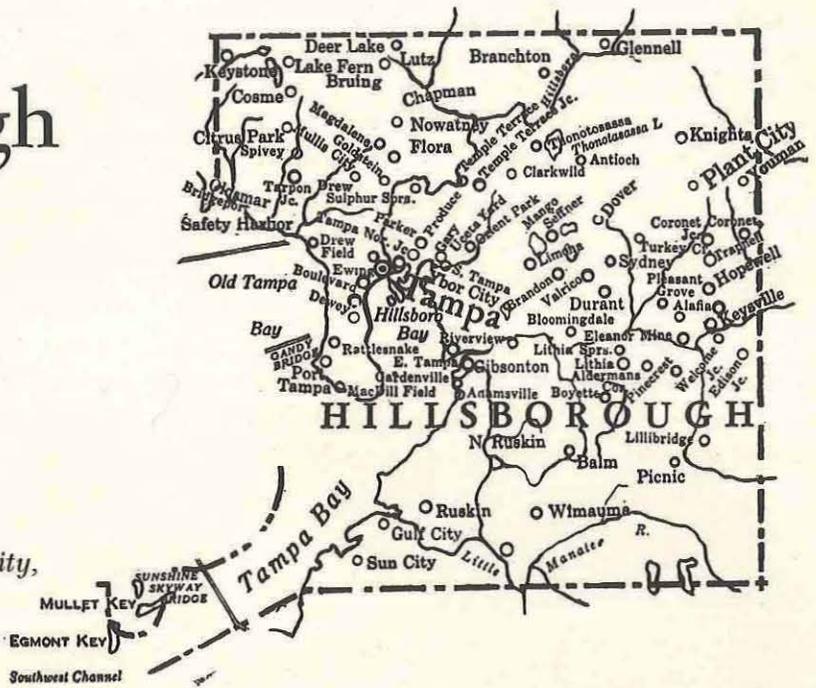


Hillsborough County

COUNTY SEAT: *Tampa*

POPULATION: 355,500

INCORPORATED CITIES: *Plant City, Port Tampa City, Tampa, Temple Terrace.*



HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY is situated on the western coast of Florida near the center of the State's length. Its 679,680 acres are bordered by Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Manatee counties; Tampa Bay and Hillsborough Bay form a deep indentation in its shoreline, giving the county an extended water frontage. Tampa, the county seat and principal city, is 20 miles from St. Petersburg, 33 miles from Lakeland, 97 miles from Orlando, and 98 miles from Ocala.

Annual average temperature is 72.42 degrees; average high 81.5 degrees in August, average low 60.4 degrees in January. Average annual rainfall is 48.48 inches, the heaviest in June, July, August, and September. Elevation above sea level is 15 feet at Tampa, 121 feet at Plant City.

Hillsborough County, one of the major metropolitan areas in Florida, has a widely diversified economy, and agriculture, timber, commercial fishing, dairying, and poultry raising, shipping, phosphate mining, cattle raising, large industries, and tourists are all important sources of income.

The principal farm and vegetable crops are corn, field peas, strawberries, peppers,

eggplant, tomatoes, beans, squash, potatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, spinach, and watermelons. Native grass hays are grown in considerable quantity. In 1954 there were 4,492 farms in the county comprising 863,243 acres. Winter truck crops are a specialty of the county. Plant City is considered the "winter strawberry capital of the world," producing an average of 20,000,000 pints of strawberries per season. Ruskin is noted as the center of tomato production. One of the largest mechanized farms in the country is located here. In 1955-56 there were 19,850 acres planted to vegetables and small fruits. The State Farmers' Market in Plant City is the largest market of its kind in the nation; other large produce markets are located at Tampa. Grapes, figs, avocados, guavas, and mangoes are grown in considerable quantity. Pecans also grow well here.

Citrus fruit is a major crop and the principal source of income for many communities in the county. There were 1,783,000 citrus-bearing trees in 1955-56, and the fruit is of high quality. Citrus canning and concentrate plants are located here. Commercial fishing is an important source of income. During 1956, 2,156,599 pounds of food fish and 18,-

992,525 pounds of crabs, crayfish, shrimp, and other miscellaneous seafoods were caught and marketed. Purebred beef and dairy cattle and poultry are raised extensively. In 1954 there were 715,083 acres of pasture land to meet the needs of the cattle industry. Hillsborough County ranks first in the State in dairying and poultry raising. Tampa has an independent livestock market.

With 415,500 acres in commercial forest lands, 63.2 per cent of the total county area, the timber and naval stores industries are important county activities. Nurseries for the propagation of plants and shrubs, particularly citrus, are located here. Hog raising is on the increase. Mineral resources include limestone, marl, sand, and mineral water.

The location of a deep-water port at Tampa, with excellent docking, ware housing, and transportation facilities, is increasing the importance of the county as an industrial center. Fifteen steamship lines maintain offices in Tampa, providing regular service to all important United States ports, the West Indies, Central and South America, and principal ports throughout the world. In 1956, 12,904 ships visited the port of Tampa and transported 12,498,500 tons of cargo. Shipbuilding flourishes here. In freight car unloadings, the port of Tampa ranks among the first six ports in the United States.

Tampa and Hillsborough County form one of the most industrialized areas in the State, with a large labor force and excellent motor, sea, rail, and air transportation facilities. The county's phosphate mines are a major industry, and Tampa ships some 70 per cent of the world's phosphate rock from this and adjoining counties each year. Tampa is one of the largest cigar manufacturing centers in the nation, and the 81 factories in the city had an output of 731,916,324 cigars in 1956. The nation's largest manufacturer of aluminum casement windows has a plant here. Sixty-seven per cent of Florida's citrus canning plants and vegetable processing plants are located in the county. Road material is manufactured, as are building materials, including concrete blocks and milling supplies. Many smaller manufacturing enterprises are

carried on, including the manufacture of crates and boxes, novelties, furniture, electrical appliances, pine products, candy, medicines, chemicals, and other products. The railroad shops of the Atlantic Coast Line are located here. Hillsborough County has a total of 652 manufacturing plants, with an annual payroll of \$66,800,000. Two of the nation's major breweries are locating here.

Tampa is the west coast's principal trade and distribution center. Modern department stores and hotels, a variety of retail establishments, and diversified recreational activities attract visitors from throughout the State. Tampa is one of Florida's principal convention centers, and many southern-region and statewide meetings are held here each year. The federal and state governments maintain district and regional offices in the city. In addition to this "permanent" tourist trade, income from winter visitors and vacationers is a major source of income.

An annual Strawberry Festival is held at Plant City, a Tomato Festival is held at Ruskin, and the Gasparilla pirate "invasion" of Tampa is held concurrently with the Florida State Fair in February at Tampa. The Fair is the largest annual winter exposition in the nation. Horse races are held at Sunshine Park, greyhound races at Sulphur Springs, and a jai-alai fronton. The Cincinnati Redlegs and the Chicago White Sox hold spring training here, and an annual baseball dinner for visiting players, owners, and sports writers is held each winter in Tampa, a traditional affair attended by the Governor of Florida and many high State officials. A Latin-American Fiesta is held in March, a seven-day festival in the traditional Spanish manner. The Florida Music Festival is held in Tampa. Tampa's Ybor City, with Spanish clubs and world-famous Spanish restaurants, attracts many visitors; this section offers a glimpse of life in old Spain, and plans are being made to preserve the many early Spanish architectural influences in this part of the city. A U. S. Air Force Base, MacDill Field, is located at Tampa. Hillsborough River State Park is situated in the northeast section of the county.

Assessed valuation of Hillsborough County in 1956 was \$558,757,761, and banking resources totalled \$288,309,000. Effective buying income was \$1,372 per capita and \$467,-835,000 for the county in 1956. Retail sales totalled \$407,781,000 in 1956.

Quail, dove, rabbit, turkey, and squirrel are caught in this section. Salt-water trout, sheepshead, mackeral, tarpon, and redfish are caught in Tampa Bay. Fresh-water bream, perch, bass, and catfish are caught in the many lakes and streams in the area. Both salt-water and fresh-water fish are caught in Manatee River.

U. S. highways 41, 92, and 541 and Florida highways 39, 41, 43, 60, 575, 600, and 676 enter the county. The famous Gandy Bridge crosses Tampa Bay, a short route to St. Petersburg, and the Courtney Campbell causeway connects Tampa and Clearwater. Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and Seaboard Airline Railway provide rail service, and bus transportation is provided by Greyhound Lines and Tamiami Trailways. Air transportation is provided by National Air Lines, Eastern Airlines, Northeast Airlines, Mackey Airlines, and Trans-Canada. Tampa's municipally owned airport is one of the largest in the nation, with 7,000-foot runways and the latest type radar landing system.

There are ninety-nine elementary and secondary schools in the county, with an enrollment of 67,173 pupils in 1956-57. The

University of Tampa, occupying large and historic buildings, is located at Tampa, and a new, four-year State University is scheduled to open in 1960. The Tampa Museum, housed in part of the University, contains treasures in art and furnishings from all parts of the world. Florida Christian College is located at Temple Terrace. There are 1,779 hospital beds in the county, of which 600 are in the municipal hospital operated by the city of Tampa. Three daily newspapers, Tampa Times, Tampa Tribune, and the La Traducion-Presna, and eleven weekly papers, Plant City Courier, Port Tampa City Beacon, Ruskin Planter, Sulphur Springs Post, Tampa Labor Advocate, Hyde Park News, Tampa Free Press, Tampa Record, Ybor City Sunday News, La Gaceta, and Gadsden News, are published in the county.

Hillsborough County, formed in 1834, was named for Wills Hill, second Viscount Hillsborough, who received a large grant of Florida land during the English occupation. This section of Florida was first visited in 1528 by the Spanish explorer Panfilo de Narvaez, who discovered the Indian villages of Ucita and Mucoso. Hernando De Soto followed in 1539, and the De Soto Oak, standing today in Plant Park, commemorates the explorer's visit of over four centuries ago. Tampa Bay was once a rendezvous for pirate hordes, of whom Jose Gasparilla is the most celebrated. Modern settlement of this section began in 1823 by an American military force from Pensacola.

