Connecticut-'Cradle of Industry'

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One of Nation's Smallest States Looms Large On Economic Chart; Growth Based on Manufacturing

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HARTFORD, Conn. — To residents of larger states—and there are 45 of them in the United States—compact Connecticut may seem very small indeed. The impression gains in dramatic effect when one reflects on the state's wide acclaim for the myriad products that pour out of its factories, its reputation as a vacationland, and its nearly universal respect as one of the nation's prime residential areas.

With an area of less than 5000 square miles, the state is undeniably small — in a geographic sense. No Connecticut citizen living in the farthest corner of the state is as much as a two hour's drive from his state capitol at Hartford.

Boston, New York Neighbors

Both Boston and New York are next-door neighbors. Between these two cities, Connecticut can be crossed diagonally, the longest way through, without refilling the gasoline tank.

The compactness of the state serves to dramatize its variety and its contrasts. Thus, Connecticut's forest-clad mountains, which rise modestly out of the northwestern corner of the state encircling cool inland lakes, are little more than an hour's drive from the sandy beaches and the salt breezes of Long Island Sound. Less than an hour apart are the winter resorts beloved of the ski enthusiasts from the nearby cities and the tobacco-growing area of the Connecticut Valley.

Two-thirds Woodland

Connecticut is both suburb to New York City, peopled by commuting, high-salaried executives and oriented to shopping on Fifth Avenue, and at the same time, essentially New England with gracious colonial homes and the characteristic white-spired church sitting with dignity about quiet village greens, some of them little changed from pre-Revolutionary days. Two-thirds of compact Connecticut is covered by woodland, while it is the fourth most densely populated state in the country with a 464 population per square mile.

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Connecticut people, numbering 2,271,000 by the latest census estimate, are busy. In October, before the number was swelled by seasonal part-time jobs and temporary employment, official employment, official employment figures listed 875,620 persons at work. The relative importance of the various economic factors in the overall picture of Connecticut is indicated by the distribution of these workers. An overwhelming percentage of them—420,790—was accounted for by the state's diversified manufacturing industry.

Trade, including wholesale, retail and restaurants, accounted for the employment of 147,480 individuals. Finance, insurance and real estate were using the services of 45,690 persons. Just over 30,000 of the state's residents, including owners, working members of their families and hired help, were working on Connecticut farms.

Numbered among the many thousands classified in such categories as hotels, transportation, and personal services are those who derive their livelihood from the state's recreation industry, for the same factors that early marked Connecticut for industrial growth—the rushing streams that furnished power and the natural woodlands that supplied the early fuel—make Connecticut an ideal vacationland.

In the state's northwestern county, the picturesque Litchfield Hills, Connecticut's small share of the Appalachian Chain, encircle sparkling inland lakes and snug historic villages. Here, in modern hotels, lakeside cottages and atmospheric old village inns (some of them in business since the eighteenth century), vacationists return, year after year, for mountain scene and the cooling air of the green-clad hills; and though Mt. Frissell, the tallest peak rises only to a modest 2,380 feet, the experience of vacationing in the mountains is genuine and inviting.

Broad Variety of Resorts

Not many miles away, the irregularity of Connecticut's coastline doubles its length of shore front into more than 200 miles. Here, along quiet cove and jutting promontory, the variety of resort is even broader—swank watering places with elegant summer homes, glittering modern hotels, homey village inns, modest guest homes and literally thousands of cottages for rent by the week, the month or the season.

Down the wooded valley of the Connecticut River below Middletown, on the shores of jewel-like lakes throughout the state, and down rural roads out of quiet villages, other vacation resorts thrive by the dozens.

Poultry and poultry products head the agricultural list in terms of annual dollar value. In 1954, the latest full year for which figures are available and a year which was not relatively good for Connecticut farmers, the poultry business accounted for an income of over $60 million dollars. Dairy farmers were second in the state's agricultural picture with a total 1954 income of $48 million. Concentrated in a relatively small area of the Connecticut River Valley, the state's tobacco growers produced a $25 million crop, scoring in their shade-grown leaf what is believed to be the nation's richest per acre yield in any agricultural product. Floriculture accounted for another $15 million. Fruits, potatoes and garden vegetables brought the total figure up to $168 million in this one relatively poor year.

Manufacturing Pre-Eminent

Today, a large number of busling industrial centers thrive within the state's compact borders — Bridgeport, New Haven and Waterbury, New Britain, Hartford, Bristol and Torrington being perhaps the most conspicuous of the 20-odd that could be named. At the same time, East Hartford, which few Connecticut residents have learned to regard as an industrial town, has one employer, United Aircraft Co. which employs 25,000.

It is worth noting that of the 453 industry types recognized by the U.S. Census of Manufacturers, 75 percent of them are found in Connecticut.

Meanwhile, the state ranks first in the production of hats, firearms, hardware, silverware, clocks and watches, brass and copper rolling, aircraft engines and propellers, needles, pins, fasteners, ball and roller bearings.

From 1950 to 1954, for instance, the population growth of Connecticut was 10.5 percent, while for the nation as a whole, the increase in population was 7.8 percent.

Near Great Markets

Proximity to large urban markets is undoubtedly a factor attracting manufacturing industries to Connecticut.

Connecticut ranks first of all the 48 states in the ratio of its skilled workers to the entire labor force.

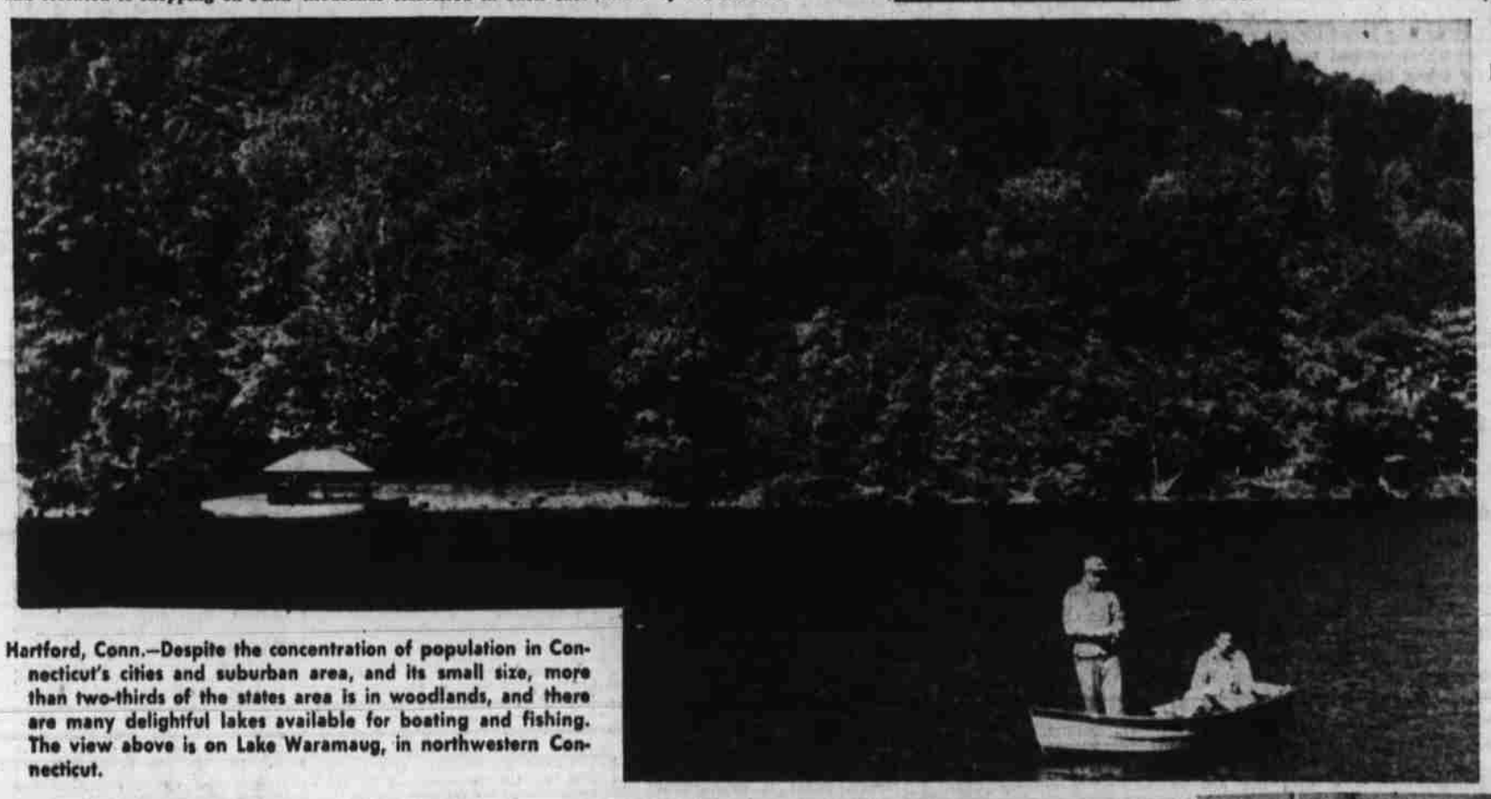
Attesting to the state's desirability for residence is the fact that Connecticut leads the entire nation in the percentage of its citizens listed in "Who's Who."

Nicknamed "the Land of Steady Habits" or "The Constitution State," Connecticut has also been called "the cradle of American industry" and there are many who prefer to think of it as "the state of success," but all will agree that it is a state of variety.

Connecticut

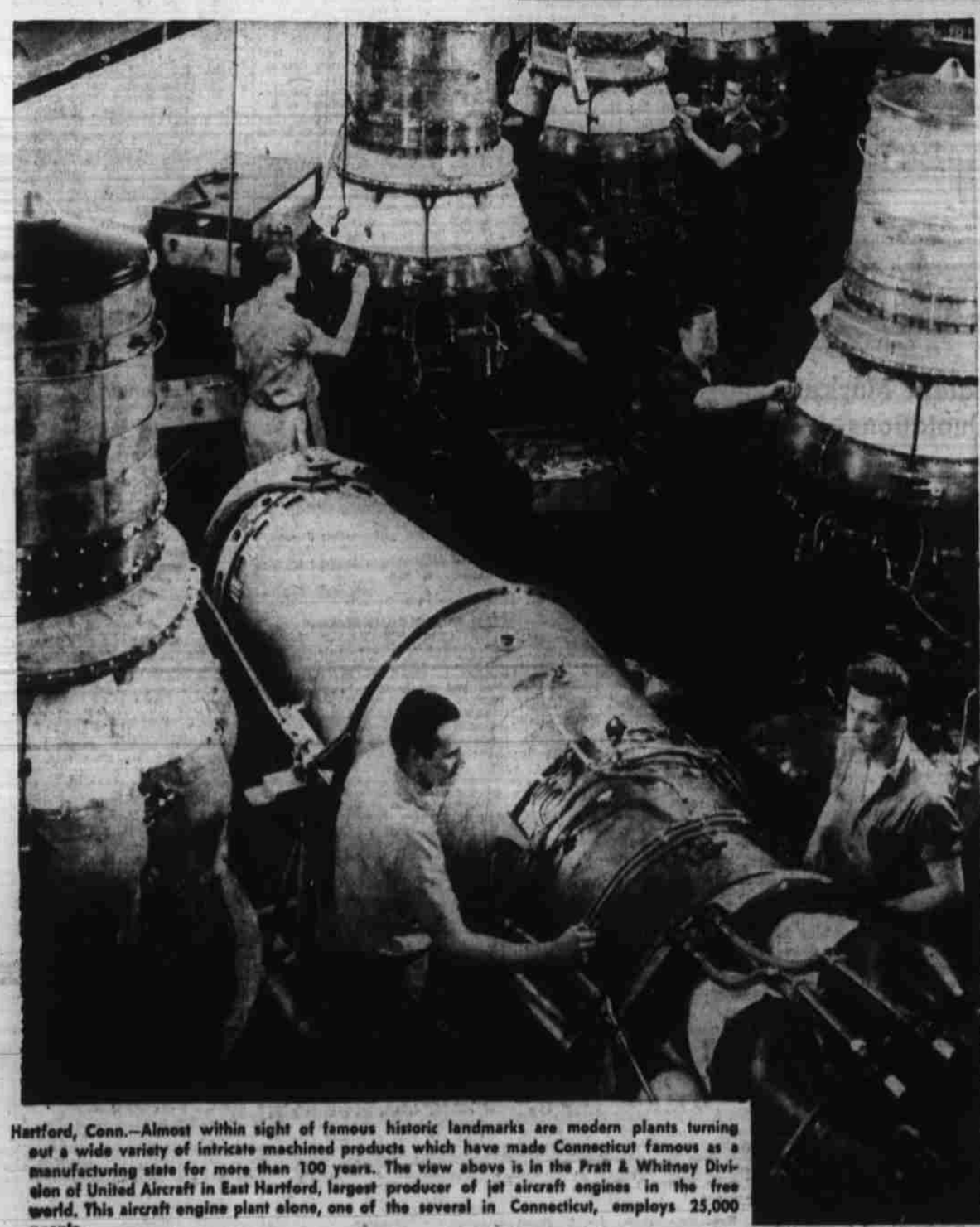
Population—2,007,280 (1950) (28th).
Area—5009 sq. mi. (46th).
Capital—Hartford.
Flower—Mountain Laurel.
Bird—American Robin.
Tree—White Oak.
Admitted to Union—Jan. 8, 1788 (5th).
Larger Cities—Hartford (177,397); New Haven (164,443); Bridgeport (158,709); Waterbury (104,477).

Hartford, Conn.—The simple beauty of the colonial church is to be found in dozens of Connecticut communities. The one above is in Glastonbury, near the capital city, Hartford. There are literally hundreds of fine old homes surviving from the Colonial period, most of them modernized and still in use as comfortable homes after two centuries or more of service. (All photos by Connecticut Development Com.)



Hartford, Conn.—Despite the concentration of population in Connecticut's cities and suburban area, and its small size, more than two-thirds of the states area is in woodlands, and there are many delightful lakes available for boating and fishing. The view above is on Lake Waramaug, in northwestern Connecticut.

Hartford, Conn.—Some of the finest yachting and boating waters in the Northeast are to be found along Connecticut's southern border, on Long Island Sound. The view above is in the harbor at New London. Here, too, is the headquarters of the Navy's Atlantic submarine force, and the place where all officers and men in the entire submarine service receive their specialized training.



Hartford, Conn.—Almost within sight of famous historic landmarks are modern plants turning out a wide variety of intricate machined products which have made Connecticut famous as a manufacturing state for more than 100 years. The view above is in the Pratt & Whitney Division of United Aircraft in East Hartford, largest producer of jet aircraft engines in the free world. This aircraft engine plant alone, one of the several in Connecticut, employs 25,000 people.

Hartford, Conn.—The serene beauty of the New England village may be enjoyed in all sections of compact Connecticut, and short journeys off the principal highways bring one to elm-lined village streets lined with fine old homes like the one above, little changed in outward appearance for several generations. The New England atmosphere is greatly enjoyed by visiting motorists from the west.