

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY, PA.

Westmoreland County, in the southwestern part of Pennsylvania, was selected for study since a high proportion of its employed male population was engaged in metal manufacturing and an almost equally high proportion in the extraction of minerals. This county adjoins Allegheny County, in which Pittsburgh is located. It has numerous industrial towns but none of which are of particularly large size. The population of the county in 1930 was 294,995 persons, of which slightly more than one-half lived in rural places. About one-sixth of the rural population lived on farms.

The gainfully employed males 10 years old and over in that year numbered 83,107, of which 77,008 were engaged in nonagricultural pursuits. The number and proportion of the latter engaged in the various industries are indicated in the tabulation immediately following:

	Number	Percent
<b>Nonagricultural</b> .....	<b>77,008</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Extraction of minerals (coal mining—17,210).....	17,554	22.8
Manufacturing and mechanical industries.....	36,946	48.0
Building.....	3,231	4.3
Chemical and allied.....	879	1.1
Clay, glass, and stone.....	3,806	4.9
Metal (iron and steel).....	17,958	23.4
Electrical machinery and supply factories.....	2,219	2.9
Other manufacturing and mechanical.....	8,773	11.4
Transportation.....	7,858	10.2
Trade.....	7,646	9.9
Public service.....	796	1.0
Professional service.....	2,512	3.3
Domestic and personal service.....	1,592	2.1
All other and industry not specified.....	2,104	2.7

As may be noted, coal mines and iron and steel industries furnished the greatest opportunities for employment at nonagricultural work in this county.

Westmoreland County contains approximately 665,103 acres, or about 1,039 square miles. Farm land in 1935 comprised 61.1 percent of this total and was distributed among 5,368 operators who had, on an average, 76 acres of land though the median farm had 60 acres. All but eight of the operators were white and 78.3 percent of the total owned all the acreage in the farms they were operating (full owners), and 17.4 percent of the total rented from others all the acreage in the farms they were operating (tenants).

One-third (34.4 percent) of all operators had additional income from their off-farm services during the year 1934, the proportion for full owners being 33.3 percent and for tenants 41.6 percent. For all part-time operators, the median size was 40 acres as compared with 72 acres for all non-part-time operators. For full owners the medians for those working off their farms and those not working off their farms were 33 acres and 65 acres, whereas for tenants they were 60 acres and 98 acres.

Families on farms of part-time operators, as indicated by the number of persons per occupied dwelling, were larger than those on the non-part-time farms, being 5.1

and 4.6 persons, respectively. For full owners these averages were 5.1 and 4.5 and for all tenants were 5.1 and 5. Twenty-four percent of the part-time farms reported 16 percent of their population as living in non-farm residences 5 years previously. This compares with 21 percent of the farms and 14 percent of the population for the non-part-time group. For full owners the percentages of the farms reporting and of the migrant population for the part-time group were 20 and 13 and for the non-part-time group were 18 and 11, whereas for tenants those for the part-time group were 36 and 28 and for the other group 33 and 25. Twenty-three percent of the full-owner and 68 percent of the tenant part-time operators had been operating their farms less than 5 years, while the corresponding percentages for non-part-time operators were 15 and 58.

About 37 percent of the land in part-time farms was used for crop production in 1934 as compared with nearly 41 percent for the non-part-time farms, and 98 percent of the farms in the former group and 99 percent of those in the latter group produced a crop of some kind. From the standpoint of acreage, hay was the principal crop grown as 38 percent of the harvested area on the former group of farms and 40 percent on the latter group was in this crop. Farms reporting corn, however, were about as numerous as those reporting hay but the corn acreage was only about one-half as large as the hay acreage. A smaller proportion of the part-time farms reported the individual crops included in the survey, with the exception of farm gardens, than was true of the non-part-time farms, whereas there was not much difference in the proportion of the crop acreage devoted to each crop between the two groups of farms. Also a smaller proportion of the part-time farms had horses, cattle, and hogs than the non-part-time farms, though 92 percent of each group reported chickens. One of the most striking differences in the crop organization of full-owner and tenant farms was the considerably higher proportion of the former producing hay than was true of the latter, though the difference in the proportion of the acreage used for this crop was not material.

Tables 22, 23, and 24 are presented to show the same type of information as discussed above for subclasses of the nonagricultural group of occupations. This subclassification, as pointed out in the foreword to this chapter, was of necessity a mixed grouping of occupation and industry. Slightly more than one-fourth of the total operators with nonagricultural off-farm work were engaged in "mining" and one-half were "laborers." The data indicate that two-thirds of those engaged in "mining" worked 100 days or more off their farms, whereas less than one-half of the "laborers" had that much off-farm employment.

# WESTMORELAND CO., PENNSYLVANIA

