



By 1750, New York was fast becoming the primary trading center in colonial America. From the valleys of the Hudson and Mohawk Rivers came most of its exports: wheat, livestock, naval stores (pitch, turpentine, and tar), and other agricultural products. Britain and areas in and around the West Indies, including Dutch-controlled Curaçao and Suriname, were its chief trading partners. New York City, with its excellent harbor, was developing into a shipping center. This, in turn, gave rise to banking, insurance, brokerage houses and other commercial enterprises associated with present-day New York.