



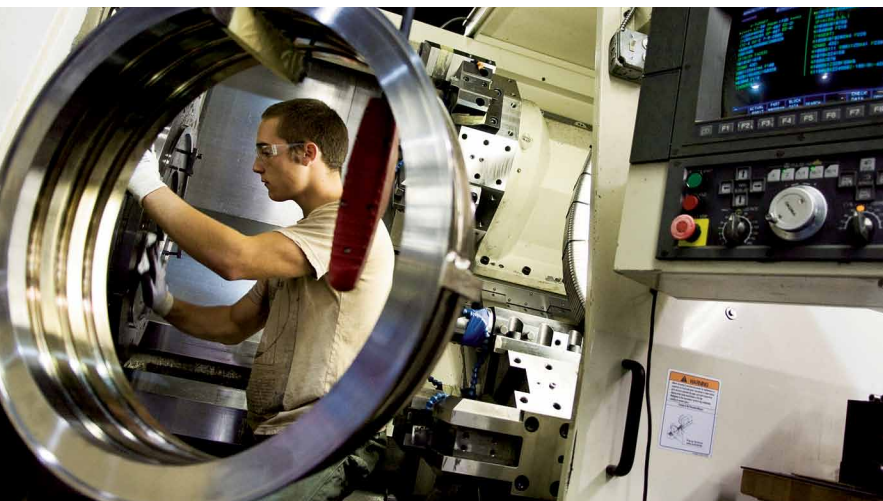
# Advanced Manufacturing

EconomicDevelopmentAsheville.org

## *Skilled, Creative, Diverse*

There's a long-standing tradition in Buncombe County of creating products and making them work effectively. A legacy of self-sufficiency in the region embraces doing it right the first time while making superior products that stand the test of time. This creative, quality-driven culture is evident in Asheville's manufacturing community today where well over 300 companies manufacture products in the four-county Asheville Metropolitan Statistical Area. The diversity of products and companies is impressive: the area manufactures products for industries in computer and electronics, plastics and rubber, aerospace and automotive, machinery, paper, and much more.

As the fifth largest industry in the Asheville MSA, manufacturing makes up approximately 11 percent of employment. Companies requiring specialized skills training can take advantage of numerous community resources as well as a high quality school system offering relevant training programs for today's globally competitive environment. Manufacturing can and does thrive in the Asheville region.



### **2000-2010 EDC Announced Manufacturing Activity**

- 41 Companies
- 2,813 Jobs
- \$430,500,000 Investment

*Focus Report from the*



Asheville-Buncombe County



# Advanced Manufacturing Focus Areas

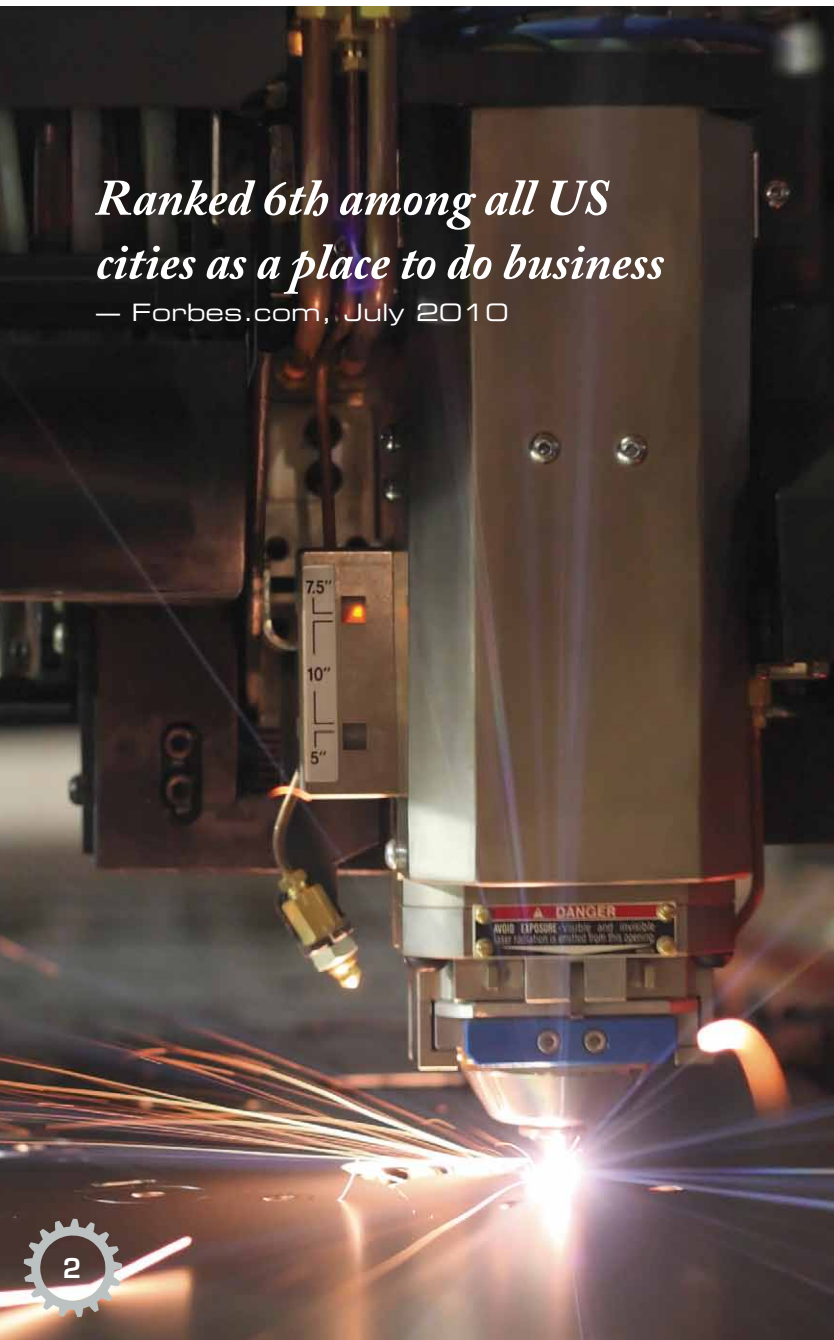


## Precision Metalwork

Metals machining companies have a long history of success here due to a skilled workforce, ease of distribution, and access to their customer base.

*Ranked 6th among all US cities as a place to do business*

— Forbes.com, July 2010



## Linamar Selects Asheville for 2nd US Facility

On June 30, 2011, Canadian-based Linamar Corporation proudly announced its newest manufacturing facility would be located in Asheville, with the creation of 400 jobs and an investment of \$125 million by 2020.

The Asheville community was selected following an exhaustive search of major southeastern markets that evaluated skilled workforce availability, manufacturing specialization, and proximity to Linamar's major customers. The company sought a community that could accommodate its continued plan of expansion into the North American marketplace. The long history of metals machining in Western North Carolina, coupled with the presence of a significant customer base, played a key role in the site selection process.

## Advanced Manufacturing Solutions, Inc.

An organization that specializes in manufacturing quality, precision-machined and fabricated parts, Advanced Manufacturing Solutions, Inc. opened operations in Candler recently.

The company services a diverse client base including mass transit, defense, consumer packaging, aerospace, healthcare, and the USPS.

Owners Robby and Carolyn Johannessen selected Asheville for its central location on the East Coast, strong manufacturing tradition, and reputation for precision machining. They said they knew from experience they could find the necessary work ethic and machining know-how to grow their business here.

## W.P. Hickman Company

When John Hickman's company outgrew its Detroit facility, he realized he could move anywhere. He loved Asheville's economic stability, quality of life, and no more brutal winters! Only six employees chose to move from Detroit with the company, so he had to hire. The Asheville Chamber and community college system were resources helping him find employees and property, as well as providing training.

Two advanced manufacturing segments—outdoor products and metals machining—are thriving in the area.



**Asheville MSA 2010  
Manufacturing Exports:  
\$3,558,813,042**

Photo courtesy Eagles Nest Outfitters, Inc.



## Outdoor Products

Outdoor enthusiasts are eager to live and work here, enjoying a natural fit with our spectacular mountains and temperate climate. Outdoor products companies can test products in their own back yard with potential customers that truly appreciate craftsmanship.

*“Asheville offers four seasons, close to the mountains. The outdoor culture is what we’re about. Three of four seasons are suitable for ‘hammock lifestyle,’ it is a laid back place. Everybody wants to support the local economy—that is a common thread here.”*

— Bobby Jackson, Sales Manager  
Eagles Nest Outfitters, Inc.

*The Asheville area is already home to 12 outdoor products manufacturers producing everything from tents to bike parts to kayaks.*

*There are numerous business reasons* to relocate, start, or expand your advanced manufacturing company here.

With quality of life in no short supply, the Asheville region allows you to live and work in what is arguably one of the most beautiful regions in the world. There is easy access to most major cities on the eastern half of the United States and ready access to meet transportation needs via major interstates and highways, airport, and rail system. Additionally, there may be available incentives for companies that meet certain criteria. We invite you to find out how your manufacturing business can benefit from choosing the Asheville region.

[EconomicDevelopmentAsheville.org](http://EconomicDevelopmentAsheville.org)

**The Asheville MSA has a more specialized employment presence in Manufacturing compared to the national average.**

*“There are several reasons we enjoy being in the Asheville area. It begins with our employee base, access to customers, having suppliers within a 150 mile radius, easy to get parts, and a dynamic workforce. Then it extends to the community and culture. Access to a regional airport is also important, and Asheville’s airport serves Charlotte and Atlanta; you can get anywhere in two legs. This is important for business and our employees’ families.”*

— Jeff Powers, Director of Operations,  
Asheville, Thermo Fisher Scientific

## A Few of the Top Manufacturers in the Asheville Metro Region

**Arvato Digital Services**  
Computer & Electronic Product

**ArvinMeritor**  
Transportation Equipment

**BorgWarner**  
Transportation Equipment

**Continental Teves**  
Transportation Equipment

**Day International**  
Machinery

**Eaton Corporation**  
Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component

**Evergreen Packaging**  
Paper

**GE Lighting Systems**  
Computer & Electronic Product

**Kearfott Guidance & Navigation**  
Computer & Electronic Product

**The Manual Woodworkers & Weavers**  
Textile Mills

**Thermo Fisher Scientific**  
Machinery

**Tyco Electronics**  
Electrical Equipment, Appliance & Component

**Unison Engine Components**  
Transportation Equipment

**UPM Raflatac**  
Paper

**Wilsonart International**  
Plastics & Rubber