

# sync<sup>TM</sup>

Highlights from the  
North Carolina Department of Commerce



## Butterball Adding 367 New Jobs by Expanding Operations in Hoke County

Governor Pat McCrory, N.C. Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla III and the Economic Development Partnership of N.C. announced February 19 that Butterball, LLC will expand its operations in Hoke County and create 367 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$66.75 million in the city of Raeford over the same period.

"Butterball is one of North Carolina's great success stories," said Governor McCrory. "The company is known all over the world for its products, and it is great to see it expand its presence here. North Carolina currently ranks first in the nation in turkey production by pound, and the industry is an important part of the state's economy."

Headquartered in Garner, Butterball is the largest producer of turkey products in the U.S., producing more than one billion pounds of turkey each year. Butterball products are currently distributed throughout the U.S. and in more than 45 countries. Butterball operates six processing plants located in North Carolina, Arkansas, Illinois and Missouri and employs more than 6,000 people in its plants, farms, hatcheries, feed mills and corporate offices.

"This expansion into Raeford sends a relevant signal about the strength and importance of the poultry industry here in North Carolina," said Secretary Skvarla. "This announcement of several hundred new jobs helps boost the economy here in Hoke County."

"We are thrilled to expand our presence in Raeford," said Kerry Doughty, Butterball president and chief executive officer.



## North Carolina Climbs to No. 4 Ranking in *Site Selection's* Governor's Cup

Governor Pat McCrory announced that North Carolina jumped to fourth place among all states in *Site Selection* magazine's 2014 Governor's Cup, a closely-watched ranking of economic development success. North Carolina moved up three spots as compared to last year's ranking. The Governor's Cup is awarded annually based on the number of new and expanded corporate facilities as tracked by Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant Database. North Carolina ranked number one in the South Atlantic region.

"National rankings draw attention to North Carolina's outstanding business climate," said Governor McCrory. "In today's competitive world, companies are on the lookout for locations that deliver clear advantages, such as North Carolina's tremendous workforce, transportation links, plus lower taxes and business costs."

The magazine's Governor's Cup also features state rankings by region as well as a ranking of metro areas. For 2014, North Carolina ranked first in the number of facility projects in the South Atlantic region, on both an overall and per capita basis. The Greensboro-High Point metro area ranked first in the country among areas with populations between 200,000 and one million. The Durham-Chapel Hill metro area ranked sixth in the same size classification.

"We've enjoyed our relationship with the community throughout the years, and we are proud to continue building that relationship. Our facility will total more than 200,000-square feet, and we will welcome more than 200 individuals into initial job placements over the next 10 months."

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Hoke County Economic Development](#), the [North Carolina Southeast Partnership](#), the [City of Raeford](#) and [Hoke County](#).

[Read more.](#)



### 138 New Jobs On Tap as RAUMEDIC Chooses Henderson County for U.S. Production Facility and HQ

RAUMEDIC, Inc. will be locating its first U.S. production facility and headquarters in Henderson County, creating 138 new jobs over the next five years. The company plans to invest \$26.3 million in the town of Mills River.

"North Carolina's bio pharma industry continues to grow, and this announcement by RAUMEDIC is proof of that," said Governor Pat McCrory. "The decision to locate this U.S. headquarters here speaks volumes about everything North Carolina has to offer to growing companies, both domestic and international."

Headquartered in Germany, RAUMEDIC manufactures polymer components for devices and its products are used in the medical and pharmaceutical industries. It has approximately 580 employees and is part of the REHAU group, a Polymer Specialist, employing 18,000 people worldwide.

"RAUMEDIC has been a successful international company for more than 50 years," said Secretary Skvarla. "North Carolina is the perfect place for this company to strategically grow in the U.S."

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$500,000. The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for reimbursements. OneNC also requires and are contingent upon local matches.

"Our new U.S. production and headquarters will combine the strength of American and German engineering to offer high-precision extrusion, molding and assembly of medical and pharmaceutical grade polymer materials. For us, Henderson County provides an experienced and skilled workforce and the ideal business environment for our investment," said Martin Bayer, CEO of RAUMEDIC.

"Both our state and local economic developers attracted more than 300 businesses in the past year to create jobs, invest more capital or expand here in North Carolina," said N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla. "We will continue to work hard to create the best business environment in the nation."

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### Granville County to Get 40 New Jobs With Expansion of Shalag US

The One North Carolina Fund helps Shalag US, Inc. expand its production facility in Granville County. The expansion will create 40 new jobs over the next three years. The company plans to invest \$16 million in Oxford.

"Manufacturing is one of North Carolina's traditional industries that has helped build our economy," said Governor Pat McCrory. "It's always great to see companies such as Shalag US expand manufacturing operations and create additional jobs right here at home."

Shalag US is the North American division of Shalag Industries Ltd., an Israel-based company that produces non-woven materials, for the hygienic and wipes markets. The expansion of the facility in Oxford would add a third thermo-bonding production line. The company currently has 74 employees in its Oxford plant.

"I am delighted about our continued expansion of our manufacturing facility here in Oxford," said Jeff Harari, CEO of Shalag US Inc. "When our new line is complete and running at anticipated levels, it will increase our overall production capacity in the US by 60 percent, and increase our entire company's production capabilities by 25 percent."

The main factor in the Oxford plant expansion is the company's objective to increase its range of products and reach more customers. The current plant will be enlarged and specialized equipment added for an additional production line. This enhancement will raise the efficiency of production and work processes, both on the additional manufacturing line as well as on

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), [Duke Energy](#), [Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development](#), the town of [Mills River](#), and [Henderson County](#).

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## HEALTHY PLACES CHANGE LIVES



*Dari Caldwell, president of Novant Health Rowan Medical Center, congratulates Rowan County business representatives at a 2014 Prevention Partners academy for working to create healthier workplaces and employees*

### Rowan County: Good health, good business

Communities wondering how to bring business and industry, hospitals and higher education together to improve population health can look to Rowan County for inspiration. In this triangular county halfway between Charlotte and Greensboro, leaders have joined forces in recognition of how a healthy workforce is crucial to building a healthier economy.

"We have an excellent health environment in our county with a focus on prevention and wellness, including the work being done with business and industry from Prevention Partners and Novant Health," says Dari Caldwell, president of Novant Health Rowan Medical Center, a 268-bed campus with extensive outpatient services. Caldwell also chairs the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. Both organizations have sponsored Prevention Partners' work in Rowan County, engaging 12 employers and their 7,654 employees in WorkHealthy America over the last three years. The work has also been supported by Novo Nordisk with collaboration from the Rowan County Health Department.

Large or small, private sector or public, the participating Rowan County employers are learning how to reach all employees and create sustainable change through benefits and policies on healthy food, physical activity and tobacco use.

- Rowan-Cabarrus County Community College has stepped up the variety of physical activity options for its employees.
- The nonprofit daycare center, Partners in Learning, has overhauled its culture, making health and wellness a priority for staff, students, and families.
- Livingstone and Catawba Colleges are using their WorkHealthy assessment results to focus their wellness

existing lines.

"I am always excited to hear about our North Carolina industries expanding and creating new jobs," said Secretary Skvarla.

"Companies continue to look at our skilled workforce and business-friendly climate as the reason to stay and grow here. You can't beat that organic growth!"

The project was made possible in part by a performance-based grant from the One North Carolina Fund of up to \$100,000.

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [Vance-Granville Community College](#), [Granville County Economic Development](#), and [Granville County](#).

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### Scott Safety Expansion Will Create 67 New Jobs in Union County

Scott Technologies, Inc. plans to invest \$28.7 million in Monroe over the next five years, supporting 67 new jobs at the location. Governor Pat McCrory and N.C. Commerce Secretary John Skvarla made the announcement on February 27.

"Scott Safety makes products that keep our firefighters and law enforcement personnel safe," said Governor McCrory. "This headquarters expansion will allow the manufacturer to continue its good work while enhancing the long-term competitiveness of the North Carolina facility."

Scott Safety, a Tyco business, is headquartered in Monroe and has seven global manufacturing locations. The Scott product line includes self-contained breathing apparatus, supplied air and air-purifying respirators, personal protective equipment, gas detection instruments, and thermal imaging cameras. Scott Safety employs more than 1,100 people worldwide, including 515 in Monroe, and has operations around the globe.

"Scott Safety has a long history in North Carolina and over that time we have enjoyed amazing support from the community around us," said Andrew Chrostowski, president, Scott Safety. "As we continue to grow and expand our capabilities over the coming years this investment will assist us in positioning ourselves as a global safety leader."

"North Carolina-based companies that have an international footprint like Scott Safety are

committee efforts.

- The small business Power Curbers has focused on helping its employees quit tobacco, including promoting their tobacco cessation benefits and passing a tobacco-free policy for their workplace.
- Rowan Medical Center recently earned Prevention Partners' Gold Star award for achieving a 100% tobacco-free campuses and providing high quality tobacco cessation services to employees.

"We have seen just how motivated organizations are to provide the best possible work environment to their employees, but also how connected this community is," says Hannah Prentice-Dunn, an organizational coach with Prevention Partners. "Time and time again, Rowan County organizations reach out to each other for help in making improvements. You can tell how strongly they feel about supporting the health of their community as a whole."

*Healthy Places Change Lives is a partnership between the N.C. Department of Commerce and Prevention Partners, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill. Prevention Partners guides schools, workplaces, hospitals and clinics to address the leading causes of preventable disease. The non-profit's Healthy Together NC initiative aims to reach at least 10 organizations in all 100 counties of the state by 2025. Learn more at [ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC](http://ForPrevention.org/HealthyTogetherNC)*

## More Than 490 New Jobs Announced with Latest Rural Grants

North Carolina Commerce Secretary John E. Skvarla, III and Assistant Secretary for Rural Development Dr. Pat Mitchell announced February 19 that the N.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) approved 15 grants or loans totaling more than \$5 million with the commitment of 491 new jobs.

[Community Development Block Grant \(CDBG\)](#) loan:

- **The City of Raeford (Hoke County):** \$1,000,000 to support the construction of a new belt press facility. This infrastructure will enable the city to accommodate the projected wastewater discharge requirements for Butterball.

[Economic Infrastructure Program](#) grant approved:

- **Davidson County:** \$162,000 to extend sewer to Frenzelit, North America to support expansion of its operations. The company has committed to create 13 new, full-time jobs.

The Industrial Development Fund Utility Account grants approved include:

- **Alexander County:** \$200,000 to install approximately one mile of natural gas pipeline. The line will serve a new office addition for Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. The company has committed to create 20 new, full-time jobs over the next two years.
- **Town of Mocksville (Davie County):** \$450,000 to assist with industrial access that would connect two existing industrial parks. The proposed improvements would open up 85 acres for future development.

[Building Reuse Program grants](#)/loans approved:

- **Alexander County:** \$500,000 to support the reuse of a 150,000 sq. ft. building located in Taylorsville.

an important part of our state's economic engine," said Secretary Skvarla. "We are always delighted when companies recognize the great advantages of North Carolina and choose to expand here rather than selecting one of their many other options around the world."

In addition to the [N.C. Department of Commerce](#) and the [Economic Development Partnership of N.C.](#), other partners that helped with this project include: [North Carolina Community College System](#), [NCWorks](#), [Duke Energy](#), [Monroe-Union County Economic Development](#), the city of [Monroe](#) and [Union County](#).

[Read more.](#)

## NCWorks Commission Adopts New Direction for Workforce System

The NCWorks Commission approved a ground-breaking strategic plan on March 2 that creates an integrated workforce development system that is responsive to the needs of employers and better prepares workers for North Carolina's economy.

For the first time, North Carolina has a comprehensive plan that sets the direction of the entire workforce system. The two-year plan identifies the goals, objectives, and strategies for improving North Carolina's workforce development system, which includes access to training programs for job seekers and working with employers to find qualified candidates. The Commission's goals are as follows:

- Create an integrated, customer-centered workforce system.
- Create a system that is responsive to the needs of the economy.
- Prepare workers to succeed in the economy by improving their skills.
- Use data-driven strategies to ensure accountability.

The plan was developed by the NCWorks Commission and included key input from representatives of the Department of Commerce, Department of Public Instruction, Community College System, as well as more than 70 local organizations. The Commission's goals advance the mission of the NCWorks initiative - connecting talented workers to employers by streamlining how services are delivered and aligning state agencies.

The 25-member Commission oversees the state's workforce development system. The Governor appoints its members, a majority of whom represent private businesses, educators, community leaders and labor representatives. In addition, leaders of state workforce agencies are members by virtue of

Huntington House Furniture will locate in the building and has committed to create 40 new, full-time jobs.

- **Bladen County:** \$250,000 to support the reuse of a 49,000 sq. ft. building located in Bladenboro. Carol Poultry, LLC plans to bring its entire processing in-house for the first time and has committed to create 50 new, full-time jobs.
- **The Town of Hudson (Caldwell County):** \$125,000 to support the reuse of a 102,600 sq. ft. space in Hudson. Associated Hardwoods, Inc. will relocate their operations to Hudson and create 10 new, full-time jobs.
- **The City of Claremont (Catawba County):** \$240,000 to support the expansion of a 1.2M square foot building in Claremont. Prysmian Cables and Systems USA, LLC, is a manufacturer of fiber optical telecommunications products and has committed to create 24 new, full-time jobs.
- **The City of Raeford (Hoke County):** \$500,000 to support the reuse of a 216,130 sq. ft. building. Butterball will utilize the building to expand the company's ground turkey, raw roast and tray pack business.
- **The City of Thomasville (Davidson County):** \$170,000 to support the reuse of a 20,000 sq. ft. space in Thomasville, where Wildcat Territory will relocate to create 17 new, full-time jobs.
- **The Town of Youngsville (Franklin County):** \$15,000 to support the reuse of a 1,500 sq. ft. building in Youngsville, where Youngsville Animal Hospital will create 3 new, full-time jobs.
- **Graham County:** \$500,000 to support the reuse of a 571,869 sq. ft. building in Robbinsville. Oak Valley Hardwoods has committed to create 40 new, full-time jobs.
- **Martin County:** \$500,000 to support the expansion of a 209,836 sq. ft. building in Robersonville, where Ann's House of Nuts, Inc. will create 50 new, full-time jobs.
- **Martin County:** \$250,000 to support the expansion of a 77,798 sq. ft. building in Everetts. Syfan Manufacturing, Inc. will utilize the space and has committed to create 25 new, full-time jobs.
- **Randolph County:** \$180,000 to support the reuse of a 39,100 sq. ft. building in High Point. Vault, LLC will locate in the building to increase production space and accommodate growing demand. Vault, LLC has committed to create 15 new, full-time jobs.

The RIA was established as part of the Rural Economic Development Division at the N.C. Department of Commerce to assist with the review and approval of grants for rural areas in the state. The grants-making programs of the division include assistance for building reuse and well as infrastructure, including water and sewer.

[Read more.](#)

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their office.

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## New Fee Schedule Expected to Save an Estimated \$27 Million in Annual Workers' Comp Costs

The North Carolina Industrial Commission announced February 23 the approval of three administrative rules which significantly revise its Medical Fee Schedule. The revised medical fee schedule is expected to provide the state's workers' compensation system with \$27 million in annual savings and encourage increased access to medical care.

"The new Industrial Commission Medical Fee Schedule incorporates long needed revisions that will protect injured workers' access to healthcare while significantly reducing the overall cost of the workers' compensation system by establishing fair and reasonable fees for medical treatment," said Chairman Andrew T. Heath. "We understand that the \$27 million figure is an estimate, but this certainly is a very positive step. I'd like to thank all the stakeholders whose effort and insight made this greatly improved Medical Fee Schedule possible."

The changes to fees for institutional services are scheduled to take effect on April 1, while the revised rates for professional services will take effect starting on July 1. This will allow insurance carriers and health care providers to transition to the new fee schedule as seamlessly as possible.

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## N.C. in the News

### This Week's Highlights

- [Op-Ed: JDIG program critical development tool for WNC jobs](#) (*Asheville Citizen-Times* - March 1)
- [House bill funds incentives but leaves out crowd-funding](#) (*WRAL.com* - February 24)
- [Spirit AeroSystems, lifeline for Boeing Renton, promises to meet rising demand](#) (*Puget Sound Business Journal* - February 20)
- [Chung: N.C. will have to be 'extremely aggressive' to win auto plant](#) (*Triangle Business Journal* - February 20)
- [ATL To ILM: Tourism Officials Focus On Atlanta](#) (*WilmingtonBiz.com* - February 17)
- [Federal Officials Fielding Public Input About Offshore Energy](#) (*WilmingtonBiz.com* - February 17)

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