North Carolina

JOHNSTON COUNTY

A part of the Research Triangle Region

Your Best Route to Success

Johnston County is one of the fastest-growing areas in the state, thanks to its eleven rapidly-expanding and welcoming communities. Bolstered by Clayton, Smithfield, Selma, and Benson, four towns with the highest population, the County’s overall economy is diversified with a balance of industrial, expanding commercial, and agriculture enterprises.

Johnston County is a dynamic and diverse place. Depending on where you look, you’ll find small, close knit communities near fast-growing subdivisions. The only constant across this county is that change is happening. And thanks to many recent business expansions and relocations, most people will tell you that the change is more than OK.

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North Carolina / Johnston County

Target Industries

- Retail Trade: 7,160+ employees
- Manufacturing: 6,880+ employees
- Educational Services: 5,270+ employees
- Health Care: 5,550+ employees

An Ever-Expanding Hub for Biopharma

The production of pharmaceutical products, heavy equipment, electronic components, and durable goods assembly operations and distribution centers have provided relatively stable employment to County residents, and have been the object of significant capital expenditures over the years.

But the real cornerstone for Johnston County’s continued success is the appeal to firms in the life sciences industry. Two large biopharmaceutical companies – Grifols Therapeutics and Novo Nordisk, and two life science companies – Bayer Crop Science and SBM Life Science Corporation – employ over 3,500 people near Clayton.

Workforce Development

Johnston Community College (JCC) plays a crucial role in preparing Johnston County residents for careers within our local industries is Johnston Community College. JCC has locations across the county and serves 13,000 students annually.

In 2003, leadership from Johnston County and the State of North Carolina established the Research Training Zone (RTZ). The purpose of the RTZ was to encourage future investment within the area by supporting and meeting the employment needs of local industry which resulted in the creation and funding of the Johnston County Workforce Development Center. This 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art educational and technical skills training center is focused on life sciences programming, business training, and workforce development in biotechnology and other sciences. The WDC is a collaborative effort between Johnston County, Johnston County Public Schools, Johnston County Economic Development and JCC, as well as local employers that utilize it.

- $3 Billion Invested in the RTZ since 2015
- 3,500+ Employees supported by the RTZ