

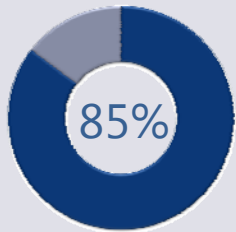
Business Costs

#4 in the US for lowest business costs as ranked by Forbes.com



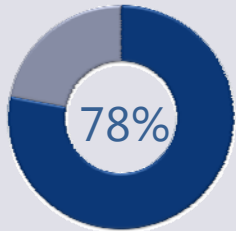
cost of living index (US=100)

10th lowest property tax rate among NC's 100 counties. No additional school or fire taxes.

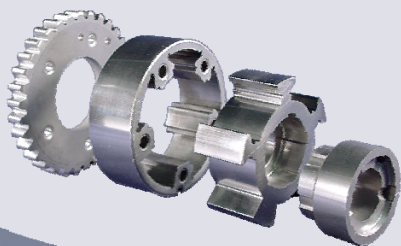


% of national avg for industrial electricity costs; 6.09 cents/kWh

4% NC corporate income tax rate, reducing to 3% by 2017



% of the US tax index for the manufacturing sector



Automotive Suppliers in Catawba County

Company Name	Location	Local Employees	Industry Sector
3M Polymask	Conover	100	Tape/Materials for Auto Protection
American Roller Bearing	Hickory	350	Anti-friction Bearings
Arcelor Mittal	Newton	12	Steel Plates for Heavy Trucks
Carolina Nonwovens	Maiden	62	Acoustical Insulation
Dalco Nonwovens	Conover	60	Interior Nonwoven Subfloor
GKN Driveline	Maiden	1,300	Automotive Gears
GKN Sinter Metals	Conover	99	Cam Caps & Transmission Components
Hanes Industries	Conover	250	Nonwoven Textiles
HSM Solutions	Hickory, Conover, Claremont	1,200	Seating Components
LGM/Jelliff Corp	Hickory	35	Automotive Ignition Systems
Continental Structural Plastics	Newton	50	Heavy Duty Truck Exteriors
Poppelmann Plastics	Claremont	50	Plastic Automobile Parts
TSG Finishing	Hickory	150	Automobile Textile Finishing
ZF	Newton	200	Chassis Components

Logistics Network



60% of the US population within 1 day's drive

City	Distance	Drive Time
Charlotte, NC	59 miles	1 hr
Spartanburg, SC	82 miles	1 hr, 30 min
Charleston, SC	258 miles	3 hrs, 45 min
Atlanta, GA	258 miles	3 hrs, 45 min
Chattanooga, TN	288 miles	5 hrs
Washington, DC	400 miles	6 hrs
Cincinnati, OH	438 miles	6 hrs, 30 min
Detroit, MI	620 miles	9 hrs, 30 min
New York, NY	632 miles	9 hrs, 30 min
Chicago, IL	726 miles	11 hrs
Miami, FL	778 miles	12 hrs



General Dynamics Building—187,200 s.f., 22' clear



The General Dynamics Building is 187,200 s.f., with 22' clear ceilings, expandable to 270,000 s.f., and sits on 21 acres. In addition to 17 dock-high doors there is 1 grade-level door. The concrete tilt-up panel building, constructed in 2001, has 49' x 47' column spacing and a 6" concrete floor with 4,000 psi. The building is located less than one-half mile from Highway 16, providing a direct route to Charlotte, and the Charlotte Douglas International Airport is reachable in 45 minutes.

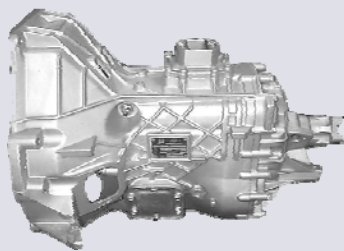
In the last five years, the Catawba EDC has assisted in the creation of over **2,500** jobs and **\$1 billion** in investment

"I moved here in 1996 and had the pleasure to work through numerous expansion projects with the Catawba EDC, establishing the GKN Maiden facility as a world leader in modern automotive all wheel drive systems. We have enjoyed a great operating environment and a great quality of life. I have found the City, the County, and the State of North Carolina to provide a pro-business environment with a low cost of doing business. We have partnered with the Community College for training in manufacturing technology and a German-style apprenticeship program. Of course, access to the nearby Charlotte International Airport also allows us five daily connections to Frankfurt and Europe."

Jochen Wieland,
VP Operations, All Wheel Drive and Transaxle Solutions
GKN Driveline

"GD SATCOM has been producing communications equipment for the Commercial and Defense industry in Catawba County for over 30 years. Our experience has found that Catawba County is pro business, with a manufacturing workforce competent to support GD SATCOM's composite and metal fabrication processes. County infrastructure and utilities are readily available, cost effective and reliable. Furthermore, easy access to the ports in Charleston and Savannah support ease of export, which makes up a large share of our business. Catawba County's quality of life and close proximity to the Charlotte Metro are also a plus when recruiting technical talent, or touring international clients and customers."

Rob Featherstone
Operations Director
General Dynamics SATCOM Technologies

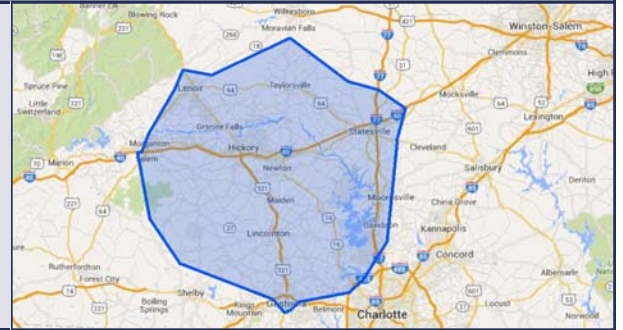


Workforce

45 minute drive time from the center of Catawba County

779,315
population

395,002
civilian labor force

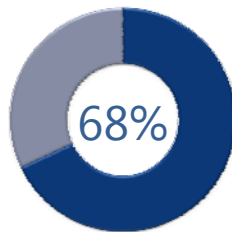


425
manufacturers in
Catawba County

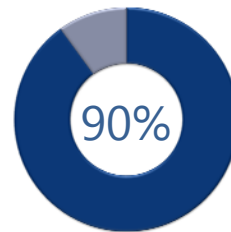
1 (yes, one)
unionized
manufacturer

26,600
employed in
NC automotive
manufacturing

3,900
employed by auto
parts suppliers in
Catawba County



% of US avg
wage for
trans. equip.
mfg; 82.3% of
NC avg



% of US avg
wage for mfg;
97.6% of NC avg

Automotive Cluster

34
of the top 150 North
American OEM parts
suppliers have
facilities in NC

19
of the top 150 North
American OEM parts
suppliers have
multiple facilities in NC

2
of the largest OEM parts
suppliers are located in
Catawba County—ZF &
GKN Driveline

Catawba County EDC

Julie Pruett, Director of Recruitment

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