
CHAPTER V— FARM POPULATION AND FARM LABOR

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CHAPTER V—FARM POPULATION AND FARM LABOR

Introduction.—Statistics collected in the 1945 Census of Agriculture are presented in this chapter for (1) dwellings and population on farms and (2) farm workers and cash paid for farm labor. Data are included for occupied and unoccupied dwellings and for farm population by age and sex groups. Occupied dwellings and farm population are shown separately for farms with one dwelling and for farms with two or more dwellings. The statistics for farm workers relate to the farm operator, unpaid members of his family, and hired workers, working during the week of January 1-6, 1945. Cash paid for farm labor relates to the year 1944.

The figures are given for the United States, regions, divisions, and States. The data are arranged to facilitate comparison of one section, or one State, with another. In the tables presenting figures by States, the States are arranged in geographic order to permit comparisons among States in the same general area. An outline map showing the States and geographic divisions and regions appears in the Introduction to this volume. Some of the tables provide for comparison of the 1945 Census data for selected items, while others bring together figures for several censuses. The United States, or summary, tables present comparable data for earlier years whenever available.

In order that the user of these data may quickly picture the geographic distribution of farm population, farm workers, and cash paid for farm labor, a set of maps supplements the tabular presentation. A graphic picture of the historical changes is shown by a series of bar charts. The dot maps were made on a county-unit basis in accordance with the scale indicated on each map. Maps designed on such a scale sometimes fail to indicate the presence of an item when there may actually have been a number of reports for an area. For example, the scale used in the map for cash wages paid shows 1 dot equals \$500,000. In this map counties with a total cash outlay for farm labor of less than \$250,000 do not have a dot and those with \$250,000 up to \$749,999 have only 1 dot. Thus, in the State of Tennessee with \$18,598,049 paid for farm labor there appear only 29 dots, not 37.

Data for farm dwellings, farm population, and farm labor are presented by counties in volume I. Similar information for minor civil divisions (townships, precincts, etc.) for dwellings, farm population, and wages is included in minor civil division table 1 which, although unpublished, is available by counties for the cost of making copies of the table. Numbers of farm workers are not available by minor civil divisions.

A separate report presents, for a sample of farms enumerated in the 1945 Census, additional information on farm population and farm households obtained for these sample farms. This report includes more detailed information on the age distribution of the farm population. It also includes data on dwellings, population, and expenditures for farm labor for farms in each of several classifications, such as color and tenure of the farm operator, amount of gross farm income, and size of farm.

Other data closely related to farm population and farm labor are presented in chapters III, IV, and VI of this volume. Statistics on the residence of farm operators are shown in chapter IV together with such characteristics as the age of the operator, the days worked off the farm, and the number of years the operator had occupied the farm he was operating on the census date. Information for tenure of the farm operator is presented in chapter III. Figures on facilities in the farm dwelling are included in chapter VI.

The data presented in this chapter from the censuses of agriculture represent tabulations of information secured by Census enumerators for places enumerated as farms and are limited to such places.

A farm is defined briefly as all land on which some agricultural operations are performed by one person, either by his own labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household, or hired employees. Tracts of less than 3 acres are considered to be farms only if their agricultural products for the calendar year preceding the census date were valued at \$250 or more.

A facsimile of the 1945 questionnaire used to collect the data, including the instructions to Census enumerators, appears in the Appendix to this volume.

A farm operator is the person who works a farm, performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. The number of farm operators is identical with the number of farms.

Farms reporting, as used in the tables, denotes the number of farms for which the specified items shown in the particular table were reported.

For example, in 1945 the Census enumerators, when collecting information for the 5,859,169 farms in the United States, recorded 6,996,538 dwellings on 5,721,903 of these farms. The number of farms reporting dwellings is thus 5,721,903. In general, the farms reporting a particular item represent the number of farms having that item or characteristic. Since the enumerators occasionally failed to obtain information for every inquiry, the number of farms actually having a particular item or characteristic may be somewhat larger than the number reporting.

Dwellings on farms.—In the 1945 Census of Agriculture this term is applied to dwellings located on tracts of land enumerated as farms. The total number of occupied dwellings on farms includes not only those of resident farm operators but also those of farm workers, landlords, relatives, and others living on farms and not paying cash rent for their dwellings. Dwellings on farms include dwellings on such places as village, town, or city lots on which gardening, poultry keeping, or other agricultural activity produced enough to meet the minimum requirements for classification as farms.

The instructions to Census enumerators relating to farm dwellings in 1945 specifically excluded "dwellings rented to others and tourist camps or institutional buildings." This exclusion conformed to the Census definition of land in farms which excluded land rented to others (other than the farm operator), and, when farming was combined with nonfarm activities (but not otherwise), all land and buildings not actually used for farming purposes were excluded. Dwellings located in rural areas on tracts of land which were formerly farms, or parts of farms, but which tracts on the census date were abandoned or idle as to farming activities were not classed as farm dwellings, even though used for residential purposes.

Since not all dwellings in rural areas are on farms and not all farm dwellings are in rural areas, the term "dwellings on farms" is not synonymous with dwellings located in rural areas or in the open country. Nor are "dwellings on farms" identical with the dwellings of persons whose occupation is that of a farmer or farm worker. Not all farmers live on farms (see chapter IV, Residence of farm operator), nor are all dwellings on farms occupied by households engaged in agriculture.

Although not entirely comparable, data relating to dwellings on farms are presented for earlier censuses. These data are taken from two sources; those for 1935 are from the census of agriculture; those for 1940, 1930, and 1920 are from the censuses of population. The following explanation presents the important facts bearing on the comparability of statistics from these two sources.

The number of dwellings on farms, both occupied and unoccupied, was obtained in the 1935 Census of Agriculture by a method similar to that used in 1945. In 1935, there was no specific instruction to exclude dwellings rented to others but, as in 1945, land rented to others (other than the farm operator) was to be excluded. With no specific instructions to the contrary, dwellings rented out doubtless were, to some extent, included in 1935. In the 1925 Census of Agriculture, information on farm population was collected, but no information was secured as to the number of families or dwellings represented.

In the 1940 Census of Population, a count was obtained of occupied and vacant farm dwelling units. A dwelling unit was defined as the living quarters occupied, or intended for occupancy, by one household. Two or more households may occupy a single residential structure or "dwelling," as the term was used

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

prior to 1940. In the 1930 and 1920 Censuses of Population, a count was made of the number of farm families which count was roughly comparable with the number of households living on farms and therefore with the number of occupied farm dwelling units in 1940. Probably the number of occupied farm dwelling units is roughly comparable with the number of occupied dwellings on farms, since the number of dwelling units exceeded the number of residential structures in 1940 by less than 2 percent.

In the 1920, 1930, and 1940 Censuses of Population, there were specific instructions to consider as farm dwelling units all units located on farms. The exclusion of rented dwellings in the 1945 Census of Agriculture had an appreciable effect on the comparability of the figures for dwellings on farms with earlier censuses, especially the 1940 Census.

Although the 1920, 1930, and 1940 Censuses of Population and Agriculture were taken concurrently by the same enumerators, it is probable that the number of dwellings counted as on farms was different from the number that would have been counted if only a census of agriculture had been taken in those years. The instructions for the 1920 Population Census stated definitely that members of families living on tracts of land enumerated as farms should be recorded in the farm population and also specified that families of hired farm laborers who, although not living on farms, were living in rural areas outside of incorporated places should be reported as farm population. The instructions for the 1930 Census of Population provided that a family was to be reported as living on a farm "If the family lives on a farm, that is, a place for which a farm schedule is made out and which is also locally regarded as a farm." The instructions for 1940 did not specifically state that households living on tracts of land enumerated as farms on the agriculture schedule should be regarded as farm households, though this might have been inferred, since the same enumerator was collecting both population and farm data at the same time. Nor did the instructions preclude the reporting of a household as living on a farm if the members of the household thought of themselves as residing on a farm, even though the agricultural operations did not warrant the preparation of a farm schedule.

It is particularly significant that in 1940 the excess of the number of occupied dwelling units on farms over the number of farms was two or three times as great as for any of the other censuses. In 1940, the excess of number of occupied dwelling units on farms over the number of farms amounted to 1,092,049 while for the other censuses the excess ranged from 302,861 in 1920 to 547,862 in 1935. In a study of matched reports for the 1940 Censuses of Agriculture and Population covering 0.1 percent of the farms and of the rural-farm households, it was found that in the census of population about 14 percent of the households which had been classed as "farm" could not be identified with a specific farm schedule. The number of such households (amounting to 996,000 when expanded to represent a United States total) was about three times the number identified with farms but not classified as farm resident households by the population census (300,000 households).

In the decennial censuses of population, all households were visited and each household was classified as "farm" or "nonfarm." In the mid-decennial censuses of agriculture (not taken in connection with population censuses), only farm-operator households were visited, and any additional households identified as on the farm were reported by the farm operator. Consequently, it is likely that, in the population censuses, more dwellings were identified as on farms than in the censuses of agriculture.

Some variations in the number of occupied dwellings on farms may be caused by differences in enumeration date. The censuses of 1945, 1935, 1925, and 1920 were taken as of January 1, a period when the farm population is seasonally low, whereas the censuses of 1940 and 1930 were taken as of April 1.

Because of the tie-in of farm population with places enumerated as farms, the number of farms enumerated in the various censuses of agriculture has had an important effect on the total number of farm dwellings enumerated. The following table presenting figures on number of farms and number of occupied dwellings, as enumerated in the various censuses, gives a comparison of changes in the number of farms with changes in the number of dwellings on farms.

NUMBER OF FARMS AND NUMBER OF OCCUPIED DWELLINGS OR FAMILY UNITS ON FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945

[Figures for States are in table c]

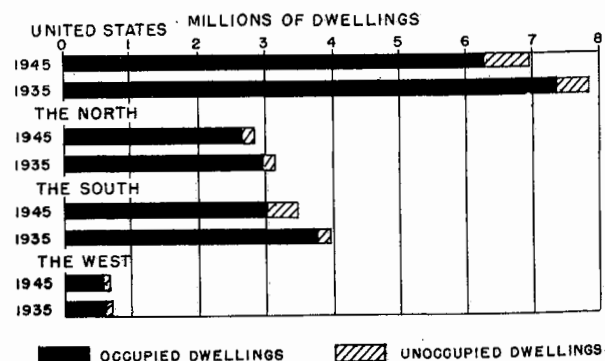
ITEM	1945	1940	1935	1930	1920
Number of farms.....	5,859,169	6,096,799	6,812,350	6,286,646	6,448,343
Increase (+) or decrease (-) over preceding census..	-257,630	-715,551	+523,702	-159,695	-----
Number of occupied dwellings or family units.....	6,268,577	7,188,846	7,360,212	6,668,681	6,751,204
Increase (+) or decrease (-) over preceding census..	-920,271	-711,364	+691,531	-82,523	-----
Average per farm (based on all farms).....	1.07	1.16	1.08	1.06	1.05
Excess of number of occupied dwellings over number of farms.....	+409,408	+1,092,049	+547,862	+380,035	+302,861

It should be noted that the number of occupied dwellings per farm, except for 1940, differs very little between one census and another.

Farms with limited agricultural operations are of particular significance with respect to the number of farms enumerated in the various censuses because many such places are included or excluded as farms, depending upon the circumstances that prevailed at the time of the census. Many such places represent marginal farms which are in and out of production or vary as to the extent of production, depending upon economic conditions. Also, because of differences in price level, such places may conform with the minimum requirements to be classified as farms at one census and not at another. Largely because only half as much agricultural production (by reason of higher prices) was required to qualify a place of under 3 acres as a farm in 1945 as in 1940, there were 98,966 farms of under 3 acres reported in 1945, as compared with 35,977 in 1940. Although the Census definition of a farm specified a minimum of \$250 for the agricultural production only for places of under 3 acres, it is probable that this minimum also influenced, to some extent, the enumeration of places of 3 acres or more. Many of the places having limited agricultural production are small in size. Variations from one census to another in the numbers of small farms enumerated, especially those under 10 acres, indicate, in part, the influence that such farms have on the number of dwellings on farms (see chapter II). Marginal farms, however, are not restricted to those of small acreages. In the 1945 Census, about 1 farm in 10 reported less than \$250 for value of products sold or used by farm households and more than 1 in 5 reported less than \$500. In 1940, with a price level of farm products approximately half that in 1945, about one-fifth of the farms reported less than \$250 in value of products.

Some of the difference in the number of dwellings enumerated on farms in the various censuses represents neither new construction nor the disappearance of dwelling structures. In addition to the changes in classification, as "farm" or "non-farm," of dwellings on marginal places, depending upon whether such places were or were not enumerated as farms, the consolidation of farms into larger operating units or the division of farms into smaller operating units may result in fewer or more

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED AND UNOCCUPIED DWELLINGS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1945 AND 1935



dwellings, respectively, being classified as "farm" or "nonfarm." In the consolidation of farms into larger operating units, such as occurred between 1940 and 1945, the dwellings were not necessarily included in the consolidation. They may have been retained or sold or rented separately for strictly residential purposes.

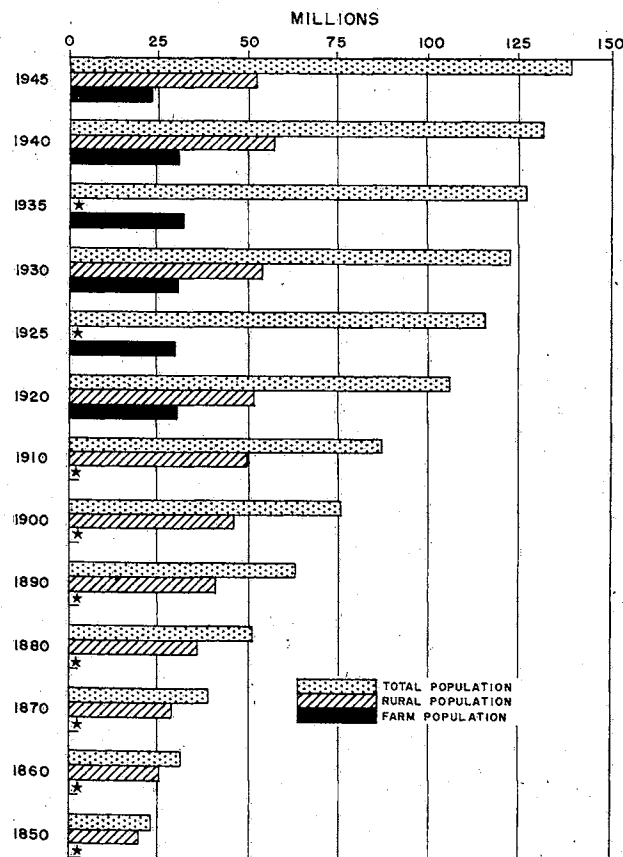
Farm population.—Farm population is defined as persons living on farms. In the 1945 Census of Agriculture, the inquiry on farm population called for the number of persons living in the occupied dwellings reported on the farm. Therefore, reference should be made to the preceding discussion of farm dwellings for definitions and for a description of the types of households which are included in the farm population.

For farms on which there were two or more occupied dwellings, there was an apparent tendency to omit occasionally persons in the additional households. Generally this error appeared on the individual returns as a relatively small number of persons in comparison with the number of dwellings. In the editing process, it was not possible to identify all of the returns which were in error or, if identified, to determine the extent of the error. Consequently, in general, corrections were not feasible. For this reason, the tables give the number of persons enumerated on farms with two or more occupied dwellings and on farms with one occupied dwelling only. Table 1 presents a summary of these data for the United States and tables 3, 4, and 5 present data, by States, for all farms, for farms with only one occupied dwelling, and for farms with two or more occupied dwellings, respectively. The average number of persons per dwelling was 3.04 for farms with two or more occupied dwellings, as compared with 3.91 for farms with only one occupied dwelling. Many of these second, third, etc., dwellings on farms represent small households; for example, landlords whose children are grown and have left the household, or a son or daughter recently married who lives in a separate dwelling on the farm. Therefore, the difference between the average number of persons

per occupied dwelling for farms with two or more occupied dwellings and that for farms with only one occupied dwelling is not entirely attributable to the underenumeration of persons in second, third, etc., households on farms. A study of supplementary information obtained for each household on a sample of the farms enumerated indicates that households on farms, other than farm-operator households, average approximately 0.2 fewer persons than farm-operator households. On this basis it would appear that the underenumeration of the farm population resulting from the failure to count the persons in all of these additional households might amount to about 700,000 to 900,000 persons. This estimate makes no allowance for the possible underenumeration of persons on farms with only one occupied dwelling.

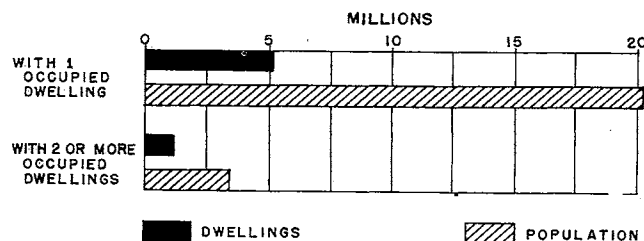
Statistics on farm population have been collected quinquennially since 1920. The data for 1940, 1930, and 1920 were collected in the decennial censuses of population and those for 1945, 1935, and 1925 in the mid-decennial censuses of agriculture. These statistics, together with those for total population, are shown for the United States in table 1 and by States in table 7. The data for farm population collected in these various censuses are not strictly comparable with those for 1945, largely for the same reasons as those outlined above in the discussion of farm dwellings. Additional lack of comparability is attributable to differences in the methods of enumeration in the population and agricultural censuses and in the wording of the schedule inquiries. For the population censuses, each individual was recorded separately, with the probable effect of a more complete count; in the agriculture censuses, totals for all households on each farm were obtained for specified age and sex groups.

TOTAL, RURAL, AND FARM POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1945



*DATA NOT AVAILABLE
SOURCE: TABLE 1

NUMBER OF DWELLINGS AND POPULATION FOR FARMS WITH 1 OCCUPIED DWELLING AND FOR FARMS WITH 2 OR MORE OCCUPIED DWELLINGS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1945



Changes in number of dwellings on farms and farm population.—Differences in the figures presented for the various census years do not represent accurate measures of the increase or decrease in the number of dwellings on farms or in farm population. They represent the net result of changes in definitions and procedures as well as actual changes in the basic data. Thus the differences of 920,271 in the number of occupied dwellings and of 6,988,423 in the farm population between 1940 and 1945 represent a very considerable overstatement of the actual decreases. However, there were large net losses in both farm dwellings and farm population during the 5-year period between these two censuses.

The effect of differences in definitions (i.e., the exclusion in 1945 of "dwellings rented to others") and changes in procedures (i.e., visitation of all dwelling units in 1940 and only operator dwelling units in 1945, differences in the editing procedures, etc.) would be expected to be confined largely to households of other than farm operators. The number of non-operator households on farms may be approximated by subtracting, for each census, the number of resident farm operators from the total occupied dwellings or dwelling units on farms.

	1945	1940
Occupied dwellings (or dwelling units) on farms.....	6,268,577	7,188,848
Resident farm operators.....	5,459,841	5,506,322
Dwellings on farms occupied by other than farm operators (calculated by subtracting the number of resident farm operators from the number of occupied dwellings).....	808,736	1,682,526

Only about one-half as many dwellings on farms occupied by other than farm operators were enumerated in 1945 as in 1940. (The figures shown do not represent an exact count of these nonoperator households, as 62,435 farm operators in 1945 and 276,879 farm operators in 1940 failed to report their residence.)

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

Table 1.—FARM DWELLINGS AND FARM POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1945

[Figures for 1940, 1930, and 1920 are from Censuses of Housing and Population; those for 1945, 1935, and 1925 are from the Censuses of Agriculture, except as noted. Data not strictly comparable, see text discussion. Figures for divisions and States in tables 3 to 7]

ITEM	1945 (Jan. 1)	1940 [*] (Apr. 1)	1935 (Jan. 1)	1930 (Apr. 1)	1925 (Jan. 1)	1920 (Jan. 1)
All farms.....number.....	5,859,189	6,098,799	6,812,350	6,288,648	6,871,840	6,448,343
increase or decrease (-) from preceding census.....	-237,630	-715,551	525,702	-82,992	-76,703	-----
percent increase or decrease (-).....	-5.9	-10.5	8.3	-1.3	-1.2	-----
Dwellings on farms:						
Occupied and unoccupied.....farms reporting.....	5,721,903	(*)	6,489,491	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of all farms.....	97.7	(*)	95.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
number.....	6,998,538	7,730,546	7,844,409	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per farm (based on all farms).....	1.19	1.27	1.15	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per farm reporting.....	1.22	(*)	1.21	(*)	(*)	(*)
Occupied dwellings.....farms reporting.....	5,612,802	(*)	6,422,088	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of all farms.....	95.8	(*)	94.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
number.....	6,288,677	7,188,848	7,360,212	6,688,681	(*)	6,751,204
increase or decrease (-) from preceding census.....	-920,271	-171,364	691,551	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent increase or decrease (-).....	-12.8	-2.3	10.4	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per farm (based on all farms).....	1.07	1.18	1.08	1.06	(*)	1.05
average per farm reporting.....	1.12	(*)	1.15	(*)	(*)	(*)
Farms with 1 occupied dwelling.....number.....	5,149,276	(*)	5,757,447	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of all farms.....	87.9	(*)	84.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of farms reporting occupied dwellings.....	91.7	(*)	89.7	(*)	(*)	(*)
Farms with 2 or more occupied dwellings.....number.....	465,526	(*)	664,641	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of all farms.....	7.9	(*)	9.8	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of farms reporting occupied dwellings.....	8.3	(*)	10.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
number of dwellings.....	1,119,501	(*)	1,602,765	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of total occupied dwellings.....	17.9	(*)	21.8	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per farm reporting.....	2.41	(*)	2.41	(*)	(*)	(*)
Unoccupied dwellings.....farms reporting.....	570,549	(*)	401,454	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of all farms.....	9.7	(*)	5.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
number.....	727,981	541,898	484,197	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per farm reporting.....	1.28	(*)	1.21	(*)	(*)	(*)
Farm population.....farms reporting.....	5,612,802	(*)	6,422,088	(*)	(*)	(*)
percent of all farms.....	95.8	(*)	94.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
number of persons.....	23,558,488	30,546,911	31,800,907	30,445,350	29,981,688	31,614,269
increase or decrease (-) from preceding census.....	-6,988,423	-1,253,996	1,355,557	1,463,682	-2,632,801	-----
percent increase or decrease (-).....	-22.9	-5.9	4.5	5.1	-8.5	-----
percent of total population.....	17.9	25.2	25.0	24.8	25.0	29.9
average per farm (based on all farms).....	4.02	5.01	4.87	4.84	4.55	4.90
average per farm reporting occupied dwellings.....	4.20	(*)	4.95	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	3.76	4.25	4.32	4.57	(*)	4.68
average per capita:						
land in farms (acres).....	48.5	34.7	33.2	32.4	31.9	30.2
cropland harvested (acres).....	15.0	10.5	9.5	11.8	11.9	11.0
value of farm products (dollars).....	879	258	(*)	362	(*)	(*)
Under 14 years old.....number of persons.....	7,512,938	\$9,553,729	(*)	\$10,862,065	(*)	\$12,084,935
percent of total farm population.....	51.9	\$51.8	(*)	\$50.0	(*)	\$48.5
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.20	\$1.33	(*)	\$1.63	(*)	\$1.79
Boys.....number.....	3,827,421	\$4,682,858	(*)	\$5,553,670	(*)	\$6,175,366
percent of total farm population.....	16.2	\$16.2	(*)	\$18.4	(*)	\$19.7
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.61	\$0.68	(*)	\$0.83	(*)	\$0.91
Girls.....number.....	3,685,517	\$4,871,071	(*)	\$5,308,395	(*)	\$5,889,569
percent of total farm population.....	15.6	\$15.5	(*)	\$17.6	(*)	\$18.8
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.59	\$0.65	(*)	\$0.80	(*)	\$0.87
14 years old and over.....number of persons.....	16,045,550	\$20,662,459	(*)	\$19,286,679	(*)	\$19,275,171
percent of total farm population.....	68.1	\$68.4	(*)	\$64.0	(*)	\$61.5
average per occupied dwelling.....	2.56	\$2.87	(*)	\$2.89	(*)	\$2.86
Men and boys.....number.....	7,985,760	\$11,057,712	(*)	\$10,305,635	(*)	\$10,174,034
percent of total farm population.....	53.9	\$56.6	(*)	\$54.2	(*)	\$52.4
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.27	\$1.54	(*)	\$1.55	(*)	\$1.51
Women and girls.....number.....	8,059,790	\$9,604,747	(*)	\$8,981,046	(*)	\$9,101,137
percent of total farm population.....	54.2	\$51.8	(*)	\$49.8	(*)	\$49.0
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.29	\$1.54	(*)	\$1.35	(*)	\$1.35
For farms with 1 occupied dwelling.....number of persons.....	20,156,597	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	3.91	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Under 14 years old.....number.....	6,429,372	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.25	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Boys.....number.....	3,274,661	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.64	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Girls.....number.....	3,154,711	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.61	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
14 years old and over.....number.....	13,727,225	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	2.67	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Men and boys.....number.....	6,850,938	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.33	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Women and girls.....number.....	6,896,287	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.54	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
For farms with 2 or more occupied dwellings.....number of persons.....	3,401,691	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	5.04	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Under 14 years old.....number.....	1,085,566	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.97	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Boys.....number.....	552,760	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.49	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Girls.....number.....	530,806	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	0.47	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
14 years old and over.....number.....	2,518,525	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	2.07	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Men and boys.....number.....	1,154,822	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.05	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Women and girls.....number.....	1,185,503	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
average per occupied dwelling.....	1.04	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Total population (urban and rural).....number of persons.....	\$151,975,774	151,669,275	\$127,250,252	122,775,046	\$115,831,985	105,710,620
increase or decrease (-) from preceding census.....	308,499	4,419,045	4,475,188	6,943,083	10,121,343	-----
percent increase or decrease (-).....	0.2	5.5	5.6	6.0	9.6	-----

*Not available.

¹The 1945 figures include 461,448 farms, and the 1935 figures 354,051 farms, reporting both occupied and unoccupied dwellings.

²Products sold or used by farm households.

³Figures are for rural-farm population only, urban-farm not included; those for 1930 and 1920 also exclude 8,769 and 18,534 persons, respectively, for whom age was not reported; therefore, distribution will not add to total farm population.

⁴Percentages based on total persons for whom age-sex distribution is shown.

⁵Averages based on all occupied dwellings on farms.

⁶Estimates. Figures relate to July 1 of the year specified. The 1945 figures exclude armed forces overseas.

This difference in number of households of other than farm operators is also reflected in the change in the average number of occupied dwelling units or dwellings per farm. The average number of occupied dwellings per farm was 1.18 in 1940 and 1.07 in 1945. Undoubtedly a considerable part of this difference was the result of changes in definitions and procedures. This difference in the averages represents approximately 800,000 of the decrease in the number of enumerated farm dwellings between 1940 and 1945. The occupants of these dwellings in 1940 would have totaled approximately 2,400,000.

Difference in method of enumeration (i.e., the visitation of every dwelling unit in 1940 and of operator households only in 1945) is estimated to have resulted, as previously mentioned, in the underenumeration in 1945 of the farm population in second, third, etc., households on farms by possibly as much as 850,000.

A substantial decrease representing actual change in the number of occupied dwellings on farms is associated with the decrease in number of farms between 1940 and 1945. During this period the number of resident farm operators decreased by approximately 240,000. (This statement assumes that the nonreports as to residence are distributed in proportion to the reports. The difference in the numbers actually reporting residence on the farm amounted to only 43,481.) A shift of 186,000 dwellings from "occupied" to "unoccupied" status between 1940 and 1945 is indicated by an increase in the number of unoccupied dwellings on farms in 1945 over the number of vacant farm dwelling units reported in 1940 (727,961 in 1945 as compared with 541,698 in 1940). This difference represents an understatement of the number of dwellings vacated, as some might have been torn down and others might not have been considered as dwellings in 1945 because they had been converted to other uses or had become uninhabitable. Also, a subsequent check of the enumeration indicates a considerable underenumeration of unoccupied dwellings in 1945. In addition to dwellings vacated, there was a loss in dwellings on farms attributable to dwellings on tracts of land no longer included in the farm enumeration. The total net loss associated with the decrease in number of farms would amount to at least 238,000 occupied dwellings if a minimum loss of approximately one occupied dwelling is assumed for each farm lost. This decrease would account for a change of approximately 1,000,000 in farm population.

Differences between 1945 and 1940 in the average number of persons enumerated per occupied dwelling, or dwelling unit, account for a very substantial part of the difference in the farm population figures for the two years. A part of this difference, previously discussed, was attributable to the underenumeration of persons in second, third, etc., households on farms. If an adjustment is made for this underenumeration of persons in second, third, etc., households on farms, the average number of persons would be 3.89 for 1945 as compared with 4.25 for 1940. This difference in the average number of persons reported per dwelling would account for an additional difference between 1940 and 1945 of about 2,000,000 in farm population.

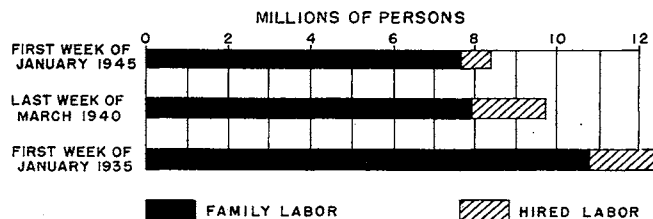
The approximations presented above are subject to considerable possibility of error. It is not possible to separate accurately the differences due to changes in definition and procedures from the actual changes. However, the approximations indicate that a considerable part of the normal decrease in the number of farm dwellings and farm population between 1940 and 1945 occurred because of differences in definition and procedures. Because of these differences, the figures as published constitute a substantial overstatement of the actual changes. In making comparison of data for the two years, the effect of changes in definitions and procedures must be carefully considered.

Farm workers.—The 1945 inquiry called for the number of persons 14 years old and over working on the farm the equivalent of 2 or more days during the week ending January 6, 1945. The inquiry was divided into three parts in order to obtain separately the number of farm operators, unpaid members of the operator's family, and hired laborers. The enumerators were instructed to report the number of persons working at farm work, including farm chores. Persons working at housework and contract construction work and inmates of institutions were not to be reported.

The week ending Jan. 6 represents a low period of agricultural employment for the United States as a whole. The figures, therefore, on number of farm workers should not be taken as representing the total employed in agriculture. The number of workers may appear low in some areas, not because the workers were not there, but for such reasons as inclement weather, etc., which kept some workers from actually working the equivalent of 2 or more days.

A person working full time at some nonagricultural occupation might have spent a sufficient amount of his spare time in the mornings, evenings, or week ends to make up the required equivalent of 2 days at farm work. This might be true of a farm operator, other family worker (housewife, children in school, etc.), or a hired farm worker.

FARM LABOR—NUMBER OF PERSONS WORKING DURING SPECIFIED PERIODS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1945, 1940, AND 1935



In 1945, as in previous censuses, difficulty was encountered in securing data on farm labor. The replies to the labor inquiries were influenced to a great extent by individual enumerators. In some cases, answers were not secured for the farm labor inquiries. In other instances, persons engaged in housework and children under 14 years old were included, even though the inquiry was worded to exclude them. There was a tendency to report the maximum number of persons, especially hired workers, employed during the year. Sometimes the operator was included with the other family workers in addition to being reported separately. The average date of enumeration was the latter half of March. It is probable that some enumerators obtained the number of persons working at the time of visitation instead of during the week ending Jan. 6. For most areas, there is an increase in farm activity with the advance in the season. Thus, the number of workers reported would be greater than if enumerated for the specified week. Many errors of these types were found in the editing process. Even when such errors were apparent, adequate corrections in the numbers and types of farm laborers were difficult to make. It was especially difficult to detect instances of incomplete reporting.

Information on number of persons working on farms (as reported for individual farms) was first obtained in the Census of 1935. In that year the inquiry called for the number of family workers (the farm operator and members of his family) and the number of hired help working at farm work the equivalent of 2 or more days during the first week of January, the week following the census date. In 1940, similar information was secured for two specified weeks (March 24-30, 1940, and September 24-30, 1939), the first immediately preceding the census date and the other 6 months earlier. In this inquiry, laborers hired by the month, by the day or week, and other hired labor (including piecework and contract labor) were reported separately. The 1940 information is not comparable with that obtained for 1945 because of differences in the specified weeks. The 1935 data are comparable with those for 1945 in respect to the week specified but the 1935 inquiry did not specify any age limit for the worker. In 1940 and 1935, no mention was made of farm chores. Differences in the wording of the inquiries and in the schedule arrangement, as well as the aforementioned difficulties of enumeration in each census, may affect comparability of the data for the different censuses.

In each decennial population census, persons in the labor force are tabulated by occupation. These statistics from the population censuses are not comparable with those obtained in the farm censuses and therefore are not included in this chapter. Persons with agricultural occupations may not have been actually working the equivalent of 2 or more days during the

week specified on the agricultural census schedule; also, a person working the equivalent of 2 or more days on the farm may have had some nonfarm occupation as his principal employment or he may not have been included in the labor force.

For the United States as a whole, persons working on farms the equivalent of 2 or more days during the first week of January 1945 totaled 8,373,239, or 52.2 percent of the farm population 14 years old and over. The average per farm based on all farms was 1.43 persons and on farms reporting, 1.32. Of the total number of persons working on farms, 59.4 percent were farm operators, 31.6 percent were unpaid members of the operator's family, and 8.9 percent were hired workers. Of the 5,859,169 farm operators, 85.0 percent were reported as working on their farms the equivalent of 2 or more days the first week in January. Family workers other than the operator were reported on 33.2 percent of all farms and hired labor on 6.9 percent.

The distribution of persons working on farms during the first week of January 1945, as either family labor or hired labor, varied considerably from State to State. Persons working for wages constituted over 25 percent of the total farm labor in California, Arizona, Nevada, Florida, and New Jersey and under 4 percent in Mississippi, West Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Alabama. The ratio of hired workers to total workers ranged from 2.0 percent in Mississippi to 39.7 percent in Arizona and 39.9 percent in California.

Cash paid for farm labor.—The 1945 inquiry called for the total cash paid in 1944 for farm labor (wage, contract, and piecework labor). Expenditures for machine hire and for labor included in the cost of such machine hire and expenditures for housework and contract construction work were not to be included. For certain types of labor, cash wages are often supplemented by the furnishing of board, housing, fuel, products of the farm for the use of the laborer's family, feed, pasturage for animals, etc.

For country-estate areas the wages reported for many of the farms quite often exceeded the receipts from the sales of agricultural products. In citrus areas where it is a common practice to charge a fixed amount per acre for the care of groves, this charge was quite often reported in lieu of wages. Reports of this nature were accepted as it was not possible to determine the amount paid for farm labor not included with machine hire.

An inquiry on expenditures for farm labor has been included in each census, except 1935, beginning with 1870. However, no figures on expenditures for labor appear in the 1880 and 1890 reports. From 1870 to 1900, the inquiry called for the amount paid for farm labor, including the value of board furnished. Beginning with 1900, the inquiry in each census has expressly excluded housework. Contract construction work and expenditures for machine hire and for labor included in the cost of such machine hire were expressly excluded only for the 1945 and 1940 Censuses. Specific mention of the inclusion of expenditures for contract and piecework labor was first made on the 1940 inquiry. The questions covering expenditures for farm labor for the Censuses of 1930 and 1925 related to the amount actually expended in cash, that is, money wages exclusive of the value of rent, board, and other prerequisites furnished; for the Censuses of 1920 and 1910, separate figures were obtained for the cash expenditure and for the estimated value of rent and board furnished farm laborers; and for the Census of 1900, one inquiry covered the combined cash expenditure and estimated value of board furnished.

The number of farms reporting cash paid for farm labor in 1944 was 2,799,026, or 47.8 percent of all farms. The comparable number for 1939 was 2,260,237, or 37.1 percent of all farms. In the 1930 Census, 41.8 percent of the farms reported such expenditures. The cash expenditure for farm labor for 1944 totaled \$1,861,026,434, as compared with \$781,791,558 in 1939 and \$955,420,313 in 1929.

When the index of wage rates for 1944 is taken into account (see accompanying table) it appears that the amount of labor hired in 1944 was slightly below that in 1939. Although there was about as much labor employed in 1944 as in previous years, it is probable that less full-time labor was hired. This is

indicated by the relatively low number of hired workers during the week ending Jan. 6, 1945. Farm income-per dollar spent for farm labor averaged \$9.73 in 1944 and \$9.99 in 1939. Wage rates were much higher in 1944 than in 1939 in comparison with prices of farm products.

CASH WAGES PAID FOR FARM LABOR AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD OR USED BY HOUSEHOLDS ON THE FARM WITH THE INDICES FOR FARM WAGES AND FARM PRICES FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1899 TO 1944

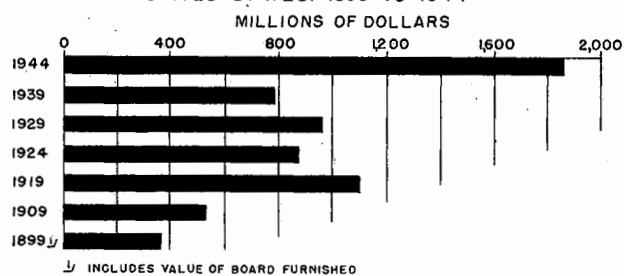
\$ 865,026,434

YEAR	Cash wages	Index of wage rates ¹	Value of farm products sold or used	Index of prices received by farmers ¹
1944.....	1,861,026,434	315	18,108,132,494	195
1939.....	781,791,558	123	7,813,644,567	95
1934.....	(*)	95	(*)	90
1929.....	955,420,313	180	11,011,329,335	149
1924.....	864,982,384	173	(*)	143
1919.....	1,098,712,517	207	(*)	215
1914.....	(*)	101	(*)	101
1909.....	521,729,941	98	(*)	(*)
1904.....	(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
1899.....	357,391,930	(*)	3,742,129,357	(*)

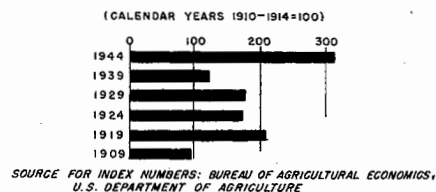
*Data not available.

¹From Agricultural Statistics, 1946 and 1941; 1909-1914 = 100.

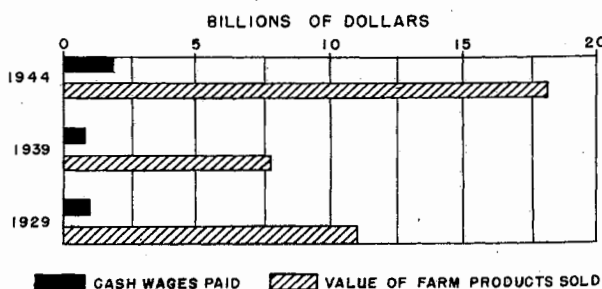
CASH WAGES PAID FOR HIRED LABOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1899 TO 1944



INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE FARM-WAGE RATES FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1909 TO 1944



CASH WAGES PAID FOR HIRED LABOR AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD OR USED BY FARM HOUSEHOLDS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1944, 1939 AND 1929



FARM POPULATION AND FARM LABOR

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Table 2.—FAMILY WORKERS AND HIRED WORKERS WORKING DURING SPECIFIED WEEKS, 1945, 1940, AND 1935, AND CASH PAID FOR FARM LABOR, 1869 TO 1944; FOR THE UNITED STATES

[Figures for divisions and States in tables 8 to 11]

ITEM AND YEAR		FARMS REPORTING		NUMBER OF PERSONS OR AMOUNT (DOLLARS)		
		Number	Percent of all farms	Total	Average per farm (based on all farms)	Average per farm reporting
				(number)		
Family and/or hired workers ¹	first week of Jan. 1945..	5,155,346	88.0	8,375,239	1.43	1.82
	last week of March 1940..	5,321,248	87.3	9,694,168	1.59	1.82
	first week of Jan. 1935..	6,640,286	97.5	12,407,614	1.82	1.87
Family workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	5,111,005	87.2	7,624,898	1.30	1.49
	last week of March 1940..	5,081,848	83.4	7,940,727	1.30	1.56
	first week of Jan. 1935..	6,488,846	95.3	10,762,012	1.58	1.66
Farms by number of family workers:						
1 family worker.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	3,261,566	55.7	3,261,566	0.56	1.00
	first week of Jan. 1935..	4,013,782	58.9	4,013,782	0.59	1.00
2 family workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	1,421,699	24.3	2,843,398	0.49	2.00
	first week of Jan. 1935..	1,505,417	22.1	3,010,834	0.44	2.00
3 or more family workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	427,740	7.3	1,519,934	0.26	3.55
	first week of Jan. 1935..	989,647	14.2	3,737,398	0.55	5.85
Operators.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	4,977,686	85.0	4,977,686	0.85	1.00
Unpaid members of operator's family.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	1,946,890	33.2	2,647,232	0.45	1.36
Hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	402,489	6.9	748,341	0.13	1.88
	last week of March 1940..	892,648	14.6	1,753,441	0.29	1.86
	first week of Jan. 1935..	967,594	14.2	1,645,602	0.24	1.70
Farms by number of hired workers:						
1 hired worker.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	290,418	5.0	290,418	0.05	1.00
	last week of March 1940..	609,900	10.0	609,900	0.10	1.00
	first week of Jan. 1935..	722,645	10.6	722,645	0.11	1.00
2 hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	60,584	1.0	121,168	0.02	2.00
	last week of March 1940..	152,146	2.5	304,292	0.05	2.00
	first week of Jan. 1935..	137,670	2.0	275,340	0.04	2.00
3 or more hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	51,487	0.9	356,755	0.06	6.54
	last week of March 1940..	130,602	2.1	839,249	0.14	6.43
	first week of Jan. 1935..	107,279	1.6	647,617	0.10	6.04
3 to 4 hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	30,257	0.5	(*)	(*)	(*)
5 to 9 hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	15,127	0.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
10 or more hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	6,103	0.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
	first week of Jan. 1935..	11,410	0.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
Farms by kind of workers:						
No workers reported.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	703,823	12.0	-----	-----	-----
	last week of March 1940..	775,551	12.7	-----	-----	-----
	first week of Jan. 1935..	172,064	2.5	-----	-----	-----
Family workers only.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	4,752,857	81.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
	last week of March 1940..	4,428,600	72.6	(*)	(*)	(*)
	first week of Jan. 1935..	5,672,692	83.3	(*)	(*)	(*)
Operator only.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	2,925,407	49.9	2,925,407	0.50	1.00
Operator and members of his family.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	1,702,091	29.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Members of operator's family only.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	125,359	2.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Family workers and hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	358,148	6.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
	last week of March 1940..	655,248	10.7	(*)	(*)	(*)
	first week of Jan. 1935..	816,154	12.0	(*)	(*)	(*)
Operator and hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	258,708	4.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Operator, members of his family, and hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	111,460	1.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
Members of operator's family and hired workers.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	7,980	0.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
Hired workers only.....	first week of Jan. 1945..	44,341	0.8	(*)	(*)	(*)
	last week of March 1940..	259,400	5.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
	first week of Jan. 1935..	151,440	2.2	(*)	(*)	(*)
				(dollars)		
Cash wages paid for hired labor ³	1944..	2,799,026	47.8	1,861,026,434	318	865
	1939..	2,260,237	37.1	781,791,558	128	346
	1929..	2,651,601	41.8	955,420,313	152	365
	1924..	2,536,721	39.8	864,982,384	156	541
	1919..	2,688,999	44.8	1,098,712,517	170	580
	1909..	2,922,279	45.9	521,729,941	82	179
	1899..	(*)	(*)	4357,391,930	62	(*)
	1869..	(*)	(*)	4248,229,028	95	(*)
Farms by amount of cash wages paid in 1944:						
\$1 to \$49.....		594,254	10.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$50 to \$99.....		416,822	7.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$100 to \$199.....		473,112	8.1	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$200 to \$499.....		569,944	9.7	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$500 to \$999.....		358,967	5.8	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$1,000 and over.....		405,927	6.9	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$1,000 to \$2,499.....		270,684	4.6	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....		81,019	1.4	(*)	(*)	(*)
\$5,000 and over.....		54,224	0.9	(*)	(*)	(*)

*Not available.

¹Persons 14 years old and over working at farm work the equivalent of 2 or more days during the specified week; housework and contract construction work not included; for census of 1935 age not specified.

²Based on tabulations of all farms with \$10,000 or more value of products sold or used by farm households plus 2 percent sample of all other farms enumerated at the 1940 Census of Agriculture.

³Cash paid for farm labor during calendar year; for 1899 to 1944 housework specifically excluded; for 1944 and 1939 expenditures for contract construction work, for machine hire, and for labor included in cost of such machine hire specifically excluded.

⁴1899 and 1869 include value of board furnished; 1869 represents value in gold—one-fifth less than the \$510,286,285 currency value published in the reports for that year.

CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE: 1945

A higher level of production in 1944 than in 1939 was accomplished even though less hired labor was used. Much of the increase in production was due to the greater use of machinery (see chapters I and II), although relatively greater dependence was placed on family workers in 1944 than in 1939. In some of the cash-crop areas of the South, and especially in the tobacco areas, there were some shifts from wage hands to croppers and tenants in order to hold labor on the farm.

The greatest dependence on hired labor is in fruit, vegetable, and ranch areas. In Palm Beach County, Florida, the total sales of farm products in 1944 amounted to \$15,540,669. Of this total, \$11,386,535 represented the value of vegetables sold. Cash paid for farm labor in 1944 amounted to \$5,711,489 or more than one-third of the total receipts. In Fresno County, California, the total sales of farm products amounted to \$102,906,480, of which \$62,411,909 was for fruits and nuts. The wage bill was \$26,202,110, or more than one-fourth of the total sales. In California, the cash expended for farm labor amounted

to 21.6 percent of the total sales of farm products. Nearly one-sixth of the Nation's cash expenditures for farm labor was reported for California. Arizona and Nevada had slightly higher cash outlays for farm labor in relation to sales of products than did California.

The lowest expenditures for labor in relation to income were, in general, in the corn, cotton, and tobacco areas and in areas where the products for family living represented a high proportion of the total income. Although cotton and tobacco require large amounts of hand labor, the farms are small and money expenditures for labor are partly avoided by the use of croppers and share tenants.

Some of the lowest expenditures for labor in relation to income were in the North Central States where mechanization permits a farm family to handle a comparatively large acreage without dependence on outside help. In Iowa, the expenditures for labor amounted to only 4.9 percent of the total sales of farm products.

