

Most demographers and other professionals concerned with population and economic growth appear to be inclined to believe the area will grow at least as rapidly during the coming decade as it did in the 1970s. The rates of growth of the past decade were applied to the 1980 population of each state to develop Table 2.

If the projections of Table 2 turn out to be essentially correct, total population in the nine states will be more than 60 million in 1985 and will exceed 62 million by 1986. This would represent a population expansion of 16 per cent since 1980 and an increase of 43 per cent since 1970.

PORK CONSUMPTION IN THE NINE STATES

Per capita consumption of pork has historically been relatively high in the South. Research results have generally shown the area's consumption per person to be close to 10 per cent greater than the United States national average. Table 3 shows 1979 data for each of

Table 3. Projected Per Capita Pork^a Consumption in the Nine Southern U.S. States and Projected U.S. Per Capita Consumption, 1981-1985

	Per Cent of U.S. Per Capita	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>
		- - - - - Pounds - - - - -				
Alabama	108	77.1	69.4	69.1	73.7	78.8
Florida	105	74.9	67.4	67.2	71.6	76.6
Georgia	109	77.8	70.0	69.8	74.4	79.6
Louisiana	110	78.5	70.6	70.4	75.0	80.3
Mississippi	111	79.2	71.3	71.0	75.7	81.0
North Carolina	112	79.9	71.9	71.7	76.4	81.7
South Carolina	111	79.2	71.3	71.0	75.7	81.0
Tennessee	105	74.9	67.4	67.2	71.6	76.6
Texas	104	74.2	66.8	66.6	70.9	75.9
Nine-State Average		76.4	68.8	68.5	73.43	78.0
U.S. Per Capita		71.35	64.22	64.0	68.22	72.99

^a Carcass weight. Per cent of U.S. consumption is the same for 1979.

Sources: Based on data from the 1980 Statistical Abstract of the United States and data published by Georgia Experimental Station, Griffin, Georgia.