

NORTH CAROLINA: NATURAL BEAUTY MEETS NATURAL PRODUCTS

NORTH CAROLINA'S NATURAL PRODUCTS INDUSTRY



North Carolina is the nation's largest producer of sweet potatoes.

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Invest in North Carolina

North Carolina's deep-rooted history of agriculture has left an enduring mark on the natural products industry. Companies from across the United States come here to cultivate and process fresh and organic products. From the mountains to the coast, we're proud to be home to one of the most biodiverse regions in the world.

North Carolina has all the ingredients businesses need to succeed in the natural products industry. Our state produces over 80 agricultural commodities and boasts the second largest food and beverage manufacturing sector in the nation. Our rich agricultural heritage, geographic diversity, highly skilled workforce, strategic location, and outstanding industry support make the state a leading destination for natural product companies looking to thrive.

Consider **North Carolina** for your next investment decision, and find out why *Nothing Compares*.

Natural Product Companies Prosper in NC

North Carolina is home to a variety of leading natural product companies. North Carolina's natural product array includes organic produce, sauces, snacks, nutritional supplements, cosmetics and soaps.



Grow Virtually Anything in NC

North Carolina's agricultural diversity is due largely to the state's varied geography and climate. From the iconic Appalachian Mountains in the west to the beautiful coastal plains in the east, the state boasts a wide variety of soils, rainfall, temperatures and elevations that benefit different crops and raw materials. With reservoirs fed by pristine mountain springs and surrounded by protected forests, North Carolina also possesses some of the cleanest sources of water in the U.S.

Commodities Produced in NC



Source: NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Rich Agricultural Heritage in NC

North Carolina is one of the most diversified agriculture states in the nation. From sweet potatoes to Christmas trees, soybeans to peanuts, the state's farmers produce over 80 different commodities across 8.2 million acres of farmland. Agriculture and agribusiness account for 17%, or \$84 billion, of the state's gross domestic product and 16% of all employees.

#1
in Southeast for Organic Operations
North Carolina is home to nearly 600 USDA certified organic farms and businesses, the most of any state in the Southeast.

2nd
Largest Food and Beverage Industry
North Carolina's statewide food and beverage manufacturing sector generated \$19.9 billion of the state's GDP in 2015, making it the second-largest in the U.S.

48,000
farms in N.C.

267
farmer's markets

#9
in the U.S. for
agriculture revenue

#1
in the region for
agriculture exports



Natural Product Industries

Skilled Workforce

North Carolina offers an abundant and highly skilled workforce that produce natural and organic foods, health and beauty products, "green" cleaning supplies and clothing made with respect for the environment.



#2
in region for Food
and Beverage
Workforce
60,000+ Employees



#1
in region for
Cosmetics and
Toiletry **Workforce**
3,000+ Employees



#1
in region for Soap
and Detergent
Workforce
1,000+ Employees



#2
in U.S. for Textile
Workforce
34,000+ Employees



THE OLD WOOD CO.



North Carolina's Unmatched Industry Support

North Carolina has numerous programs, research centers, and incubators that assist the state's thriving natural products industry. These organizations offer resources for natural product development across the entire value-chain from raw botanical ingredients to finished products to marketing and distribution.

NC Department of Agriculture and Agri-Business & Specialty Foods Marketing

A state program that promotes North Carolina's agricultural bounty to consumers across the country and around the world.

North Carolina Biotechnology Center

A non-profit that accelerates life science technology-based economic development through innovation, commercialization, education, and business growth.

NC Food Processing and Innovation Center

A university-based center that helps local food entrepreneurs translate ideas into commercially viable products and helps large manufacturers access cutting-edge technologies.

NC State University College of Agriculture & Life Sciences (CAL S)

Home to 19 different departments that focus on food, agricultural, and nutrition specialties. CALS is amongst the top 20 universities for agricultural sciences in the nation.

NC Cooperative Extension

NC State University and NC A&T University offer statewide programs that connect agribusinesses with vital research-based information and technology.

BioNetwork Natural Products Lab and Test Kitchen

A resource that offers analytical testing labs, onsite equipment rentals, and training for natural product entrepreneurs and businesses. A program of NC Community College System.



Natural Products Alliance of NC

A collaborative platform that assists and accelerates natural product industry development across the entire value-chain.

Eastern Carolina Organics

An organization that enables organic growers to profitably sell their products and supports efforts to improve production and packaging techniques.

Center for Environmental Farming Systems

One of the nation's most important centers for research, extension, and education in sustainable agriculture.

NC Natural Products Association

A non-profit dedicated to conserving, cultivating, sustainably harvesting, and processing North Carolina grown medicinal plants.

NC Research Campus

A partnership between corporations, universities, and healthcare organizations to conduct R&D at the intersection of human health, nutrition, and agriculture.

Bent Creek Institute

A non-profit that conserves and develops plant biodiversity assets and helps entrepreneurs commercialize traditional herbal medicine.

North Carolina's Top-Tier Business Environment

#1
Best State For
Business

- *Forbes (2017)*

#2
Top US Business
Climate

- *Site Selection (2017)*

#3
Most Competitive
Labor Climate

- *Area Development (2016)*

3% Low Corporate Income Tax
Of the 44 states that levy a corporate income tax, N.C. has the lowest rate. (2019 - reduced to 2.5%)

7% Industry Growth
North Carolina's food and beverage industry has grown 7% over the past 5 years.

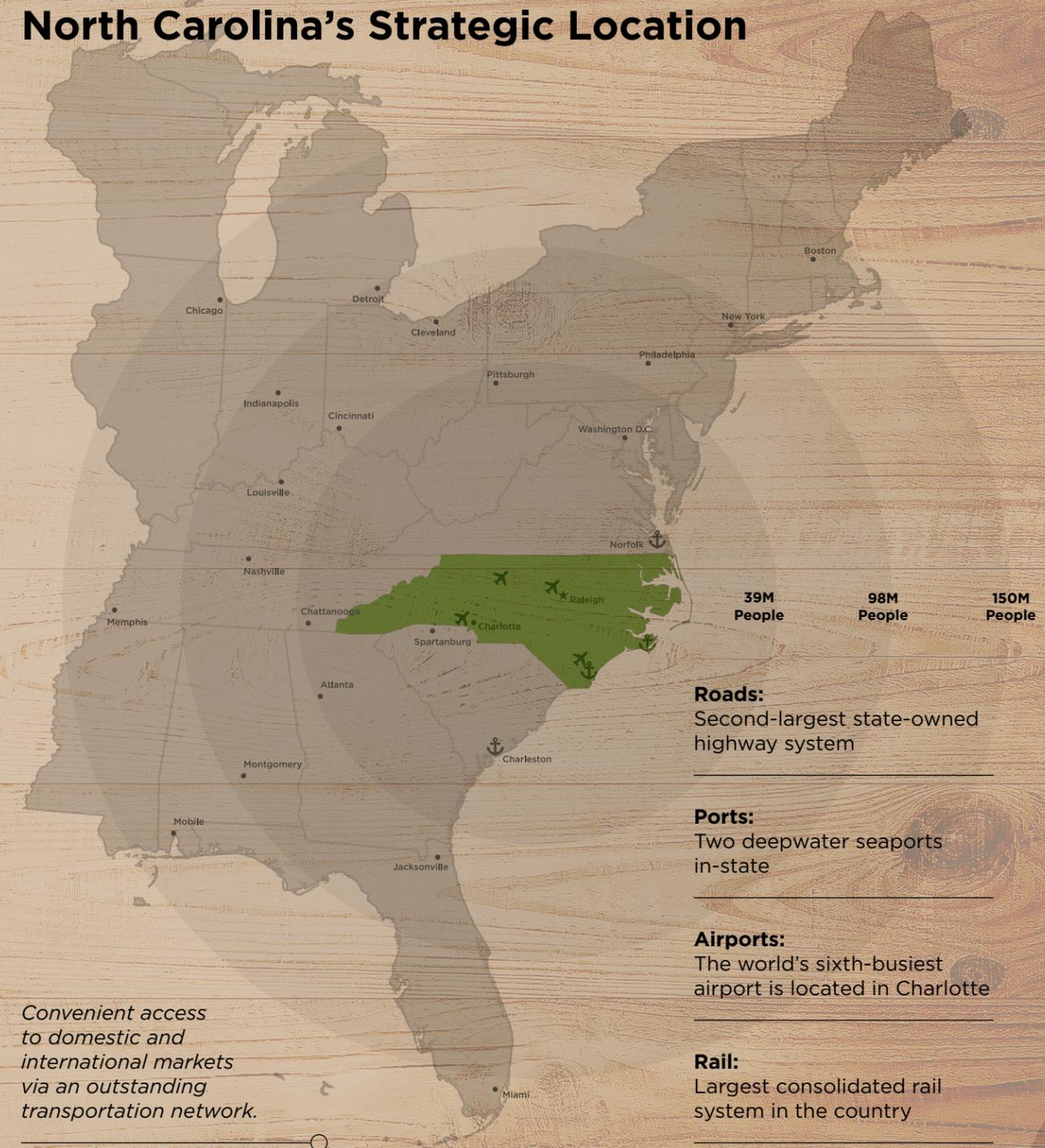
Low Cost of Living

North Carolina's low cost of living falls well below the national average.



Index (100=National Average)

North Carolina's Strategic Location



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What Can We Do for You?

The Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina provides free assistance with:

- Real estate and site identification
- Incentives and tax benefit inquiries
- Regulatory navigation
- World-class workforce solutions
- Supplier and distribution connections
- Export services and global market expansion