Sub-sector: Apparel

The apparel sub-sector includes fiber, yarns, and textiles used as technical components in the manufacture of clothing such as sewing threads, interlinings, waddings, and insulation. This sub-sector does not include the main or outer linings of fabrics or garments, nor does it include protective clothing, which is contained in a separate sub-sector.¹

Note: Apparel products are also included in the sport, medical, and protection sub-sectors.

North Carolina Companies Competing in the Apparel Sub-sector

Performance Textile Sectors

Number of companies: 73
Number of counties: 22
Cluster configuration: Guilford, Mecklenburg, Catawba, Gaston, Wake
Sales ($ estimated): $2,368,699,845
Employees: 6,251
Products (sample): Sportswear, outerwear, performance apparel, athletic socks

The apparel sub-sector in North Carolina ranks third in terms of sales estimates and fifth in number of companies competing when compared to all North Carolina performance textile sub-sectors. Using definitions developed by previous research the apparel sub-sector only encompasses companies that produce fiber, yarn, and textiles for performance apparel. Because of this limitation, the representation of performance apparel companies could be skewed. Performance apparel companies providing products in medical apparel, protection apparel, and sportswear are not included in the apparel sub-sector. Opportunities for North Carolina companies in the apparel sector are limited. Although the products possess value-added characteristics, low cost replicates can often be produced offshore. North Carolina companies providing niche performance apparel products (e.g. temperature change materials) are positioned to experience the highest growth opportunities.