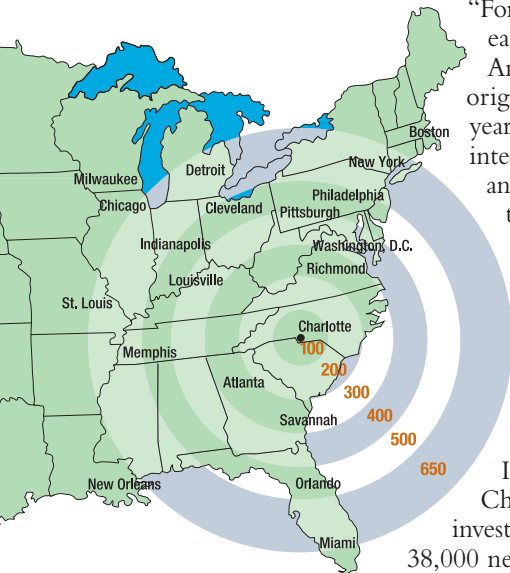


# Compass Group Points to Charlotte

As the world's largest foodservice company with annual revenues of more than \$19 billion and 400,000 employees working in more than 90 countries, the Compass Group could choose to locate its North American headquarters just about anywhere on the continent.

Yet the choice for this British-based global giant is easy. The Compass Group, like a growing number of international companies, calls Charlotte USA home.



"For Compass Group, the decision was relatively easy," says Gary Green, CEO of the North American division and a member of the original team that opened the U.S. market ten years ago. "We were looking for a city with an international airport, with big-city amenities and a reasonable cost of living. We also needed to be able to capture the talent from Canteen Vending, whose acquisition was our entry into the U.S. marketplace. They were headquartered in Spartanburg, SC and we could just as easily have chosen Atlanta as our headquarters. But the City of Charlotte and the Mayor rolled out the welcome mat for us."

In fact, more than 700 foreign firms now call Charlotte USA home. So, why have companies invested \$6.6 billion and brought more than 38,000 new jobs to Charlotte USA in the past three years alone? As the second-largest financial center in

America, Charlotte USA exerts its global economic influence as a corporate powerhouse. Yet its business strength goes well beyond the financial services industry. An impressive nine of the Fortune 500 companies in America are headquartered in Charlotte, and four of the top 1000 call the region home.

Both North and South Carolina have "right to work" laws, which means that employees in Charlotte USA are not required to join or pay dues to a labor union or trade association. The Carolinas have the lowest union memberships in the U.S. (3.1 percent for North Carolina and 4.2 percent for South Carolina). The result is more affordable wages and a very flexible workforce for companies in the region.

With more commercial flights per capita than any other region in the U.S., Charlotte USA opens a world of opportunity to the area's people and companies. There are over 500 flights per day, including a daily non-stop flight to London (Gatwick).

Charlotte also leads the nation in fund-raising for the arts, solidifying Charlotte USA as a region offering a wide variety of high-quality entertainment, cultural and recreational offerings. A temperate climate with four distinct seasons and easy access to the mountains and beaches only add to the region's unmatched quality of life.

The region also taps into top-notch managerial and technical talent from some of the nation's top universities in just a radius of two to two and one-half hours.

An extremely active Charlotte chapter of the British-American Business Council also provides a valuable link for British companies doing business in the region. According to Michael Teden, the Honorary British Consul in Charlotte, "British investment in North Carolina has had, and continues to have, a strong foothold. This region has much to offer UK corporations, large and small, offering both an excellent business climate and a high standard of living at what has to be considered moderate cost. There are few other regions in the United States to compare."

"We've just celebrated our official anniversary and taken time to reflect on the last ten years," says Green. "We all agree that the reception and success we've enjoyed here has surpassed our wildest and most optimistic plans."

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