

## COLUMBUS AREA, OHIO

The Columbus area, Ohio, was selected principally to study organization of part-time and non-part-time farms in a thickly populated locality and the organization of the same types of farms in a locality less thickly populated when the two areas afford the same general opportunities to farm operators for outside work. To make such a study, data for the Columbus area are given separately for the farms close to the city and for the more outlying farms. This allows not only a contrast of the organization of part-time farms with that of the non-part-time farms within each locality but also a contrast between part-time farms and non-part-time farms between localities. For convenience in separating the farms with more urban influence from those with less urban influence, the farms within the Columbus metropolitan area were considered to represent the former, and the farms in the minor civil divisions immediately surrounding or adjacent to the Columbus metropolitan area were chosen to represent the latter.

The metropolitan area was that determined by the census in 1930 and includes, in addition to the city of Columbus, adjacent and contiguous minor civil divisions having a density of 150 persons or more per square mile. The metropolitan area is entirely within Franklin County, whereas the nonmetropolitan area takes in most of the remaining territory in Franklin County and portions of several of the surrounding counties. The accompanying map outlines the Columbus city limits

and the territory included as metropolitan and that as nonmetropolitan.

In 1930 the total population of Franklin County, which comprises most of the area, was 361,055 persons while that of the city of Columbus was 290,564 persons, or 80.5 percent of the total. Of the entire county population, 14.1 percent was classed as rural, and somewhat more than one-fourth of the latter were living on farms.

The area under study offers opportunities for varied types of employment as shown by the distribution by industry of the number of gainfully employed males 10 years old and over in 1930 for Franklin County. Of the 114,329 gainfully employed males, 109,268 were engaged in nonagricultural pursuits distributed as follows:

	Number	Percent
<b>Nonagricultural</b> .....	<b>109,268</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Extraction of minerals.....	748	0.7
Manufacturing and mechanical industries.....	42,628	39.0
Building.....	9,896	9.1
Chemical and allied.....	1,571	1.4
Clay, glass, and stone.....	1,678	1.5
Clothing.....	814	0.7
Food and allied.....	3,000	2.7
Automobile factories and repair shops.....	2,844	2.6
Metal.....	12,925	11.8
Lumber and furniture.....	1,358	1.2
Printing, publishing, and engraving.....	1,870	1.7
Other manufacturing and mechanical.....	6,672	6.1
Transportation.....	19,235	16.7
Trade.....	24,224	22.2
Public service.....	6,530	6.0
Professional service.....	7,815	7.2
Domestic and personal service.....	6,156	5.6
All other and industry not specified.....	2,932	2.7

## COLUMBUS METROPOLITAN AREA

Of the 3,842 farms enumerated in 1935 in Franklin County, 1,730 were in the metropolitan area. These latter averaged 47 acres in size and \$5,989 in value per farm though the median size of farms was 20 acres and the median value was \$3,735. Four out of every 10 (39.3 percent) of the operators of these farms performed some off-farm work in 1934 and three-fourths (76.9 percent) of those with off-farm work were employed 100 days or more at such outside work. The part-time farms, that is, those whose operators had outside employment, had a median size of 10 acres as compared with 34 acres for the non-part-time farms. The median value of the former was \$3,000 and of the latter \$4,500.

Families on part-time farms were larger, as based on the number of persons per occupied dwelling, than those on the non-part-time farms, the averages being 4.3 persons and 3.9 persons, respectively. Thirty-one percent of the part-time farms reported a part or all of their population had moved to the farms from nonfarm homes during the previous 5 years and the persons so moving represented 26 percent of the population on

all part-time farms. For the other group of farms, 20 percent reported a back-to-the-land movement and 14 percent of their total population had migrated to the country. Forty-eight percent of the part-time farmers had been operating their farms less than 5 years as compared with 31 percent for the non-part-time farmers.

No particularly significant difference existed between the proportion of full owners and tenants performing off-farm work in 1934, the percentage in the first case being about 44 and in the latter case 40. The proportion for part owners, however, was considerably smaller as only 25 percent had such additional income. Full-owner part-time farms had families averaging 4.3 persons and non-part-time farms 3.5 persons while the corresponding figures for tenants were 4.8 and 4.3. Twenty-nine percent of the full-owner part-time farms and 40 percent of the tenant part-time farms reported persons moving to them from nonfarm places in the preceding 5-year period, as contrasted with but 16 percent and 29 percent of the non-part-time farms for the corresponding tenures.

Crops were harvested from 46 percent of the land in part-time farms and 54 percent of the land in non-part-time farms in 1934. Eighty-six percent of the farms in the former group and 94 percent of those in the latter group reported one or more crops harvested during the year. From the standpoint of acreage, corn, hay, wheat, and "vegetables for sale and strawberries" were the leading crops grown on both groups of farms. A smaller proportion of the part-time farms reported each of these crops than of the non-part-time farms, the differences being particularly marked for corn, wheat, and hay. However, corn and hay represented a slightly higher proportion of the total crop acreage for the former group of farms than for the latter. As might be expected from having smaller farms, the part-time farmers kept fewer of the various classes of animals than the non-part-time farmers. Considering the group with nonagricultural off-farm occupations, which comprised most of the part-time farmers, there was a decided inverse relationship between the time spent at outside work and the proportion of the farms growing certain of the individual crops or keeping certain of the different classes of livestock.

As between all full-owner operators and all tenant operators, about the same proportion of each group harvested a crop of some kind. For the former, corn and hay were of about equal importance from the

standpoint of acreage, with wheat a poor third, while for the latter group corn greatly eclipsed hay, which in turn was considerably in excess of wheat. Fewer of the full owners grew corn, and a smaller proportion of their crop acreage was utilized for production of this crop than was true for tenant operators. This relationship existed for both the part-time and non-part-time groups. A garden furnished a part of the family living on an equal proportion of the farms in each of these two major tenure groups. Fewer of the full owners than of the tenants, however, kept cows for milk production or kept hogs. Within each tenure class, those who did not have any additional off-farm work usually outranked those with off-farm work in the proportion of farms reporting each of the various crops grown or species of livestock kept.

The data for the nonagricultural group of part-time farmers have been further classified by more detailed occupations in tables 27, 28, and 29. Most of such part-time farmers had an occupation of "Laborer" as their principal work off their farms. Next in number were those with an occupation classed as "clerical" and these were followed by those with a "professional, executive, or entrepreneurial" occupation. Wherever the data for any of the time groups for these suboccupations represent only a few farms, they should be used with caution.

### COLUMBUS NONMETROPOLITAN AREA

As shown by the accompanying map, the Columbus nonmetropolitan area was made to include eight minor civil divisions in Franklin County, five in Delaware County, two in Licking, and one in Fairfield. In this very arbitrary selection two minor civil divisions in Franklin County were excluded from the general area included in the study.

In this nonmetropolitan area, 3,420 farms were enumerated in 1935. On an average, these farms had 83 acres and were valued at \$5,706, whereas the median size was 70 acres and the median value \$4,000. One-third (33.5 percent) of the operators of these farms performed some off-farm work in 1934 and two-thirds (64.1 percent) of those with off-farm work were employed 100 days or more at such outside work. The part-time farms had a median size of 30 acres as compared with 84 acres for the non-part-time farms. The median value of the former was \$3,000 and of the latter \$5,000.

Families on part-time farms averaged 4.2 persons and on the non-part-time farms 3.8 persons. Twenty-four percent of the part-time farms reported some of the persons living thereon had moved from a nonfarm home within the previous 5 years and the persons so moving represented 16 percent of the population on all part-time farms. For the other group of farms 16 percent reported a back-to-the-farm movement and 11 percent of the population had moved to farms. Forty-seven

percent of the part-time farmers had been operating their farms less than 5 years as compared with 31 percent for the non-part-time farmers.

About the same proportion of the full-owner operators had outside labor income as for tenants, the respective percentages being 33.6 and 35.5. The percentage for part owners was 30. Full-owner part-time farms had families averaging 4 persons and non-part-time farms 3.5 persons, while the corresponding figures for tenants were 4.5 and 4.4. Twenty-two percent of the full-owner part-time farms and 30 percent of the tenant part-time farms reported a part of their population had moved there from nonfarm places in the preceding 5-year period as contrasted with but 14 percent and 19 percent of the non-part-time farms for the corresponding tenures.

Fifty-one percent of the land in the part-time farms was used for crop production in 1934 as compared with 54 percent of the land in the non-part-time farms while 92 percent of the farms in the former group and 96 percent of those in the latter group reported one or more crops harvested during the year. Corn, hay, and wheat, in the order named, represented the largest crop acreages on both types of farms, their combined percentage of the acreage from which crops were harvested being 88 percent for the part-time farms and 90 percent for the non-part-time farms. For the part-time group the corn

acreage represented 35 percent of the crop acreage, the hay acreage represented 31 percent, and the wheat acreage 22 percent, whereas for the other group of farms the corresponding percentages were 36, 29, and 25. Although there was very little difference between these two major types of farms in the proportion of the total crop land represented by each of these three crops, the percentage of all farms, in each of the two types, reporting each crop varied considerably as shown by the following, the percentages for the part-time group being given first: Corn, 60, 83; hay, 53, 77; and wheat, 32, 59. Percentages representing other items of production or of inventory were: Farm garden, 85, 88; horses

and mules, 53, 81; cows milked, 75, 88; hogs, 48, 65; and chickens, 86, 92.

Ninety-two percent of all full-owner operators and 96 percent of all tenant operators harvested a crop of some kind, the percentage for the part-time group in each of these tenure classes being smaller than for the non-part-time group. Generally, a smaller proportion of the full owners than of the tenants—whether considering all operators in each tenure class as a whole or whether considering the two subgroups of those with or without additional income—reported production of the various crops or kept the various classes of animals included in the study. The percentages were most nearly equal for farm gardens and chickens.

### METROPOLITAN AND NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS COMPARED

Certain points of similarity and of dissimilarity existing between the organization of part-time farms and non-part-time farms within the metropolitan area and also within the nonmetropolitan area surrounding Columbus have been noted. Some of these points more properly related to the operators of such farms and to the persons living thereon. Further discussion is confined largely to a contrast of the part-time farms in one area with the part-time farms in the other. To facilitate the comparison, all farms in one area are first contrasted with all those in the other and certain marked differences already noted between the two types of farms in one area are contrasted with the differences, if any, between the two types of farms in the other area.

As would be expected, farms in the metropolitan area were considerably smaller than those in the nonmetropolitan area and acre values for the former were considerably higher than those for the latter. These two relationships produce average farm values closely comparable for the two areas. Thus, the per farm value in the metropolitan area, with farms averaging 47 acres and valued at \$128 per acre, was nearly \$6,000, whereas the per farm value in the nonmetropolitan area, with farms averaging 83 acres and valued at \$69 per acre, was about \$5,700. The medians were 20 acres and \$3,735 per farm in the former case and 70 acres and \$4,000 in the latter case.

A higher proportion of the farm operators in the metropolitan area had a gainful outside occupation than in the nonmetropolitan area, the respective percentages being 39.3 and 33.5. Also, a higher proportion of the part-time farmers in the first area spent 100 or more days off their farms than in the other area, these percentages being 76.9 and 64.1.

The average size of family was the same for the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, 4 persons per occupied dwelling. Twenty-four percent of the farms in the metropolitan area reported one or more persons thereon had moved back to the farm within the previous 5-year period and the number of persons so migrating represented 19 percent of the population on all farms in

the area as compared with corresponding percentages of 19 percent of the farms in the nonmetropolitan area and 13 percent of the population.

Ninety-one percent of the tracts enumerated as farms in the metropolitan area produced a crop of some kind in 1934 as compared with 94 percent of those in the nonmetropolitan area while 52 percent of the total farm land for the former area and 54 percent for the latter area were used for the production of crops. Fifty-four percent of the farms in the former area produced corn as contrasted with 75 percent of those in the latter area and the percentages of the crop acreage represented by this crop were 34 and 36, respectively. Hay was cut on 46 percent of the farms in the first area and from 30 percent of the crop land while in the latter area this crop was produced on 69 percent of the farms utilizing 29 percent of the crop land. Gardens contributing to the family living were reported by 79 percent of the farms in the first area and 87 percent in the other. Corresponding percentages for other items were: Cows kept for milk production, 60 and 83; hogs, 37 and 60; and chickens, 77 and 90.

The same general relationship existed between the average size and average value per acre of part-time farms in the two areas as was noted when all farms were considered, the part-time farms in the metropolitan area being smaller in size but of higher acre value than those in the nonmetropolitan area. Families of part-time farms for the two areas were of about the same average size and exceeded those on the non-part-time farms by about the same proportion. A higher proportion of the part-time farms in the metropolitan area reported a back-to-the-land movement than in the nonmetropolitan area and the relative movement of population back to the part-time farms in each area greatly exceeded that to the non-part-time farms. The same general picture held for the number of operators who had been on their farms less than 5 years. The part-time farmers with 100 or more days of outside occupation showed the greatest migration of persons to farms and the shortest length of tenure.

It was noted when contrasting all farms in the metropolitan area with all farms in the nonmetropolitan area that fewer farms in the former raised the various crops or kept the different classes of livestock. This was also true of the part-time farms. It has been pointed out previously that there was a decided tendency for fewer part-time farms to grow some of the various crops or keep the various classes of live-

stock than for the non-part-time farms in the same area.

In the metropolitan area about 46 percent of the part-time farmers engaged in nonagricultural occupations were subclassified as "laborers", 26 percent as "clerical", and 20 percent as "professional, executive, and entrepreneurial." In the nonmetropolitan area the corresponding percentages were 52, 23, and 15.

**ENVIRONS OF COLUMBUS, OHIO**

