

» North Carolina ranked **#4 in Best State for Business 2014** according to *Chief Executive Magazine*.

Your Advantage for Food Processing

Business climate with advantages for food processing

The NC Southeast region ranks as a top food processing location in the United States thanks to assets you can leverage for your business: we're ranked one of the best places to farm, second in the nation in food processing, we have an international port, a reduced corporate tax rate, numerous colleges and universities, a productive agricultural base, and three interstate highways. We also have invested in assets that will give your business a competitive advantage.

- North Carolina ranks 2nd in the country in food processing in terms of GSP, at \$15.5B
- North Carolina exports more than \$3.9B in agriculture products annually
- 12th largest exporter of agriculture products in United States
- Several counties in the NC Southeast region ranked in the top 40 nationally Best Places to Farm in the *Farm Futures* study
- North Carolina ranks 2nd in the nation in production for Christmas trees, hogs, and turkeys
- State and local incentives encourage investment and job creation
- Single 24-county Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ 214) with ability to create lower-cost subzones

NC: #1
in the nation in
production of
sweet potatoes



Skilled and experienced workforce

The food processing industry in North Carolina's Southeast region is supported by a skilled and growing workforce. The combination of over 15,000 skilled workers, customized training programs, and a highly productive workforce gives you the right ingredients for your business.

- Community College programs in food processing related subjects include:
 - › Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration
 - › Culinary Technology
 - › Applied Animal Science Technology (swine)
 - › Horticulture Technology
 - › Livestock & Poultry Technology
- Right-To-Work State
- Second lowest unionization rate
- NCWorks Customized Training Program provides:
 - › Pre-employment assistance
 - › Qualified instruction and training
 - › Facilities and equipment for training
 - › Customized training materials

>20K 
employed in food
processing



» North Carolina named “**No. 2 Best Business Climate**” by *Site Selection* magazine in 2013.

The research advantage for food science

NC Southeast offers unique research advantages for the food processing industry ranging from university programs to the NC Department of Agriculture-supported research centers.

- Six NC Department of Agriculture research stations in the region:
 - › Horticulture Crops Research Stations (two locations)
 - › Southeastern North Carolina Agriculture Center
 - › Border Belt Tobacco Research Station
 - › Caswell Research Farm
 - › Sandhills Research Station
- 19 departments in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NC State University
- Three community value-added food processing centers

Success stories

Food processing companies are capitalizing on the assets of our region. Find out why top names in the industry are investing and growing in the Southeast.

- North Carolina’s Southeast region is home to 24 food processing companies, including:
 - › Bay Valley Foods, LLX
 - › Butterball
 - › Campbell Soup Company
 - › Cargill
 - › House of Raeford Farms, Inc.
 - › Martin S. Abbatoir and Wholesale Meats, Inc.
 - › Mountaire Farms, Inc.
 - › Nash Johnson & Sons Farms
 - › Nash Finch
 - › Perdue Farms, Inc.
 - › Prestage Foods, Inc.
 - › Smithfield Foods,
 - › Steven Roberts Desserts
 - › Sue Bee Honey
 - › The Hillshire Brands Company

Transportation advantage

Reach over one-half of the U.S. marketplace, and your customers and suppliers, from North Carolina’s Southeast via three major interstates. Rail, port, and air service round out the region’s transportation network to provide you a range of options.

- Interstates 95, 40, 73/74, and 140 connect to over half of the US consumer market
- Port of Wilmington offers terminal facilities serving container, bulk, breakbulk and Roll on-Roll off cargo operations. It is C-TPAT certified and designated as FTZ 214.
- U.S. Dept. of Defense “strategic port” designation
- CSX, Norfolk-Southern, and several short lines provide efficient rail connections
- Wilmington, Fayetteville, Jacksonville, and New Bern offer regional air service with connections via Delta, United, and American Airlines

200 million consumers within a two-day drive




Utilities providing you a competitive advantage

We know that every cost point matters. Our region has low utility costs and customer choice that impacts your bottom line.

- Quality utility providers with choice
- 3rd lowest electric rates in the southeastern United States
- Eight advanced telecommunications providers
- Significant available water capacity
- Piedmont Natural Gas distributes natural gas to 178,000 residential, commercial, industrial, and wholesale accounts.

North Carolina’s Southeast is a public/private economic development organization which provides free, confidential resources and assistance needed for your company to relocate or expand in southeastern North Carolina.