

ROWAN COUNTY, N. C.

Rowan County which lies somewhat west of the central part of the State of North Carolina has a considerable amount of textile manufacturing, though several other industries are heavily represented as may be noted from the figures below. This county has an approximate land area of 312,960 acres, or 489 square miles. Its total population in 1930 was 56,665 persons, of which 64.6 percent was identified as rural. The latter was divided almost equally between rural-farm and rural-nonfarm. Salisbury, the county seat, had 16,951 persons and was the largest city within the confines of the county. Spencer, with 3,128 persons, was the only other incorporated place of more than 2,500 persons.

Gainfully occupied males 10 years old and over in 1930 numbered 15,688. Of these, 10,703 had as their principal occupations nonagricultural pursuits distributed as follows:

	Number	Percent
Nonagricultural.....	10,703	100.0
Extraction of minerals.....	502	4.7
Manufacturing and mechanical industries.....	5,358	50.1
Building.....	610	5.7
Metal.....	918	8.6
Lumber and furniture.....	202	1.9
Textile.....	2,765	25.8
Other manufacturing and mechanical.....	863	8.1
Transportation.....	1,940	18.1
Trade.....	1,607	15.0
Professional service.....	484	4.5
Domestic and personal service.....	495	4.6
All other and industry not specified.....	317	3.0

In 1935, this county had 3,699 farms containing 272,569 acres which represented 87.1 percent of the total land area. About five-sixths of the farms were operated by "white" operators. About 31 percent of the "white" operators and 24 percent of the "colored" operators performed gainful off-farm work. Disregarding color and considering tenure only, 47.6 percent of the farms were operated by their owners, another 15.3 percent by owners who rented some additional land, and practically all of the remaining three-eighths by tenants. Of the latter, 36.7 percent were operated by cropper-tenants. There was no considerable variation in the proportion of owners and tenants working at outside jobs as 32 percent of the full owners, 29 percent of the part owners, and 27 percent of the tenants had such additional income. "Cropper" tenants and "other" tenants apparently acted somewhat alike as to supplementing their income as 26 percent of the former and 28 percent of the latter worked off their farms for pay or income.

Farms of both white and colored part-time farmers were smaller, based either on the average or on the median, than those of the corresponding white or

colored non-part-time farmers. Also those of the white part-time farmers were larger than those of the colored part-time farmers. Average farm values followed the same pattern. A different situation existed in the size of families (number of persons per occupied dwelling) as between the two general classes of farms within each color classification. Thus, for white operators, families on part-time farms averaged 5.4 persons against 5 persons for the non-part-time farms, while for the colored operators, families on part-time farms averaged 5.4 persons and on non-part-time farms, 5.6 persons. Families on farms of all full owners were considerably smaller than those on all tenant farms and families on farms of all part owners approximated, in average size, those on tenant farms. Twenty-two percent of the white part-time farms reported persons moving back to the country as compared with only 7 percent for the colored part-time farms. For part-time full owners this percentage was 19, for part-time part owners 16, and for part-time tenants 24.

Ninety-six percent of the part-time farms and 98 percent of the non-part-time farms produced a crop of some kind in 1934. Crops were harvested from about 36 percent of the land in the former group as compared with 38 percent of the land in the latter group. The percentage of the farms reporting the individual crops for the first-mentioned group was smaller than for the second in every case except for a farm garden, the percentages of the two groups being respectively as follows: Corn 74, 89; oats 28, 44; wheat 48, 68; hay 63, 76; cotton 60, 80; Irish potatoes 53, 55; sweetpotatoes 60, 65; fruit orchard 47, 53; vegetables for sale, including strawberries 13, 15; and farm garden 88, 88. For numbers of the different classes of livestock kept, the percentages of farms reporting were: Work stock 56, 76; cattle 80, 86; hogs 59, 67; and chickens 91, 90. However, between groups, very little difference was shown in the percentages of the crop land utilized for each crop and where a difference existed it was usually small. As might be expected from having farms of smaller size, the numbers of the various classes of livestock per farm reporting were smaller for the part-time farmers than for the non-part-time farmers.

One of the most outstanding differences in the data for the white operators as contrasted with colored operators is that for the former 56 percent of the part-time farmers grew cotton on 17 percent of their crop acreage while 79 percent of the non-part-time farmers produced cotton on but 18 percent of their land, whereas for the colored operators these corresponding percentages were 88 and 38 for the part-time group and 83 and

34 for the non-part-time group. Considerable differences between white and colored operators existed in the proportion of farms reporting fruit orchards, cows milked, and hogs kept. When color is disregarded and tenure only is considered, some decided differences may be noted in the crop or livestock organization but these would be of more significance if the tenure classification should be confined to white operators alone or to colored operators alone.

A very high proportion of the off-farm nonagricultural work was ascertained to have been unskilled or skilled labor. A small proportion of the off-farm workers were engaged in each of the following: Extraction of minerals (quarrying), clerical work, and professional and entrepreneurial work. Data for these sub-occupational groups are presented in tables 55, 56, and 57.

ROWAN CO., NORTH CAROLINA

