

Charlotte Business Journal - January 15, 2009
<http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2009/01/12/daily43.html>

CHARLOTTE BUSINESS JOURNAL

Thursday, January 15, 2009, 11:23am EST

Chamber: New businesses, investment up

Charlotte Business Journal

Mecklenburg County experienced increases in new and expanding businesses, capital investment and the amount of commercial space to be occupied by local companies this year.

However, the number of new jobs declined.

According to the **Charlotte Chamber**, the number of new and expanding companies rose to 1,337 in 2008 from 1,326 in 2007.

The amount of commercial space to be occupied rose to 27.6 million square feet from 25.1 million square feet.

Capital investment rose to \$2.32 billion from \$2.27 billion.

Area employers announced the creation of 12,165 jobs, down from 14,648 in 2007.

The chamber's figures don't reflect lost jobs or company closings.

"Although this year has been full of hardships, the numbers show that Charlotte still continues to grow with a diversified economy," the chamber says.

The largest increases in the past year were in the retail, health-care, food-service, professional and technical-services sectors.

The manufacturing sector added 44 new or expanded facilities in 2008. The finance and insurance industry added 80 in the same period, the chamber says.

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.