Sub-sector: Construction

Performance textiles are most often used in the construction of buildings, dams, bridges, tunnels, and roads. Tents, marquees, awnings, and the construction of semi-permanent structures such as sports stadiums, exhibition centers, and other modern buildings use performance textiles. With an increase in natural disasters and terrorism threats, in addition to an increase in commercial events, a growing need for performance textiles in this sub-sector has been identified. Supporting industries and professions impacted by this sub-sector include development, testing, and acceptance organizations, architecture, construction engineers, contractors, and regulatory bodies.

North Carolina Companies Competing in the Construction Sub-sector

PERFORMANCE TEXTILE SECTORS

CONSTRUCTION

Number of companies: 32
Number of counties: 11
Cluster configuration: Durham, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Wake
Sales $ (estimated): $726,213,045
Employees: 1,324
Products (sample): Glass, carbon, cellulose, and aramid fibers for use in construction and composite markets, insulation for home builders

The construction sub-sector has a reportedly low number of companies competing in North Carolina. In terms of estimated sales, the North Carolina construction sub-sector ranks ninth among other North Carolina performance textile sub-sectors. The discrepancy in rankings can be attributed to the expense of construction textiles. These materials are often developed using expensive fibers and materials, thus increasing costs throughout the supply chain to develop such products. Additionally, construction requirements and standards differ from project to project, making it difficult to become an industry leader in the construction sub-sector.