



N.C. OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Piedmont Improvement Project is adding safety and capacity to the state's rail system. That will help manufacturers move more raw materials and finished goods.

Building a better product

Transportation and workforce-development investments support North Carolina's manufacturers, which had an almost \$98 billion economic impact in 2014.

Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk has made injection pens for diabetes treatments at its Clayton factory since the early 1990s. That's changing. In the largest single manufacturing investment in state history, Novo Nordisk is adding a \$1.8 billion 200,000-square-foot insulin factory, which will produce the medicine that fills the pens when it opens in 2020. The expansion could create as many as 5,000 full- and part-time jobs, says Tony Braswell, Johnston County Board of Commissioners chairman.

Novo Nordisk is among North Carolina's 600 life-sciences companies that, combined, employ more than 60,000 people and contribute \$73 billion in annual economic activity, according to Research Triangle Park-based N.C. Biotechnology Center. The sector has grown 31% since 2001, says Cary-based Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina Inc. Assets such as Research Triangle Park, the Triangle's three research universities and collaborations such as the Biomanufacturing Training and Education Center — which will train workers for jobs such as those Novo Nordisk is creating — have contributed to that growth.

While furniture makers put North Carolina manufacturing on the map and food processing has been a sector mainstay, drugmakers are the state's newest manufacturers. Expansions and investments by manufacturers contributed more than \$98 billion and employed almost 11% of the state's workforce in 2014, according to Washington, D.C.-based National Manufacturers Association. The state is strengthening infrastructure and workforce development, two factors that companies consider when planning relocations or expansions, to ensure manufacturing remains a strong component of the state's economy.

Raleigh-based N.C. State University's Industry Expansion Service offers consulting and training services — including process optimization, quality management, health and safety improvements, and growth strategies — to companies in a range of industries. It also serves as the North Carolina affiliate of Manufacturing Extension Program, which provides federal dollars for training and other programs. It recently rebranded from Industrial Extension Service to better reflect its services and market, says Phil Mintz, interim executive director. "Having 'industrial' in the