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Cleveland 20/20

By Kristin Fletcher
Graphic Design by Adrian Camp

EXPORTING RESOURCES FOR CLEVELAND COUNTY COMPANIES

www.export.gov and www.BuyUSA.com

By: Kristin Fletcher

Did you know that the U.S. Commercial Service, a division of the US Department of Commerce, can give you complete guidance as it relates to delving into the export markets? They offer a worldwide network that will help your company enter new export markets faster and more profitably. Here are just a few of the services that they offer:

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- Counseling** assists in the development of an export strategy & obtaining financing.
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CLEVELAND 20/20
A Clear Focus
on Economic Prosperity for
Cleveland County

Soaring Net Exports Lead to 1.9% Growth in 2nd Quarter

By Dean Baker

Rising exports and plunging imports kept GDP growth in positive territory in the second quarter, as the collapse of the housing market continues to be a large drag on growth. Exports grew at a 9.2 percent annual rate. More importantly, imports fell at a 6.6 percent annual rate. Together, the change in net exports added 2.42 percentage points to GDP growth for the quarter, keeping the growth rate in positive territory.

The impact of the foreign sector on the economy in the last three quarters has been extraordinary. Gross domestic purchases, the sum of consumption, investment, and government expenditures, have actually been falling at a 0.5 percent annual rate since the third quarter of 2007. In other words, without the improvement in the trade balance, the economy clearly would be in a recession.

It is worth noting that the reduction in the trade deficit is only on the real side. The nominal deficit trade deficit actually grew slightly in the second quarter to \$737.3 billion (5.2 percent of GDP). The reason for the rise in the nominal deficit was an extraordinary 28.6 percent jump in import prices. While higher oil prices are the most important factor in this increase, prices of all imports are rising rapidly. The price of imported services rose at a 16.2 percent annual rate in the quarter. The dollar will have to fall much further to bring the trade deficit down to a sustainable level.

Housing fell at a 15.6 percent annual rate, its 10th consecutive quarter of decline. It subtracted 0.62 percentage points from growth in the quarter. The rate of decline in the housing sector is slowing. It is likely that it will bottom out in the fourth quarter or first quarter of 2009, and at least will no longer be a drag on growth.

Non-residential investment was a small net positive in the quarter, rising at a 2.3 percent annual rate. A 14.4 percent increase in structure investment was enough to offset a 3.4 percent decline in investment in equipment and software. This is the second consecutive decline for investment in equipment and software.

Consumption grew at a 1.5 percent annual rate adding 1.08 percentage points to growth. The biggest factor in this growth was consumption of non durable goods, which grew at a 4.0 percent annual rate. Purchases of shoes and clothes rose at a 10.4 percent annual rate. This is clear evidence of the tax rebates working.

The government sector grew at a 3.4 percent annual rate, adding 0.67 percentage points to growth. The biggest factor was a 7.3 percent jump in defense spending, as state and local spending grew at just a 1.6 percent annual rate. There is little reason to believe the timing of the defense boost is political, spending grew at a 8.5 percent rate in the second quarter of 2007 and a 10.2 percent rate in the third quarter. Defense spending is always erratic.

Inventory accumulation slowed sharply in the quarter, reversing a big buildup in the first quarter, subtracting 1.92 percentage points from growth. Inventory growth is likely to level off in future quarters.


The revisions knocked 0.1 percentage points off growth in the years from 2004-2007. This makes the productivity slowdown somewhat more striking, with growth averaging just 1.7 percent since the second quarter of 2004. Profits were revised higher for all three years. This has the effect of increasing the statistical discrepancy (the gap between output side GDP and income side GDP), with the -1.2 percent of GDP discrepancy shown for 2006 being one of the largest income side gaps on record.

While the stimulus package helped to sustain growth in the second quarter and will continue to provide a boost in the third quarter, the economy still faces serious problems ahead. It is unlikely that net exports will continue to provide as strong a boost to demand as they have over the last three quarters, even if the trade deficit continues to improve. The decline in housing will slow, but non-residential construction will soon fall also. Most importantly, the loss of housing wealth will start to slow consumption.

Revised data show the economy contracted in the 4th quarter of 2007.

Dean Baker is Co-Director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, D.C.

2007 NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR SAFETY AWARD RECIPIENTS



AGI IN STORE	GOLD
AZDEL INC	GOLD
BALDOR-DODGE-RELIANCE	SILVER
BERNHARDT FURNITURE COMPANY, PLANT #9	SILVER
CAROLINA MEDICAL MULTI-CARE CENTER	GOLD
CITY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN	25 GOLD, 3 SILVER
CLEVELAND YUTAKA CORPORATION	GOLD
CONCRETE SUPPLY COMPANY	GOLD
CRELLIN INC	GOLD
CURTISS-WRIGHT CONTROLS INC	GOLD
D M & E CORPORATION	GOLD
DUKE ENERGY, SHELBY	GOLD
DUKE ENERGY, SPINDALE	GOLD
EATON CORPORATION	GOLD
ELLIS LUMBER COMPANY	GOLD
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, FOREST CITY	GOLD
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, KINGS MOUNTAIN	GOLD
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, SHELBY	GOLD
ENTERTAINMENT DISTRIBUTION COMPANY	GOLD
FAS CONTROLS	GOLD
GLAIZE COMPONENTS	SILVER
HURST "JAWS OF LIFE"	GOLD
INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE GROUP, CONE JACQUARDS PLANT	GOLD
INVISTA S.A.R.L. - SHELBY PLANT	GOLD
KINGS MOUNTAIN MINING LLC, BATTLEGROUND PLANT	GOLD
KINGS MOUNTAIN MINING LLC, MOSS PLANT & MINE	GOLD
KINGS MOUNTAIN MINING LLC, PATTERSON PLANT	GOLD
LAKESIDE MILLS INC	GOLD
MILLIKEN & COMPANY, GOLDEN VALLEY	GOLD
MILLIKEN & COMPANY, HATCH PLANT	GOLD
PARKDALE AMERICA LLC, PLANT #5	GOLD
POLK VOCATIONAL SERVICES	GOLD
PUROLATOR ENGINEERED FILTRATION PRODUCTS	GOLD
QUALITY HARDWOOD FRAMES INC	GOLD
RUTHERFORD COUNTY	GOLD
RUTHERFORD COUNTY TAXATION DEPT	GOLD
RUTHERFORD LIFESERVICES INC	SILVER
S & R DENTAL LABORATORIES	GOLD
SHELBY HAMPTON INN	GOLD
TICONA	GOLD
TIMKEN	GOLD

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DRUG DETERRENCE DOGS “bowWOW” PARTICIPANTS AT BLUE RIDGE SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING



By: Sara Cheaney – Economic Development Intern



(Pictured left to right: Sara Cheaney, Kida, Spirit, and Kristin Fletcher)

At the Blue Ridge Safety Council Committee Meeting on July 17th, Joe Glover of National Drug Search, LLC, gave a presentation that helped members and local industry representatives gain insight on ways that their businesses could become safer through the usage of Drug Deterrence dogs. Joe's only employees are two beautiful German Shorthaired Pointers, named Kida and Spirit, who are happily paid with promises of dog treats and bird hunting trips. Joe's company is the only one of its kind in the State of North Carolina, and with his Drug Deterrence dogs, he proved that the workplace can cease to be a place to distribute and use drugs, which inevitably leads to a safer environment for both employees and employers. Although this company is not a law enforcement agency, the drug problems in a business can be eradicated by the threat of punishment if the dogs do indeed find something.

Those attending the Blue Ridge Safety Council meeting were lucky enough to get a glimpse of the talent that Joe's dogs possess in sniffing out narcotics. Glover hid four samples of drugs around the room, and allowed two dogs, each at separate times, to search the room for the substances. The dogs sniffed them out, and “sat” to signal Glover that they were aware of a drug nearby. Studies show that as the amount of drugs in a workplace decreases, the number of workplace accidents decreases as well, and as a result decreasing a company's insurance premiums and workers compensation payments.

- For more information on National Drug Search, LLC, contact:
Joe Glover 336-668-3132 (ph) 336-402-4114 (cell) gloverjoe@aol.com

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CLEVELAND 20/20

LEAN COUNCIL SUMMER TRIP TO TOYOTA MANUFACTURING

The bus left for Toyota Manufacturing, Georgetown, Kentucky this morning from the gated parking lot of Ultra Machine and Fabrication at 9:00 AM. The group will tour another facility in Forest City and will stop in Asheville

They will tour Toyota Manufacturing at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, August 5. The tour is tram driven and will last approximately 1 ½ hours. The plant is a 7.5 million square foot facility. The tour begins in Stamping where they will see cars take shape from huge coils of rolled up steel. Then move to Body Weld where these stamped pieces are put together. And watch as a team of computer-controlled robots perform the welds that result in a completed body shell. Overhead conveyors transport the cars from Paint, to the Final Line in Assembly. Through the tour, the guide will point out the foundations of the world renowned Toyota Production System as well as give insight into the line side processes of the TMMK team members. The TMMK plant tour was nationally honored as the "Best in Class Public Tour-Small Program" by the Guest Relations Association.

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CLEVELAND 20/20

How to Get Involved :



A Clear Focus
on Economic Prosperity
for Cleveland County

PLEDGE FORM

Name: _____ Company Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Website: _____

Annual Pledge Amount: \$500 \$1,000 \$1,500 \$2,000
 \$2,500 \$3,000

Advisory Council Level \$5,000 \$7,500 \$10,000 \$15,000 \$ _____

Payments can be made: Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly

Pledge is a yearly commitment for 5 years that is subject to annual review.

Checks payable to **Cleveland County Chamber/Economic Development Division**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS NEW INTERN

Our Economic Development team is delighted to announce that Cleveland County/Shelby resident, Sara Cheaney, will be assisting us this Summer here at the Chamber of Commerce. Sara graduated from Shelby High School, and will be a sophomore at UNC Chapel-Hill when she returns this fall.

Sara's first project this Summer was to help coordinate the Industrial Safety Awards Banquet, which was held at North Lake Country Club on June 19th. She was instrumental in ensuring that this event was a success, and we are thankful to her for all of the hard work she put into her first project. While working with our ED team, Sara will be exposed to various components related to economic development, and will be assisting us with various special projects, data entry, and marketing and communications. Please introduce yourself to Sara if you see her here at the Chamber!



BUSINESS, LABOR, AND TRANSPORTATION GROUPS URGE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO MAKE TRANSPORTATION A PRIORITY

Coalition Launches National Campaign to Fight for Investment in Transportation

WASHINGTON, D.C. June 23, 2008—A broad coalition of business, labor, and transportation groups today challenged presidential and congressional candidates to make investments in highways, bridges, and public transportation a priority for their campaigns and for the nation's future.

The call to action on the state of the nation's transportation infrastructure was issued as part of the official launch of the Americans for Transportation Mobility Coalition's *FasterBetterSafer* Campaign announced today at the National Press Club by U.S. Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Tom Donohue, Laborers International Union of North America President Terrence O'Sullivan, and American Road & Transportation Builders Association President Pete Ruane.

"We have a transportation system that is overworked, underfunded, increasingly unsafe, and without a long-term plan. Our crumbling roads and bridges and strained public transportation systems are symptomatic of a lack of leadership at all levels of government. It is evident that now is the time to move on a robust and comprehensive plan to build, maintain, and fund a world-class 21st century transportation network," said Donohue.

The Campaign intends to demonstrate to policy-makers in Washington that an aging and overburdened transportation system imposes enormous costs on Americans' safety and quality of life, the environment and the economy. As the countdown to the next surface transportation authorization bill begins, the nation's political leaders must understand there is no single answer and all options must be on the table to address the enormous challenges of an aging transportation system. The U.S. can either invest now, or pay later. A blue ribbon panel recently estimated that \$225 billion is required annually from all levels of government to maintain and improve our roads, bridges, public transportation, and passenger and freight rail systems. Current funding levels leave roughly a \$70 billion investment gap.

The cost of inaction is much higher. In 2006, traffic crashes killed over 40,000 people in the United States—about 117 deaths per day, nearly 5 every hour. One-third of those fatalities were a result of poorly maintained roads. That is a national disgrace. The cost of traffic crashes nationwide is \$164.2 billion a year. Traffic congestion sucked \$78 billion from the economy in 2005, added 4.2 billion hours in commuter time, and wasted almost 3 billion gallons of gasoline. Additionally, idling automobiles pump thousands of pounds of pollutants into the air.

The *FasterBetterSafer* Campaign will demonstrate to leaders in Washington the groundswell of public support across the country for making transportation a national priority. *FasterBetterSafer* is growing its grassroots network through aggressive viral outreach and by holding public events around the country. By talking with the media, the general public, and business groups, the Campaign will bring increased awareness about this issue right to policy-makers' doorsteps.

"Now is the time to reform, refocus, restructure and refinance the federal highway and transit programs," ARTBA President & CEO Pete Ruane said. "Through this campaign, the Chamber is playing a critical leadership role in highlighting the importance of increased transportation investment to economic productivity and to ensuring that American businesses remain globally competitive."

"At no other time have so many diverse individuals and organizations coalesced around the need to build America," O'Sullivan said. "We are all arriving at this point from different perspectives but we are here as Americans first, who believe that the next president and the next Congress must lead the effort to build America, so America works. We are a country that has always tackled the big challenges – from building the first interstate highway system or the Golden Gate Bridge to landing a man on the moon – and this is a challenge that can and must be met."

About the *FasterBetterSafer* Campaign: The *FasterBetterSafer* Campaign is a nationwide effort by business, labor, transportation organizations, and concerned citizens to advocate for increased federal investment in the nation's aging and overburdened transportation system.

For more information about the *FasterBetterSafer* Campaign, please visit us at www.fasterbettersafer.org.



Contact: Kara G. Ross
202-683-3117
kross@qorvis.com

GWU, CCC ANNOUNCE INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

Article taken from Shelby Star - July 25, 2008

As industry waxes and wanes in Cleveland County, two institutions are collaborating to make better, brighter employees for local companies.

Cleveland Community College and Gardner-Webb University announced their 2 + 2 program Friday. John Lattimore, dean of business technologies at CCC, said the program is geared toward working adults who have job experience but may not have had the opportunity for formal education. It would allow students to obtain an associate's degree in industrial management at CCC and then a bachelor's degree in business administration at GWU's Godbold School of Business.

"And all with campuses where you are," Lattimore said, "and at times a working person can work around." The program came about after Pam Howze, plant manager for Ultra Machine's Shelby location, approached CCC administrators about what kind of opportunities were available for her employees to continue their education. "The benefits for us is we get employees who are smarter, better trained," Howze said. "For them, there's a great personal benefit and satisfaction." Howze said the degrees and classes also set up the employees for advancement.

Gardner-Webb and CCC will offer classes at different sites for convenience. Not only will classes be on CCC's campus during the evening but also at Kings Mountain and Crest high schools. Classes are on and off campus or online or a little bit of both. "If it wasn't for online and night courses, it would be impossible," said Matt Wicke of Ultra Machine. The program has a lot of flexibility and is personalized for each student, said Carolyn Jackson, Assistant Provost of the College of Distance Learning and Continuing Education for Gardner-Webb.

A handful of employees from companies such as Ultra Machine, CVG, Ticona, Yutaka and AIG Media were present for announcement. Lattimore said nearly all of the industrial employers in the county had been notified of the program.

CONGRATS PAM HOWZE !

NC STATE UNIVERSITY SIX SIGMA OVERVIEW

Successful organizations are committed to [Six Sigma](#).

Is yours?

As it has in some of the world's most successful manufacturing, healthcare, and financial organizations, the proven methodology of Six Sigma can increase the efficiency and consistency of your processes to 99.9997% perfection.

To begin your Six Sigma implementation, register now for the NC State University [Six Sigma Executive Overview coming Wednesday August 13, 2008](#) to the Lowes Motor Speedway, in Concord, North Carolina.

During the Six Sigma Executive Overview you will learn:

- Why Six Sigma is the "secret weapon" of many successful organizations
- How the methodology can increase quality, customer satisfaction, and profits
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- What the best practices from successful Six Sigma companies are

Other classes include:

August 5

Master Black Belt: Teaching Methods for Six Sigma

NCSU College of Textiles, Raleigh, NC

August 18

Six Sigma Green Belt

NCSU McKimmon Center, Raleigh, NC

September 8

Six Sigma Black Belt w/ Minitab Software

NCSU McKimmon Center, Raleigh, NC

November 17

Six Sigma Green Belt

Concord Embassy Suites, Concord, NC

December 9

Master Black Belt: Mistake Proofing

NCSU College of Textiles, Raleigh, NC

For registration details and cost visit:
<http://www.ies.ncsu.edu/events>



"Our Investors Make All the Difference"

Since the combination of the resources from public and private investors and the Chamber, our County has witnessed much success. Through this partnership, Cleveland County can now be considered for more economic development prospects than ever before, and the majority of our new and existing industry announcements have resulted from the unified, team effort. Take a look at the successes that our 20/20 Economic Development Partnership has played a part in, since inception:

Company Name	Classification	Growth Type	Date of Expansion	Add'l Jobs	Capital Investment
Cliffside Modernization	Manufacturing	New	January 29, 2008	40	\$ 1,800,000,000.00
Southern Company	Manufacturing	New	August 2007	10	\$ 250,000,000.00
Showtime Concession Supply Inc.	Distribution	New	May 4, 2007	5	\$ < 1,000,000.00
PPG-Devold Venture Agreement	Manufacturing	Expansion	February 13, 2007	15	\$ 9,000,000.00
Telrx	Manufacturing	New	January 8, 2007	450	\$ 7,400,000.00
Steag, LLC	Manufacturing	New	December 6, 2006	21	\$ 3,100,000.00
Kitchen Ventilation Systems	Manufacturing	New	November 27, 2006	97	\$ 5,000,000.00
Ultra Machine	Manufacturing	Expansion	November 21, 2006	63	\$ 6,000,000.00
Chris Craft Boats	Manufacturing	New	July 20, 2006	640	\$ 18,000,000.00
Indian Motorcycle	Manufacturing	New	July 20, 2006	167	\$ 23,900,000.00
Controlled Release Technologies	Assembly	New	June 2006	9	\$ 950,000.00
PPG - Existing Industry	Manufacturing	Expansion	April 2006	n/a	\$ 20,000,000.00
Adevco Spec Building	Office	New	March 2006	0	\$ 8,500,000.00
Alive Apparel	Manufacturing	New	February 14, 2006	15	\$ 600,000.00
Beacon Plastics	Manufacturing	New	July 2005	15	\$ 1,000,000.00
S3 Technologies	Manufacturing	New	May 12, 2005	20	\$ 2,000,000.00
Case Farms, Inc.	Manufacturing	New	February 15, 2005	25	\$ 15,000,000.00
Curtiss-Wright Controls	Manufacturing	Expansion	November 16, 2004	35	\$ 740,000.00
Southeastern Container	Manufacturing	New	October 21, 2004	100	\$ 26,000,000.00
Kings Mountain International	Manufacturing	New	June 29, 2004	100	\$ 5,000,000.00
B & W Fiber Glass	Manufacturing	New	February 26, 2004	30	\$ 3,000,000.00
Gibson Industrial Services	Industrial Service	New	2004	20	\$ 1,500,000.00
Mayflower Vehicle Systems	Manufacturing	Expansion	July 7, 2003	15	\$ 882,200.00
Wal-Mart Distribution Center	Distribution	Expansion	2003	150	\$ 300,000.00
STI-Kings Plush, Inc.	Manufacturing	Expansion	2003	50	\$ 9,600,000.00
Shelby Elastics	Manufacturing	Expansion	2003	9	\$ 45,000.00
Baxter Corporation	Industrial Service	Expansion	2003	3	\$ 180,000.00
Boiling Springs Manufacturing	Manufacturing	Expansion	2003	4	\$ 35,000.00
Projects Subtotal				2138	\$ 2,222,732,200.00

OTHER COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Company Name	Classification	Growth Type	Date of Expansion	Add'l Jobs	Capital Investment
Rogers Automotive Group	Retail	New	January 2006	25	\$11,500,000
Hallelujah Acres - Get Healthy	Health	Expansion	2005	9	\$100,000
Walmart Supercenter	Retail	Renovation	2005	35	\$850,000
CRMC	Healthcare	Expansion	2005	n/a	\$23,000,000
Alliance Bank & Trust	Banking/Finance	New	2004	n/a	n/a
CLECO Primary Care	Healthcare	Expansion	2004	n/a	n/a
Curves for Women	Health/Fitness	Expansion	2004	n/a	n/a
Cleveland Mall/Carmike Cinema	Retail	Expansion	2004	n/a	n/a
Kings Mountain Hospital	Healthcare	Expansion	March 19, 2004	n/a	\$8,000,000
Community Projects				69	\$43,450,000.00

Without our investors, we would not have had the resources to actively pursue and court the new industry projects that we have been concentrating our efforts on. For our 20/20 Economic Development Partnership to continue to build momentum, we will have to increase the number of investors we currently have. Our investment contribution levels are structured to accommodate the budget of any business or corporation, and we view every contribution as being significant ~ no matter the size! We hope that if your company is not an investor in our 20/20 Economic Development Partnership, then you will consider becoming a member in the near future. Please contact us today if you are interested in learning about the benefits and opportunities that our 20/20 investors receive.

Thanks again to our investors ~ you make all the difference!

CLEVELAND *20/20*

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PRIVATE INVESTORS

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