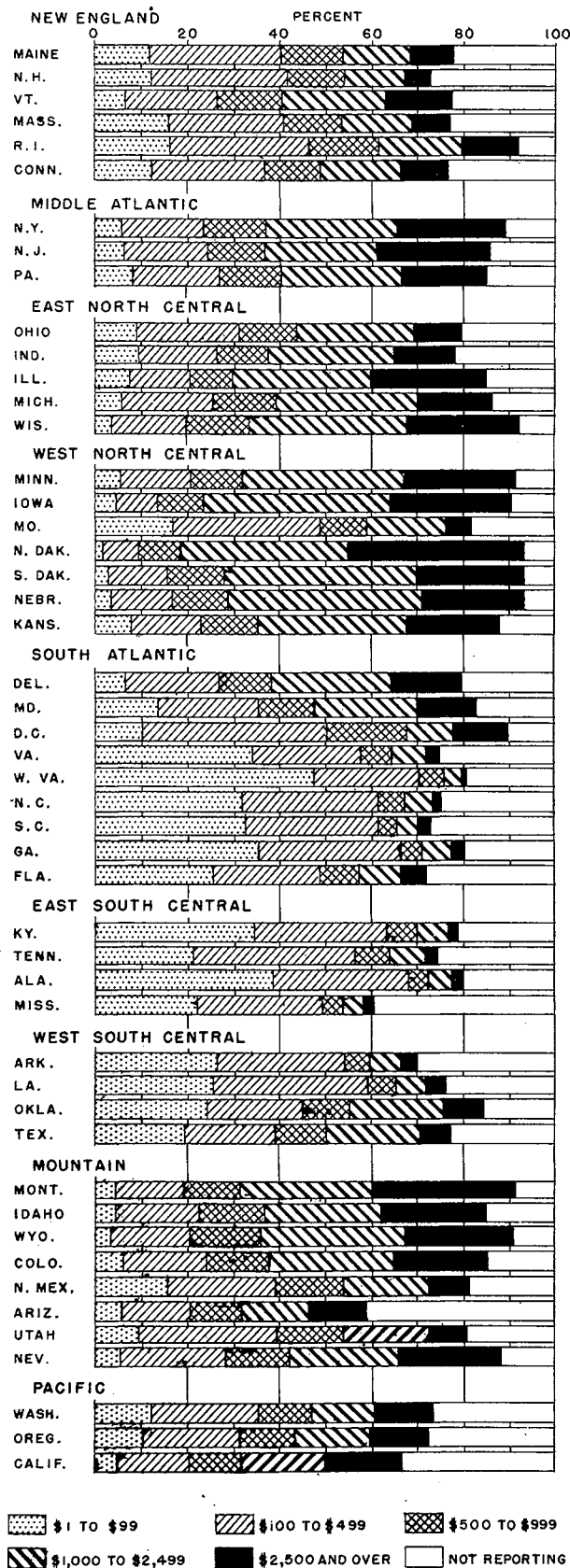


PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF NUMBER OF FARMS BY VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, BY STATES: 1945



item. It is true that many farms may have had no implements and machinery or they may have had only a few hand tools of insignificant value. Table 5 shows the number and proportion of farms not reporting the value of implements and machinery for 1945, 1940, and 1930, the only years for which a tabulation of this nature was made.

Table 5.—FARMS NOT REPORTING VALUE OF IMPLEMENTS AND MACHINERY, FOR THE UNITED STATES, THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST: 1945, 1940, AND 1930

YEAR	THE UNITED STATES		THE NORTH	
	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms
1945.....	1,154,620	19.7	358,232	13.6
1940.....	1,081,547	17.7	354,848	13.0
1930.....	759,224	12.1	210,965	8.2

YEAR	THE SOUTH		THE WEST	
	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms	Farms not reporting value of implements and machinery	Percent of all farms
1945.....	597,633	24.2	118,705	24.0
1940.....	559,034	21.9	87,965	17.2
1930.....	477,986	14.8	70,275	14.0

In some instances, the machinery and equipment used by tenants and croppers are furnished by the landlord and are kept on land operated by him. In plantation areas, the returns for multiple units quite frequently showed all of the implements and machinery on the "home farm." In highly developed fruit areas, particularly in the citrus areas of Florida, Texas, and California, the various farm operations may be performed for many owners by one manager or by one or more contract operators. In such cases, many of the groves would not show reports of implements and machinery, since the machinery was to be reported for the farm where it was kept.

Comparability of the statistics.—Although the number of farms, land in farms, and value of specified classes of farm property other than livestock do not fluctuate to any appreciable extent with the seasons, the data for these items and the several classes of land according to use are affected by the time of the year in which the census is taken. The enumerations for 1945, 1935, 1925, and 1920 were made as of January 1; those for 1940 and 1930, April 1; that for 1910, April 15; and those for earlier censuses, June 1. The ease of enumeration, with the consequent completeness of coverage, depends, in part, upon the farm activity at the time of the enumeration. All areas having appreciable numbers of nonresident operators, or operators who live on their farm only a part of a year, are particularly difficult to enumerate at any period of low farm activity. It is not uncommon for a farm operator to live off his farm in the off-season months, usually during the winter. In Utah, about one out of every four farmers does not live on a farm at any time of the year. In the winter-garden areas, where large numbers of the farm operators do not live on their farms, the enumeration would be much more difficult after April 1 than in January. Agricultural operations in "suit-case" farming areas in the wheat-growing sections of the Great Plains are difficult to enumerate in any season other than at the time of planting or harvesting. On the other hand, better reports may be obtained from farmers, who live on their farms throughout the year, in a period of low farm activity, particularly if secured at or near the close of a crop season.

The enumeration of the uses of land for the year preceding the census date becomes more difficult with the lapse of time. If delayed until the current season's operations have started, the operator may report the current intentions rather than the previous year's operations. The enumeration of farms for operators who have just moved onto their farms tends to be incomplete as the operators may not be able to give complete reports of the operations for the preceding year. This difficulty becomes more serious since more and more cases are encountered with the lapse of time. In the 1945 Census, there were 238,210 operators who reported 1945 as the year in which they began