



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Fewer of the Nation's farms were operated by tenants in 1945 than in any census year since 1890. The number of tenants declined from the all-time high of 2,865,155 in 1935 to 1,858,421 in 1945. Two-thirds of the decrease of slightly more than 1 million tenants in this 10-year period occurred in the South and nearly one-fourth in the North Central Region. Although tenants in the Northeast and the West have not been so numerous as in the South and in the North Central Region, the relative decline in their number during the decade 1935-45 was more rapid in both of the former regions than in either of the latter. Two-fifths of the drop in the number of tenant farms in the South was accounted for by the decline in share croppers. Share croppers have declined continuously since 1930. This decline began 5 years earlier than that for other classes of tenants in the same area and has continued at a more rapid rate.

Farms operated by full owners were more numerous in 1945 for the country as a whole than in any other census year since 1925. In all 4 regions their absolute numbers were higher in 1945 than in 1940. Since 1900, the general trend has been downward in the Northeast and in the North Central Region and strongly upward in the West in the earlier years and in the South in the later years of this 45-year interval. The low point in number of such farms was reached in 1930 for all regions except the West. The 1930 total for the West was the lowest recorded since 1910.

Slightly more than half of the farms operated by part owners in 1945 were in the North Central Region and nearly a third of such farms were in the South. Although the national total has remained relatively constant since 1910, a marked percentage increase has taken place in the West where more effective operating units are established by leasing range lands.