

Furniture industry - Part 1: Overview ^[1]

Furniture Industry

by Patricia Phillips Marshall, 2006

Additional research by Michael H. Lewis

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Part 1: Overview



Lenoir Chair Company, Lenoir, NC
(Caldwell County); final assembly and
sanding, c.1943 (ConDev3171B) ^[7]

Furniture has been an important product of North Carolina artisans and manufacturers since the [early colonial era](#) ^[8]. 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.

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"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](#) ^[9], Raleigh, NC, USA.

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From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[15]

1 January 2006 | Marshall, Patricia Phillips

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