This is the fourth jobs announcement in which I have participated this week, continuing proof that our formula is working. We invested in education, worker training and infrastructure to build a top flight business climate. Now the national accolades

Economic Development Board meets

The N.C. Economic Development Board met Nov. 18-19 in Wrightsville Beach. On Nov. 18, the group toured Screen Gems Studios and UNC-Wilmington, then convened at Wrightsville Beach for the remainder of the day. The meeting continued Nov. 19.

During the meeting, N.C. Dept. of Commerce Deputy Sec. Dale Carroll presented metrics showing that 14,445 new jobs have been announced in North Carolina so far this year, and that companies have announced plans to make \$3.4 million in capital investments in the state. Carroll was also quoted in the New Bern Sun-Journal as saying that, with North Carolina's regional economic partnerships, "North Carolina may be the only state in the country where every single community has the opportunity and participates in a regional economic development program."

[New jobs, business investments offer hope in state](#) (The Sun-Journal - New Bern, Nov. 20)



CBS highlights fall foliage in the Blue Ridge

On Nov. 21, the CBS Sunday Morning program aired a segment on fall foliage in the Blue Ridge Mountains. [View the segment.](#)

Airbus chairman predicts aero growth for Charlotte area

Charlotte is poised to become a global aerospace leader, the chairman of Airbus Americas Inc. recently told the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. According to an article in The Charlotte Observer, Allan McArtor believes the Charlotte area has the ideal combination of resources to foster a thriving aerospace community. He noted the area's manufacturing infrastructure, high-tech community, proximity to several research universities and the highly educated, highly skilled workforce. He also praised the quality of life found in and around Charlotte.

Airbus purchases approximately \$10 billion annually in airplane supplies from U.S.

and high rankings for job creation are flowing in as fast as the announcements of companies expanding or moving to the state."

Malt-O-Meal was founded in 1919 as a manufacturer of hot cereal in Minnesota. Since that time, Malt-O-Meal has expanded to produce varieties of hot cereal, oatmeal and ready-to-eat cereal. The company has manufacturing facilities in Minnesota, Utah and North Carolina. Malt-O-Meal's existing Asheboro facility currently employs 200. [Read more.](#)

Plastics manufacturer to bring 96 jobs to Randolph County

Gov. Bev Perdue on Nov. 17 announced that Ernie Green Industries Inc., a national plastics manufacturer and supplier of automotive parts, will locate a new plastic molding and assembly facility in Randolph County. The company plans to create 96 jobs and invest \$1.75 million during the next three years in Asheboro. The project was made possible in part by an \$80,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund. The N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Jan Critz was the developer on this project.

"EGI is bringing high quality jobs to our neighbors in Randolph County," Perdue said. "This new plant is a shining part of North Carolina's success story. Our nationally-acclaimed business climate and focus on workforce education and training has put us ahead of 48 other states in job creation."

Ernie Green Industries' subsidiary FPE NC, LLC will locate a full service plastic molding and assembly operation in Randolph County. The company will locate in the former Moll Industries facility in Seagrove, retaining some of the former Moll Industries production of plastic medical injection molded products. EGI is a national manufacturer and supplier of automotive parts with five production facilities in Ohio and Florida.

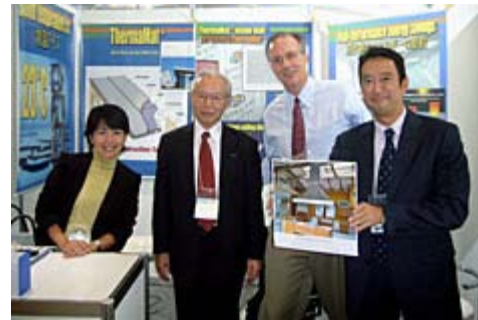
Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$30,975, not including benefits. The Randolph County average annual wage is \$29,172. [Read more.](#)

[Plastics maker adding 96 jobs in Seagrove](#) (The News & Record - Greensboro, Nov. 18)



manufacturers. Some primary suppliers to Airbus are located in North Carolina, including Goodrich, which is headquartered in Charlotte and operates a major repair and remanufacturing center in Monroe. [Read more.](#) Learn more about the [aerospace industry](#) in North Carolina.

[Airbus chair: Aerospace could take off in region](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 12)



(Left-right) Shin Kishioka of PCES, Sumio Shibata of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce Japanese office, Sam Cremin of PCES and Naoko Wada from Japanese External Trade Organization

Commerce client participates in green tech trade show

N.C. Dept. of Commerce client company Phase Change Energy Solutions participated in a green technology trade show in Japan Nov. 10-12. The show, Green Device, drew an international audience with more than 40,000 participants. PCES, headquartered in Asheboro, manufactures an innovative phase change material (bioPCM™) that improves the thermal efficiency of buildings. PCES and the International Trade Division have been working together to help build this company's client base and help it to compete in global markets.

Metrics from B&I Division

Below are year-to-date metrics tracked by the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's Division of Business and Industry that illustrate some of the recent activities of the division. The metrics include the number of new economic development projects assigned to B&I development staff; the number of economic development project announcements; the number of announced jobs created and capital invested; the number of interactions existing industry staff had with businesses throughout the state; and the number of contacts received by the Business Link North Carolina/Business ServiCenter.

Jan. 1 - Nov. 22, 2010

New projects assigned:	393
Projects announced:	129

The Commerce booth at the INDEX Dubai Furniture Trade Show

Commerce participates in Dubai trade show

Jean Davis, director of the N.C. Dept. of Commerce's International Trade Division, and Mike Padjen, business development manager with the International Trade Division attended the INDEX Dubai Furniture Trade Show in Dubai, UAE, from Nov. 8-11. The INDEX Show, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary, is currently the most important and top-attended home furnishings/ interior design event in the Middle East. Companies represented at the show included American Furniture Exporters, Capel Rug, Hooker, Sam Moore, Bradington-Young, Key City, McKinley Leather, Designmaster, Fairfield Chair, Jacob Alexander, Troutman Chair, Capris, Jasper Cabinet, Johnston Casuals, Wright Table Company and Gold Bond Mattress. Brad Miller from Hooker, Sam Moore and Bradington-Young also attended the show and had great success.

N.C. jobless rate drops slightly

Unemployment figures from the state on Nov. 19 showed the October unemployment rate for the state declined 0.1 percentage point, to 9.6 percent, putting North Carolina even with the national average for joblessness.

A year ago, the state's unemployment stood at 10.9 percent.

[N.C. jobless rate drops slightly to match national average](#) (WRAL - Raleigh, Nov. 19)

Jobs created:	14,740
Capital invested:	\$3.10B
Industry visits by existing industry staff:	1,344
Calls to the Business ServiCenter:	20,426

N.C. in the News

This Week's Highlights

- [North Carolina offers more than 100 online courses to high school students](#) (Thrive, Nov. 23)
- [Raleigh-Durham: North Carolina's axis of cool](#) (The New York Times, Nov. 21)
- [Belk Inc. plans technology website upgrades](#) (The Charlotte Observer, Nov. 22)
- [North Carolina Emerges as Data Center Hub](#) (Data Center Knowledge, Nov. 17)
- [Wal-Mart filling 430 jobs in Raleigh](#) (The Business Journal of the Greater Triad, Nov. 18)

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