

Lopsided income growth in

North Carolina



On average, income in North Carolina grew 44.8% between 1979 and 2007.

Income growth, 1979–2007:

44.8%

Good thing for everybody, right? Not quite. The top 1% snared a disproportionate share of that growth—34.8%. So their massive income growth far eclipsed income growth of the bottom 99%, whose raise was meager when you divide it over three decades.

Change in income, 1979–2007:

Top 1%: 172.0%
Bottom 99%: 32.1%
Top 1%'s share of all growth: 34.8%

And unfortunately the Great Recession was no great leveler: The top 1% is recovering, but the bottom 99%'s income has actually gone down in the so-called recovery.

Change in income, 2009–2012:

Top 1%: 22.7%
Bottom 99%: -1.8%

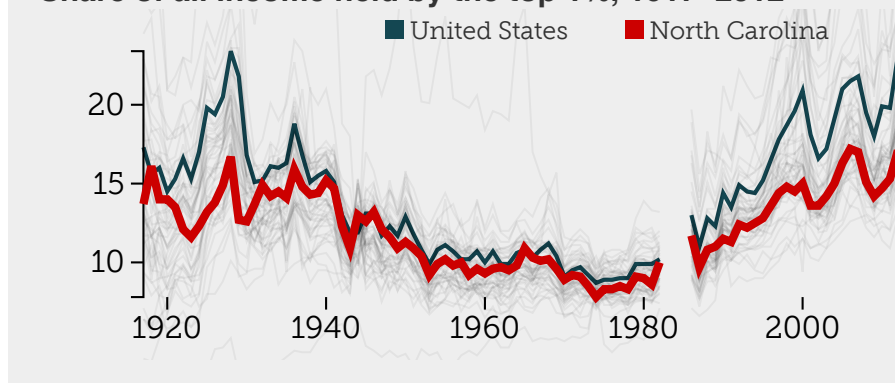
Thus, the lopsided income growth from 1979 to 2007 extended through 2012.

Change in income, 1979–2012:

Top 1%: 129.3%
Bottom 99%: 10.5%
Top 1%'s share of all growth: 55.2%

Due to this extended period of lopsided income growth, the share of all income held by the top 1% in recent years has approached or surpassed historical highs.

Share of all income held by the top 1%, 1917–2012



The upshot of these trends? A lopsided North Carolina economy, where top 1% average income is 20 times greater than the average income of the bottom 99%.

Average income in 2012:

Top 1%: \$828,487
Bottom 99%: \$40,429
20 times greater