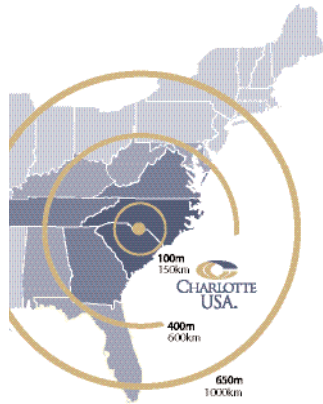




What is Charlotte USA?

The Charlotte region continues to strengthen its position as one of the most dynamic and diversified locations in North America. This 16-county region – 12 in North Carolina and four in South Carolina – is home to more than 740 foreign-owned firms, nine FORTUNE 500 company headquarters and a growing population of more than 2.4 million residents.



Charlotte Region Metalworking Highlights

- More than 36,600 workers are employed in the metalworking industry within the Charlotte region
- More than 1,000 metalworking companies have facilities within the Charlotte region
- Regional educational resources, geared to local employers' needs, provide hands-on training in the basics of machining and CNC programming, as well as CAD, robotics, and CNC Graphics Programming in both 2-D and 3-D applications

Unparalleled Accessibility

- 62% of the U.S. industrial base and over 52% of the U.S. population is accessible within 650 miles/1,000 kilometers of Charlotte USA
- Served by four major interstate highways (I-40, I-77, I-485, I-85)
- More than 620 daily departures to more than 127 destinations, including Munich, Frankfurt, London, Toronto and Mexico City, among others
- 9th largest trucking center in the United States
- Within 200 miles of three major seaports, including the 2nd largest on the eastern coast of the U.S. – Charleston, SC
- Served by CSX, Norfolk Southern and short-line railroads within the Charlotte region such as Lancaster & Chester Railway

740 Foreign-Owned Companies in Charlotte USA



Source: Charlotte Regional Partnership, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce 2006

Recent Announcements in the Charlotte Region

Company	Investment	Location	Date	Type
BMB Steering Innovations	\$70MM, 200 jobs	Fort Mill, SC	3/2007	New Facility
Greenheck Fans	\$5MM, 85 jobs	Kings Mountain, NC	11/2006	New Facility
Lukjan Metal Products	\$3.5MM, 40 jobs	Kings Mountain, NC	6/2006	New Facility

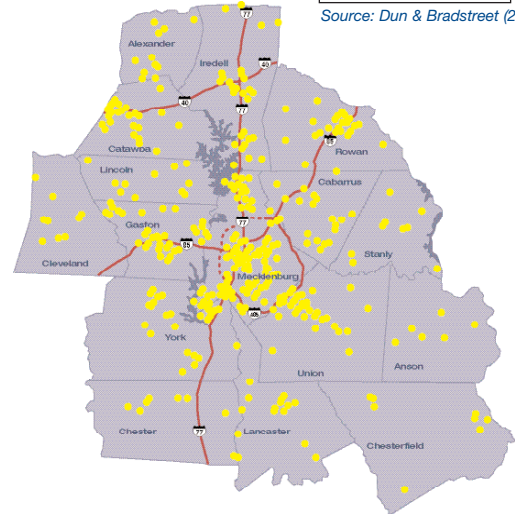
Metalworking Employers in the Charlotte Region

Company	Employees	Line of Business	Location
Schaeffler Group USA	1,500	Automotive Supplier	Cheraw, SC
Stabilus, Inc.	500	Gas Springs	Gastonia, NC
Charlotte Pipe & Foundry Co.	461	Cast Iron Pipes & Fittings	Charlotte, NC
Consolidated Metco	420	Metal & Aluminum Castings	Monroe, NC
Conbraco Industries, Inc.	732	Screw Machine Prod/Ball Valves	Pageland, SC
Norandal USA, Inc.	300	Aluminum Processing	Salisbury, NC
Talley Metals Technology	294	Stainless Steel Bars & Coils	McBee, SC
Steelfab	150	Steel Fabrication	Charlotte, NC
Mar-Mac Wire	100	Wire Products	McBee, SC
Gastonia Sheet Metal Works	100	Sheet Metal Fabrication	Gastonia, NC

Metalworking

Regional Metalworking Firms Map

● = Metalworking Firms
Source: Dun & Bradstreet (2003)



Growing and Talented Workforce

- North Carolina and South Carolina have the lowest rates of unionization, each having 3.3% of unionized workers in their state. (BLS, 2006)
- North Carolina and South Carolina rank 9th and 14th as the fastest growing states in the U.S. (Census, 1990–2000)
- The Charlotte region is home to 11 community and technical colleges with customized workforce development programs
- One out of every four metalworking employees in the Carolinas is located in the Charlotte USA region
- North Carolina and South Carolina lead the nation in worker productivity among manufacturing industries.

Source: SC Commission on Higher Education & Statistical Abstract of Higher Education in North Carolina, 2002-2003

Average Wage for Production Occupations, % of U.S.

	Average Wage	% of U.S. Avg.
Charlotte Region	\$548/wk	93%
U.S.	\$586/wk	100%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics (2005)

Educational Resources

- Local Machining Technology Programs offer coursework that include extensive hands-on experience with CAD, robotics, CNC Graphics Programming in both 2-D and 3-D applications, in addition to the basics in machining and CNC programming
- Central Piedmont Community College in-lab projects performed on full-scale industrial equipment typically used in local industry
- Cooperative work experience with local employers (for course credit) encouraged for practical instruction

University of North Carolina at Charlotte's Center for Precision Metrology

- Home of world's premiere university Metrology Lab
- 1,500 square ft. facility in precisely controlled environment and meets 10,000 clean room requirements
- Wide variety of high-end measurement instruments
- Traditional dimensional metrology & controlled coordinate measuring machines.
- Surface Metrology Lab measures two and three dimensional surface finish and form.
- Provide measurement services to local industry
- Faculty leaders from various science-based backgrounds focus on competitive programs that further local industry needs using practical and experimental applications.

Competitive Business Costs

- State and local tax incentives for job creation and capital investment
- State and local infrastructure development incentives
- Utility cost economic development incentives available
- Among the most competitive utility rates in the U.S.
- Average asking lease rate (\$/psf/yr) in the region is \$4.52 for industrial space (CBRE, 2007Q1)

Outstanding Business Climate

- North Carolina ranked 1st, South Carolina ranked 10th on *Site Selection* magazine's Most Favorable Business Climate list (2006)
- Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill MSA ranked 9th in *Business 2.0* magazine's Hottest Cities for Job Growth (2006)
- Charlotte MSA ranked 25th in *Expansion Management* magazine's Top 40 U.S. Real Estate Markets (2006)
- Charlotte MSA ranked #2 in *Entrepreneur* magazine's Best Markets for Entrepreneurs (2006)
- South Carolina ranked 1st, North Carolina ranked 4th on *Pollina Corporate RE's* Most Business Friendly State list (2006)

Industry Resources

National Tooling and Machining Association
<http://www.ntma.org/>
 National Institute for Metalworking Skills
<http://www.nims-skills.org/home/index.htm>
 Tooling and Manufacturing Association
<http://www.tmanet.com/>
 Precision Metalforming Association
<http://www.metalforming.com/>
 Precision Machined Parts Association
<http://www.pmpa.org/>
 Manufacturers Information Network
<http://www.mfginfo.com/>