



**Presentation of the statistics.**—The statistics are presented to provide an over-all picture for the United States, followed by information for regions, geographic divisions, and the several States. The data are arranged to facilitate comparison of one region, or one State, with another. Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and interpreting the statistics. Comparable data from earlier censuses provide a measure of changes occurring from census to census. Data for earlier years are restricted to items classified by color and tenure in the 1945 Census, except for certain specified classes of farm land not strictly comparable with the 1945 classification. All such comparative data are shown for the United States. Only historical data for selected census years or for selected items are shown by States.

The tabular presentation consists of a series of summary tables presenting figures for the United States as a whole and for the South, followed by tables presenting data by regions, divisions, and States. The South is of especial importance in respect to color and tenure tabulations because of the concentration of nonwhite operators and tenants in that area. Also, croppers are shown as a separate class of tenants only for the Southern States. This class of tenant is relatively unimportant in other sections except for seven cotton-growing counties in southeastern Missouri. Table 2 presents summary figures for these counties. In the tables presenting State figures, the States are arranged in geographic order to facilitate comparisons among States in the same general area. An outline map showing the States and the geographic divisions and regions for which totals are shown appears in the Introduction to this volume.

Some of the tables provide for ready comparison of the 1945 Census data for selected items, while others bring together figures for several censuses. Thus, the same data may be found in several tables, depending upon the objective of the particular table. In general, the United States, or summary, tables permit the bringing together of more related data and the showing of more historical and derived data than is practicable in the division and State tables.

Bar charts and dot and cross-hatch maps supplement the tabular presentation. The bar charts present a graphic picture of the historical changes and comparisons by States. The maps were prepared on a county-unit basis and show the geographic distribution of farms of various tenures, the geographic variations in the proportion of farms operated by tenants and in farms of nonwhite operators, and the dominant type of tenancy in each area.

**Changes in farms by color and tenure of the farm operator.**—Although there were fewer farms in 1945 than in any census since 1900, there were a larger number of owner-operated farms than ever recorded by a prior census. The proportion of owner-operated farms was the highest since 1890. The increase in the proportion of owner-operated farms, which first became noticeable in the 1935 Census, has continued. The increase in the number of owner operators between 1940 and 1945 was equivalent to more than twice the net increase in the decade 1930 to 1940 but less than the increase in the first half of that decade when the total number of farms reached an all-time high. Both owner-operated and tenant-operated farms increased in size. Farms operated by full owners were larger, on the average, by 1.0 acre and farms operated by tenants by 3.3 acres. For part-owner farms the owned portion increased by 55.9 acres and the rented portion by 17.9 acres. In 1945, farms of full-owner operators averaged 1.4 more acres from which crops were harvested than in 1940 and tenant-operated farms averaged 9.1 more acres.

In the New England States, where farm ownership is general, owner-operated farms increased by 13.2 percent between 1940 and 1945 and represented 94.7 percent of all farms in 1945. Although there were only slightly more than half as many tenants in this area in 1945 as in 1940, the number of tenants was so insignificant that the decrease in tenant-operated farms could account for very little of the increase in owner-operated farms. Many of the farms in this area represent rural or suburban residences of individuals primarily dependent upon some other source of livelihood. Much of the increase in the number of farms was attributable to wartime conditions which encouraged the re-entry into production of farms previously idle and, because of the increase in price level, resulted in the inclusion