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

89% cost of living index (Charlotte=107, US=100)

85% of the avg NC county tax rate
$0.575 per $100 valuation (additional municipal taxes range from $0.38-$0.5875 per $100 valuation)

92% of national avg for industrial electricity costs; 6.09 cents/kWh

2.5% NC corporate income tax rate, lowest in the US

78% of the US tax index for the manufacturing sector

## Business Costs

## Food Manufacturing & Logistics in Catawba County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Local Employees</th>
<th>Industry Sector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Merchants Distributors, Inc.</td>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>Wholesale grocery store distributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AdvancePierre Foods</td>
<td>Claremont</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>Buns and frozen sandwiches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance Foodservice</td>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Food service distributor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flowers Foods</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>Breads and buns bakery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CoPak Solutions</td>
<td>Conover</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Tortilla Chips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renwood Mills, Inc.</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Flour and grains milling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H.T. Hackney</td>
<td>Newton</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Wholesale grocery store distributor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Processing and Packaging Suppliers within 50 miles

- Aptar food and beverage
- Genpak
- Pactiv
- Spiroflow
- Sonoco
- Bottlers Machinery Co.

## Distribution & Cold Storage Companies within 50 miles

- Americold
- Gordon Food Service
- H.T. Hackney
- Lineage
- MDI
- Nordic
- Performance Foodservice
- Sysco
- US Foods

## Logistics Network

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

## City | Distance | Drive Time
--- | --- | ---
Charlotte, NC | 59 miles | 1 hr
Spartanburg, SC | 87 miles | 1 hr, 30 min
Charlotte, SC | 238 miles | 3 hrs, 45 min
Atlanta, GA | 258 miles | 3 hrs, 45 min
Nashville, TN | 368 miles | 5 hrs, 20 min
Washington, DC | 400 miles | 6 hrs
Louisville, KY | 433 miles | 6 hrs, 30 min
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
For companies that are regulated by the FDA, Catawba Valley Community College can provide training and services on documentation, auditing, validation, and certification. Examples of training include: Introduction to GMP, HACCP Certification and the Food Safety Modernization Act. These classes are offered in conjunction with the NC BioNetwork or could be contracted through a private vendor, such as the American Institute of Baking.

In the last five years, the Catawba EDC has assisted in the creation of over **2,000 jobs** and over **$2.4 billion** in investment.

“"I have worked 15 years in food production, and 10 of those years have been in Catawba County. I have come to realize that this area is a very competitive area for food production. The cost of doing business and the skilled labor force in this community help keep us competitive.

Catawba County is also located in an area with great transportation networks, via I-40, I-77 and I-85 and the Norfolk Southern mainline. We can transport our products to customers along the East Coast in less than 1 days drive. This access to customers also helps to keep our costs low.”

Ted Karre
Renwood Mills

“With twenty plus years of both production and maintenance experience as an engineer and manager in manufacturing, I have dealt with many of the emergent issues and opportunities today’s production or maintenance manager faces. For Flowers Foods, we were able to accelerate their on-boarding process providing assistance with recruitment, assessment, new employee orientation, and HR/safety training. As specialized needs arose for GMP and HAACP training, we connected them with industry experts such as the American Institute of Baking to ensure compliance with FDA guidelines. We understand the pressures and the sense of urgency and work with new and existing industries to assist them with these challenges.”

Crystal Glenn
Executive Director
Workforce Development Innovation Ctr.
Catawba Valley Community College

The Newton Corporate Center’s 68.8 acre Tract 1 is zoned for manufacturing. The site can be subdivided and existing site plans include an option for a 28-acre site and a 40-acre site. The site is a NC certified site with all due diligence completed. The site is less than 1 mile from US Highway 321 (an interstate quality highway), 7 miles from I-40 and 45 minutes from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport.

**Workforce**

797,303 population
386,199 civilian labor force

425 manufacturers in Catawba County
1 (yes, one) unionized manufacturer
58,502 employed by NC food manufacturers
3,107 employed by food manufacturers within 45-minute drive time

82% % of US avg wage for food mfg; 95.9% of NC avg
71% % of US avg wage for mfg; 81.8% of NC avg

Source: EMSI & US Census 2018 1-yr American Community Survey

Source: EMSI

Customized Training

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