

## **Furniture industry - Part 1: Overview** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **Furniture Industry**

by Patricia Phillips Marshall, 2006

Additional research by Michael H. Lewis

Part i: Overview; Part ii: [Colonial era to the Civil War](#) <sup>[2]</sup>; Part iii: [Industrial age](#) <sup>[3]</sup>; Part iv: [Modern furniture industry](#) <sup>[4]</sup>; Part v: [Companies](#) <sup>[5]</sup>; Part vi: [References and resources](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

▶ [Listen to this entry](#)

#### **Part 1: Overview**



Lenoir Chair Company, Lenoir, NC  
(Caldwell County); final assembly and  
sanding, c.1943 (ConDev3171B)

<sup>[7]</sup>

Furniture has been an important product of North Carolina artisans and manufacturers since the [early colonial era](#) <sup>[8]</sup>. The massive success of the industry in the state led to North Carolina's acquiring the nickname "Furniture Capital of the World" during the 1980s, when the state produced approximately one-half of the furniture sold in the United States. While furniture remained a key segment of North Carolina's economy in the early years of the twenty-first century, with more than 600 furniture manufacturers in the state producing in excess of \$6 billion in furniture and furnishings and employing nearly 70,000 people, economic and international trade changes in the 1990s and early 2000s resulted in a significant downsizing of the industry.

[References and additional resources](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

Keep reading - Part ii: [Colonial era to the Civil War](#) <sup>[2]</sup> ➡ <sup>[2]</sup>

**Audio:**



[Show help](#)

[Download File](#)

[Image Credit](#)

"Lenoir Chair Company, Lenoir, NC (Caldwell County); final assembly and sanding, c.1943, photo by Patrick." Photograph no. ConDev3171B. From North Carolina Conservation and Development Department, Travel and Tourism Division photo files, [North Carolina State Archives](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, Raleigh, NC, USA.

**Subjects:**

[100 North Carolina Icons](#) <sup>[10]</sup>

[Audio](#) <sup>[11]</sup>

[Furniture industry and trade](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Industry](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

**Authors:**

[Marshall, Patricia Phillips](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

**From:**

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

1 January 2006 | Marshall, Patricia Phillips

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/overview>

**Links**

<sup>[1]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/overview> <sup>[2]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/colonial-to-civil-war> <sup>[3]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/industrial-age> <sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/modern-industry> <sup>[5]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/companies> <sup>[6]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/furniture/references> <sup>[7]</sup> <https://www.flickr.com/photos/north-carolina-state-archives/2731911665/in/set-72157606542436571/> <sup>[8]</sup> <https://ncpedia.org/history/colonial> <sup>[9]</sup> <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/> <sup>[10]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/north-carolina-icons> <sup>[11]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/audio> <sup>[12]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/furniture-industr> <sup>[13]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/industry> <sup>[14]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/marshall-patricia-> <sup>[15]</sup> <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->