The New North Carolina Economy

Where the Jobs Are

North Carolina's economy is one of the fastest-growing in the U.S., thanks to increasing technology-intensive industries. In knowledge-based areas like biotechnology, computer technology, pharmaceuticals and telecommunications, our state is building a reputation for innovation.

But the jobs are available *now*, and we must fill them with qualified employees from entry-level technicians to top-level researchers. And they all require a solid foundation in the sciences. The alternative is losing thousands of jobs to other states or other countries.

The Growth of Biotechnology

According to the North Carolina Department of Commerce:

- North Carolina ranks among the top five biotechnology regions in the nation.
- Our biotechnology industry is growing 10%-15% per year.

North Carolina is the:

- #1 state in contract research organizations
- #2 state in agriculture-bio research and development
- #3 state in bioprocess manufacturing
- #4 state in pharmaceutical products

Information Technology: An Industry on the Rise

- North Carolina is already one of the top five telecommunications centers in the world.
- North Carolina is home to 15% of the nation's networking engineers (NC Department of Commerce).

Technology Job Growth in NC

According to the NC Board of Science and Technology:

- Technology-intensive jobs grew 3.7% between 1989 and 2000, more than twice the national average of 1.4%.
- Very technology-intensive jobs grew 4.8% between 1989 and 2000, more than twice the national average of 2.3%.
- Despite NC's excellent growth in these jobs, the number of NC private-sector workers employed in technology-intensive jobs in 2000 (11.5%) was below the national average (12.8%).

According to the National Science Board, foreign-born professionals held 22% of all U.S. science and engineering jobs in 2000, up from 14% in 1990.

25 Fastest-Growing Jobs

1. Computer Software Engineers, Applications
2. Computer Support Specialists
3. Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
4. Computer Security Specialists
5. Network and Computer Systems Administrators
6. Network Systems and Data Communications Analysts
7. Desktop Publishers
8. Database Administrators
9. Personal and Home Care Aides
10. Computer Systems Analysts
11. Medical Assistants
12. Social and Human Service Assistants
13. Physician Assistants
14. Medical Records and Health Information Technicians
15. Computer and Information Systems Managers
16. Home Health Aides
17. Physical Therapist Aides
18. Physical Therapist Assistants
19. Audiologists
20. Computer and Information Scientists, Research
21. Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors
22. Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers
23. Occupational Therapist Assistants
24. Veterinary Technologists and Technicians
25. Speech-Language Pathologists

Source: Best Jobs for the 21st Century, Third Edition © 2004, JIST Works, Indianapolis, IN.

Science & Engineering Fields

Aerospace Engineering
Allied Health
Astronomy
Astrophysics
Biochemistry
Bioinformatics
Biomanufacturing
Biomedical Engineering
Bioprocessing
Biotechnology
Cell & Development Biology
Chemical Engineering
Chemistry
Civil Engineering
Computer Science
Ecology, Evolution & Behavior
Electrical Engineering
Genomics
Geosciences
Immunology
Industrial Engineering
Information Technology
Marine Biology
Materials Engineering
Materials Science
Mathematics
Mechanical Engineering
Molecular & Genetic Sciences
Molecular Biology
Nanotechnology
Neurosciences
Nuclear Physics
Oceanography
Optoelectronics
Pharmacology
Physics
Physiology
Proteomics
Statistics/Biostatistics
Veterinary Medicine

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