

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

larger number of operators who had been on their farms less than 5 years than was shown by the 1940 Census and a smaller number of operators who had been on their farms 10 or more years. However, a part of this change may be attributed to lack of comparability in the data for the two censuses. It will be noted from table 3 that, for the 1945 Census, taken as of January 1, 1945, the under-5-year group includes five calendar years plus the reports for 1945, while the 1940 Census, taken as of April 1, 1940, includes under the 5-year group, only four calendar years and three months for 1940. Despite the increases in the number of farm operators who had been on their farms less than 5 years and decreases in the number who had been on their farms 10 years and over, there was no significant change in the average number of years on farm. The apparent increase of 1 year in some of the States may be attributable to differences in date of enumeration, the average number of years on farm being computed by subtracting the average year of occupancy from the census year. From the tables presenting age of operator, it will be noted that the number of operators in the older age groups increased.

On January 1, 1945, farm operators had been operating the farms they were occupying on that date an average of 13 years. Farmers in the North had operated their farms longer on the average than those in the South and the West. Farm operators in the New England and Middle Atlantic States, with an average of 16 years, had occupied their farms longer than the operators in the other States. Among the States, Maine farmers averaged the longest time on their farms, the average for that State being 17 years, 4 years higher than the average for the United States. Georgia farmers had been on their farms only 9 years, the lowest average for any State. Approximately 14 percent of all farm operators reporting years on farm in Georgia reported 1945 as the year of occupancy.

Work off the farm.—Many farm operators obtain additional income from personal services performed off their farms. In some cases the operator supplements his farm income with odd or spare-time jobs or businesses; in many other cases his farming activities are only secondary, his off-farm job being his principal source of income. Some are self-employed. The inquiry carried on the 1945 Farm and Ranch Schedule ascertained the number of days the operator worked off his farm in 1944 for pay or profit. Instructions were given to the enumerators that this question was intended to obtain a record of all time spent off the farm in 1944 for pay or profit. Work of the operator in connection with a filling station, store, garage, tourist camp, or other non-farm business conducted at the farm was considered work off the farm. Exchange work was to be omitted.

Farm operators were classified into eight groups according to the number of days they worked off their farms in 1944. The tables present such numbers and also give the total number of days of such work. The number of operators working no days off their farms was not obtained in 1945. Therefore, there is no accurate measure of completeness of the reports for farm operators reporting work off the farm. In 1940, when reports were secured for farm operators working no days off the farm, slightly less than 8 percent of the farm operators in the United States did not report whether or not they worked off their farms. Consequently, the figures on number of farm operators reporting work off their farms represent the minimum number of farm operators working off their farms in 1944.

There were a few replies of "Yes" instead of the number of days worked. These were generally accepted and the number of such operators was distributed in the classification by days worked, according to the other reports for the county, and the number of days was added on the basis of the county average.

Information for work performed off the farm by farm operators has been obtained for each census from 1930. The wording of the inquiry has varied somewhat for the different censuses. This may have some effect on the comparability of the data for the several years. The 1940 schedule carried an inquiry to obtain the total number of days the operator worked for pay or income off the farm operated and under this question were two subquestions to obtain (a) the number of days of farm work not connected with the farm operated and (b) the number of days spent at nonfarm jobs, businesses, or professions and the principal nonfarm occupation and industry. In the 1935 Census, the question specified "work for pay or income." It also specified work "not connected with the farm you operate." This might have resulted in the inclusion of a few reports of work spent as operator in 1934 on a different farm from the one operated in 1935. The 1930 inquiry specified "work for pay" and the word "income" was not mentioned in the question. There is a possibility that work performed off the farm by operators who were self-employed might have been excluded. Both the 1935 and 1930 schedules, as did the 1945 schedule, carried an instruction that exchange labor was to be omitted. No reference to exchange labor was made in 1940.

In the 1940, 1935, and 1930 Censuses, the enumerators were instructed to write "None" in reply to the inquiry for the number of days worked if the operator did not work off the farm during the year preceding the census date. The replies of "None" were tabulated for the Censuses of 1940 and 1935, but not for the 1930 Census. A count of the replies of "None" for these years, in comparison with counts of those for whom a specified

288,971,438

Table 5.—WORK OFF FARM BY FARM OPERATORS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1929 TO 1944

YEAR	WORK OFF FARM FOR PAY OR PROFIT				FARM OPERATORS REPORTING DAYS WORKED OFF FARM, BY NUMBER OF DAYS WORKED									
	Farm operators reporting	Farm operators not reporting ¹	Number of days worked		Under 50 days				100 days and over					
			Total	Average per operator reporting	Total	Under 25 days	25 to 49 days	50 to 99 days	Total	100 to 149 days	150 to 199 days	200 to 249 days	250 days and over	
1944.....	1,570,857	4,288,812	288,884,438	184	312,882	179,760	133,072	178,471	1,079,054	128,990	120,485	150,981	688,648	
1939.....	1,747,193	4,349,606	289,604,692	187	543,714	323,757	219,957	259,898	943,581	183,678	195,215	157,585	407,109	
1934.....	2,077,474	4,734,876	202,228,247	97	956,100	595,472	360,628	380,602	760,772	188,815	159,386	115,667	296,954	
1929.....	1,902,898	4,385,750	189,868,388	100	844,170	516,102	328,068	335,459	723,269	188,080	143,485	129,400	287,304	

YEAR	PERCENT OF ALL FARM OPERATORS										PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING DAYS WORKED OFF FARM									
	Reporting days worked off farm										Not reporting days worked off farm	Under 50 days				100 days and over				
	Total	Under 50 days			100 days and over			Total	Under 25 days	25 to 49 days		50 to 99 days	Total	100 to 149 days	150 to 199 days	200 to 249 days	250 days and over			
1944.....	25.8	5.3	3.1	2.3	3.0	18.4	2.1	2.1	2.6	11.7	73.2	19.9	11.4	8.5	11.4	68.7	7.9	7.7	9.6	43.5
1939.....	28.7	8.9	5.3	3.6	4.3	15.5	3.0	3.2	2.6	6.7	71.3	31.1	18.5	12.6	14.9	54.0	10.5	11.2	9.0	23.3
1934.....	30.5	14.0	8.7	5.3	5.3	11.2	2.8	2.3	1.7	4.4	69.5	46.0	28.7	17.4	17.4	36.6	9.1	7.7	5.6	14.3
1929.....	30.3	13.4	8.2	5.2	5.3	11.5	2.9	2.3	2.1	4.3	69.7	44.4	27.1	17.2	17.6	38.0	9.6	7.5	6.8	14.0

¹Includes operators not working off their farms, and those for whom no reports were secured.