

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 541,898 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.

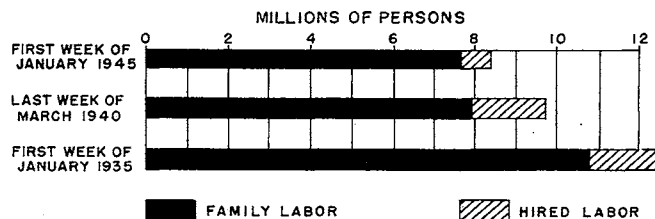
The approximations presented above are subject to considerable possibility of error. It is not possible to separate accurately the differences due to changes in definition and procedures from the actual changes. However, the approximations indicate that a considerable part of the normal decrease in the 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