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NORTH CAROLINA

Population 2,339,452
(U. S. Census Bureau estimate for 1916)

STATE CAPITAL, RALEIGH

NORTH CAROLINA is bounded north by Virginia, east and southeast by the Atlantic Ocean, south by South Carolina and Georgia, and west by Tennessee. Its extreme length from east to west is 490 miles; extreme breadth, 185 miles; land area, 48,580 square miles. The surface is very varied. For nearly 100 miles inland from the coast the country is level, marshy, and swampy; soil sandy but very fertile. It is estimated that there are nearly 3,000,000 acres of swamps in this region, which is known as the "Tidewater" section. Next is the middle or "Coastal Plain" section, with varied surface and fine soil. West of this is the "Piedmont" section, a fine farming region, producing North Carolina's staples, cotton and tobacco, in abundance, as well as large crops of wheat and other grain. It is a land of fertile valleys and gently sloping hills, increasing in altitude until they reach the "Mountains" region in the west. Some of the peaks in the Black Mountains and the Blue Ridge attain an elevation of from 5,000 to 6,000 feet, the highest land east of the Rocky Mountains. This region contains good grazing land, with much hard timber; and stock raising is largely carried on. It is a country of fine pastures and live stock of all kinds thrive. Grain and fruit, especially apples, are grown abundantly. The scenery is remarkably beautiful, and the climate is such that it is becoming a popular health and pleasure resort. In the coast region the river bottoms and reclaimed swamp lands are very fertile, and here cotton, corn, honey, beeswax, apples, peaches, and pears abound. Frost is infrequent, and the rainfall averages 60 inches. The Scuppernon and Catawba grapes are native here; cranberries and vegetables of all kinds are extensively produced, melons being especially fine. The lumber industries and fisheries are very valuable. Drainage work is being energetically prosecuted in this region, and many thousands of acres of swamp lands are annually brought under the plow. The pine region is being settled as the timber is cut off, but the forests are still extensive, and a large trade is done in timber, tar, and turpentine. The people are almost purely American, the number of individuals of foreign birth or parentage being smaller, both actually and relatively, than in any other state. The foreign born form about a quarter of one per cent. of the population, those of foreign parentage only about two-fifths of one per cent.

AGRICULTURE. Cotton is grown chiefly in the southern and central counties. The middle section is adapted to the growth of cereals, tobacco, and cotton; sweet potatoes are a leading staple. In this section are a large number of cotton mills and woodworking plants. The state is excelled only by Kentucky in its tobacco crop, the production in 1918 reaching 282,000,000 pounds. In the truck growing industry she is among the first. The grain crops in 1918 were corn, 64,385,000 bushels; wheat, 7,105,000 bushels; oats, 6,500,000 bushels; rice, rye and buckwheat are grown to some extent. Potatoes produced 4,275,000 bushels; sweet potatoes 8,910,000 bushels, the third largest crop in the country, peanuts 7,200,000 bushels, also the third largest. Cotton produced 570,000 bales. Some sugar cane is grown for syrup. Apples and peaches are important crops.

MANUFACTURES. The principal manufactures are furniture, lumber, tar, turpentine, rosin, cotton and woolen goods, tobacco, zinc (smelted and rolled), carriages. The state takes fourth place among the southern states in lumber. The manufacture of cotton goods is very large and is constantly increasing, there being a greater number of cotton mills than in any other state. In the number of furniture factories North Carolina is exceeded by only one state. The 1910 census gives the value of manufactures for 1909 as \$216,656,000, the product of 4,931 factories. The state exports coastwise and to foreign ports large amounts of lumber, cotton, tobacco, flour, and fish. It is the fifth state in the lumber industry. The 1916 production was over two billion feet.

MINERALS. North Carolina has a large variety of minerals. It leads all the states in the production of mica, of which it had an output in 1914 of \$195,270. Gold is mined to some extent in Cabarrus, Mecklenburg, Lincoln and Rowan counties, the 1917 yield being worth \$15,141, and there is a branch of the United States Mint at Charlotte. Silver, lead and zinc exist, and there is a valuable mine of copper in Ashe county; barytes, corundum and many other minerals, and some precious stones are found. Coal and iron are found; the coal is mostly bituminous, and is contained in two fields, one in Stokes and Rockingham counties, known as the Dan River field, the other in Chatham and Moore counties, known as the Deep River field. The mines have been little worked in recent years. The region from the Roanoke and Cape Fear rivers westward to Cherokee county contains rich beds of magnetic and hematite ores; the "Cranberry" mine, in Mitchell county, yields the purest magnetic ore yet found in the United States, producing a remarkably strong and tenacious iron. Clay products make up about half of the total value of the state's mineral wealth, granite two-thirds of the remainder. The granite quarries in Surry and Rowan counties produce immense quantities of stone of high quality.

There are abundant transportation facilities by both water routes and railroads; and the latter are constantly extending. Particular attention is paid to educational matters, and over a thousand school houses were built in the three years preceding 1911.

The number of newspapers and periodicals published in North Carolina is 273, including 37 daily, 2 three times a week, 26 semi-weekly, 174 weekly, 1 fortnightly, 4 semi-monthly, 22 monthly, 1 bi-monthly and 8 quarterly. The places of publication number 163, of which 80, designated by a dagger (†), are county seats.