

YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at major jobs announcements in 2016 across the Triad

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The year 2016 isn't quite done, but the past 12 months have brought a fairly steady stream of job announcements across the Triad. While it will be months before local economic developers can assess the true net impact of job announcements against layoffs, there were a number of sizable deals this year, including one of the largest ever in the region — Alorica's 800-job announcement in November.

The year started with a bang when furniture CH Living announced it would open a 180,000-square-foot East Coast manufacturing facility in Greensboro by the end of March, with plans to employ up to 200 workers to manufacture warehouse and distribute sofas, loveseats and sectionals.

Birmingham, Ala.-based O'Neal Manufacturing said in February that it would add 65 jobs to its Greensboro operations by June, but this week revised its outlook, saying it won't add all of those positions until spring 2017 due to a slowdown of growth from customers like Caterpillar.

Spring brought a flurry of job additions, including an announcement by truck body and trailer producer Mickey Truck Bodies that it would build a new manufacturing plant in High Point that will triple production capacity, even as it had recently added 50 positions.

Meanwhile, Thomas Built Buses announced plans in March to hire 200 people for its manufacturing operations in High Point— on top of its \$11.8 million expansion that added 236 local jobs.

By August, HAECO Americas announced it would expand with a long-awaited hangar at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro with a price tag of \$60 million. HAECO is expected to create at least 400 local jobs over three years as a result of the project, though company officials expect it will yield more than 500 once it reaches full capacity. That project comes on top of HAECO's plans announced in 2015 to add 147 jobs to a facility in High Point.



Ken Muche, company spokesman for call center company Alorica, speaks at a press conference about the firm's addition of 800 jobs in High Point.

Also in August, Colorado-based Prescient confirmed that it would move forward with a 205-job expansion at the N.C. Commerce Park in Alamance County, where the firm plans to build a 135,000-square-foot facility on 20 acres and hire people earning annual wages between \$40,000 to about \$90,000.

The job announcements didn't slow down this fall. Creative Snacks, a Greensboro maker of organic and healthy snacks, said in September that it planned to complete construction on a new facility in High Point's Piedmont Centre business park and grow to more than 100 jobs.



In October, the Triad Business Journal confirmed that online furniture retailer Wayfair quietly opened a distribution facility at the McConnell Center in Greensboro earlier this year and that it had added 65 distribution positions.

In one of the largest job announcements in recent history, Irvine, Calif.-based call center Alorica said it would add 800 positions to its High Point customer engagement service office a week before the Thanksgiving holiday.

The year came to a close with job announcements by both Texas-based Crown Mark, which said it would build an \$11.7 million distribution center in High Point and add 10 jobs with an average wage of \$50,000, and Total Quality Logistics, an Ohio freight that plans to open a facility by March in High Point's Piedmont Centre and create 70 jobs over five years.



HAECO Americas announced in August that it would add a fifth hangar at Piedmont Triad International Airport and add at least 400 jobs over a three year period. and a total of more than 500 once it reaches full capacity. HAECO will feature 250,000 square feet of space, of which 176,000 square feet will be dedicated hangar floors space.