

Greater Wilmington, North Carolina

Seek.
Compete.
Win.



A Lucrative Destination for Business

It's all about leadership, and the Wilmington Region has it. Engaged business and civic leaders here value high-quality job growth and economic diversification. The result is a culture of partnership between government and business that has made this corner of North Carolina a winning backdrop for 21st Century industries. Globally connected, knowledge-driven enterprises like medical, communications, consumer foods, energy, aviation and technology companies thrive here thanks to myriad regional assets, pro-business policies, and numerous support programs.

North Carolina: **THE NATION'S MOST COMPETITIVE STATE (2015)**
- Site Selection

#2 BEST CITY in the U.S. to Start
a Business (2015) - Nerdwallet



Location Announcements (2013-2015):
\$285 million in capital investment and 2,272 new jobs with average salaries of more than \$45,000.

- Deepwater port and waterside industrial properties



Wilmington International Airport and adjacent ILM Business Park

- Foreign Trade Zone and HUB Zone
- I-40 and a network of industry-ready highways



New Hanover Regional Medical Center deploys 520 physicians across 15 specialties

- Results-oriented incentive programs from local and state governments
- 5% state corporate tax rate competitive with southeastern U.S.

“About half our material goes overseas – to Europe and Asia. We have a port facility here and rely heavily on rail service, as well as highway access for trucking.”

FRED SAMZ
President, Fortron Industries



“We work with both UNCW and Cape Fear Community College because they provide the one resource our company relies on, which is really good people.”

BRETT MARTIN
CEO, Castle Branch, Inc.

Competitive Workforce Assets

A growing regional economy, outstanding specialty healthcare and coastal livability help Greater Wilmington attract talent from around the world. High-performing schools, a business-savvy community college and globally respected university keep the region’s workforce aligned with the changing needs of success-minded employers. Public and private K-12 schools work closely with business and HR professionals in shaping STEM and other career-ready programs.

- North Carolina unionization rate of 1.9% the lowest in the U.S. (2014)
- Combined Wilmington Regional Population = 391,384 (2014)



Nearly 40% of Wilmington residents hold bachelor’s degree or higher

- UNC Wilmington offers 52 bachelor’s degree programs and 38 graduate programs
- Free, customized workforce training through Cape Fear Community College

Businesses utilizing Cape Fear Community College training services reported a 95% SATISFACTION RATE, among the highest in North Carolina.

UNC Wilmington: 6TH BEST PUBLIC REGIONAL UNIVERSITY (2015)
- U.S. News & World Report

A Dynamic, Engaged Business Community

Greater Wilmington is home to renowned global companies. They operate across industries that include advanced manufacturing, aerospace, banking, business and professional services, contract research, energy, food and beverage processing, metalworks and more. Firms here share a commitment to their communities, the region and the performance of its economy.

- AAIPharma Services
- Acme Smoked Fish
- Castle Branch
- Corning
- Fortron Industries
- GE Aviation Division
- GE-Hitachi Nuclear Americas
- Live Oak Bank/nCino
- PPD Development
- Verizon Wireless
- Vertex Railcar Corporation

“Clearly, there is a high level of satisfaction by GE Aviation with its Wilmington location.”

ANTHONY PARNELL
HR Manager, GE Aviation

Seek. Compete. Win. A Legacy of Results

Business destinations flourish when people and organizations dream big, work smart, grow together and embrace the future with confidence. Facilitating the region's success is Wilmington Business Development, an organization founded in 1956 to lead economic growth and diversification. With its seasoned staff, WBD interacts confidentially with corporate facility

planners, location consultants, business owners and executives seeking the information, expertise and leadership vital to their success. For three generations the member-driven organization has facilitated collaboration among the people and institutions striving to make Greater Wilmington a winning location for economic investment, new jobs and sustained prosperity.

“Our needs are unique, but WBD was able to provide the assistance we needed. And they did it with complete confidentiality.”

CHIP MAHAN
CEO, Live Oak Bank and Co-founder, nCino Software

Wilmington:

BEST AMERICAN RIVERFRONT (2014)

- USA Today/10Best.com



Economic Development Excellence Since 1956

To explore new ways to link your business to future success, contact Wilmington Business Development today:

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