

Local Business Report

Q2 2026

**Strong Jobs, Bright Futures, Thriving Communities.
Powered by Balanced Growth.**

CLT Alliance Regional Manufacturing Wage Survey

At the end of June, the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance released the results of its bi-annual manufacturing wage survey (last released in 2024). This survey, developed in partnership with Cabarrus EDC and 14 other local economic development organizations, provides key insights to the current landscape of wages for manufacturers as well as hiring trends and benefits.

Wage surveys are critical benchmarking tools to ensure that the industries in Cabarrus County offer competitive wages - wages that also assure that residents of Cabarrus County can afford a quality of life that meets their needs.



Key Takeaways:

- Overall, wages for hourly positions have generally continued to increase since 2022.
- The median response for full-time production wage increases was 4.25% over the next two years.
- In the next two years, 72% of respondents plan to increase wages for production jobs.
- Over half respondents (56%) offer a shift premium. Among those that do, the most common practice is to offer the premium for both 2nd and 3rd shifts (29%).
- To qualify for benefits, most respondents require employees to work between 30–40 hours.
- Approximately 90% of respondents provide a 401k; 88% match employee contributions.
- 93% of respondents provide health insurance and nearly all respondents offer vision, dental, and life insurance.



Student TRACK Brings High School Rising Juniors to Hendrick Technical Solutions and Prime Beverage Group

For one week in June, a cohort of high school students from Cabarrus County Schools and Kannapolis City Schools stepped beyond the classroom and into the world of advanced manufacturing as part of the Student TRACK curriculum. Students toured Hendrick Technical Solutions and Prime Beverage Group, gaining a firsthand look at innovative technologies, modern manufacturing processes, and the wide range of careers available in the industry. These immersive experiences gave students valuable insight into the skills, training, and teamwork needed to succeed in advanced manufacturing while highlighting exciting career opportunities available right here in Cabarrus County. [Click here to learn more about the Student TRACK program.](#)



Building a business from the ground up can be... a lot. Having the right people in your corner can make all the difference.

The Flywheel Foundation's Venture Mentoring Service (VMS) pairs promising early-stage founders with a hand-selected team of experienced entrepreneurs, business leaders, and community experts who provide confidential, unbiased guidance as you navigate growth. Built on the internationally recognized MIT Venture Mentoring Service model, VMS is designed for scalable startups looking for trusted advisors to help them navigate tough decisions, avoid common pitfalls, make strategic connections, and think through their next stage of growth.

If you think your company could benefit from a team of experienced mentors, we'd love to connect.

Reach out to Grant Colgan at grant@flywheel-foundation.org to learn more about the program and the other resources available at the Cabarrus Center.



Small Business and Entrepreneurial Activity

Small Business Support (April - June)

10

Company Meetings

4

Inquiry Intake Forms

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHT:

Ignite Program

Offered by the Carolina Small Business Development Fund, the Ignite Program is a flexible loan program offering up to \$75,000 to help small businesses thrive.

Additional details and qualifying requirements can be found [here](#).

COMPANY VISITS



For manufacturers that would like to meet with the EDC, please see our contact information below.

Staying connected with our manufacturers helps the Cabarrus EDC to anticipate your needs, remove barriers to growth, and support continued competitiveness. If you have questions or need specific support, please reach out to the Cabarrus EDC team - we are here to help!



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