

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

# Your Advantage for Metalworking

## Business climate with advantages for metalworking

The metalworking cluster is growing in North Carolina's Southeast supported by our unique assets: skilled and credentialed workforce, projected growth in metal fabricators, customized training programs, one of the largest military installations in the world, reduced corporate tax rate, foreign trade zones, colleges and universities, and three interstate highways. Leverage the advantages that make our regional economy strong for your business.

- NC ranks #1 in the U.S. for National Metalworking Skills credentials
- Established cluster with metalworking infrastructure
- NC ranks #1 in the Southeast for manufacturing
- NC state corporate tax rate reduced to 3%
- Nationally ranked universities and community colleges
- State and local incentives encouraging investment and job creation
- Single 24-county Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ 214) with ability to create lower-cost subzones

**150K**   
North Carolinians  
are employed in  
metalworking



## Skilled and experienced workforce

NC Southeast has a skilled and growing workforce supported by customized training programs in metalworking. The talent pipeline of metal fabricators is projected to grow in North Carolina, providing you a steady stream of credentialed talent.

- Over 3,500+ employed in metalworking in the region
- Almost 3,000 structural and ornamental metal fabricators in North Carolina
- Projected 9% growth in structural and ornamental metal fabricators by 2016
- 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

**36%** more  
productive than the  
U.S. average 





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

## The education advantage

From welding to computer-integrated machining technology, the NC Community College System has your training needs covered. Our 15 community college campuses and seven area universities offer a wide range of metal fabrication, engineering and other programs to support our growing metalworking cluster.

- Community College training programs in:
  - › Welding
  - › Metal Fabrication and Technology
  - › Machining Technology
  - › Robotics
  - › Mechanical Engineering Technology
  - › Computer-Integrated Machining Technology
- Manufacturing Certification Program with Level 2 & 3 focus on metalworking
- UNC Wilmington offers a 2+2 Engineering Program that leads to several engineering degrees
- Fayetteville State University offers a 3+2 Bachelor of Science in Engineering Dual Degree Program

16 colleges and universities located in the region



## Success stories

Our best marketers are the businesses already located in the NC Southeast. Find out why metalworking companies are locating and growing in the our region – talent, competitive cost, and access to markets.

- More than 150 metalworking companies in the region
- Metalworking cluster includes steel coils, attic fans, aluminum fencing, grills, steel packing straps, metal buildings, pipe fittings, and nails
- NC Southeast's Top Metalworking Companies:
  - › Fastenal
  - › Precision Tool
  - › Porta-Nails
  - › Wilmington Grill
  - › Victaulic
  - › West Marine
  - › Container Products

## 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
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.