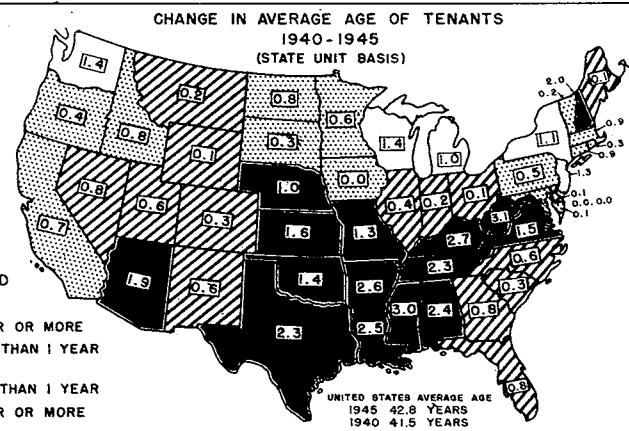
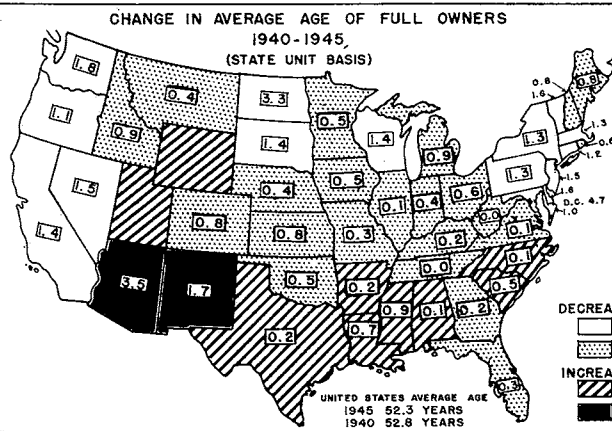
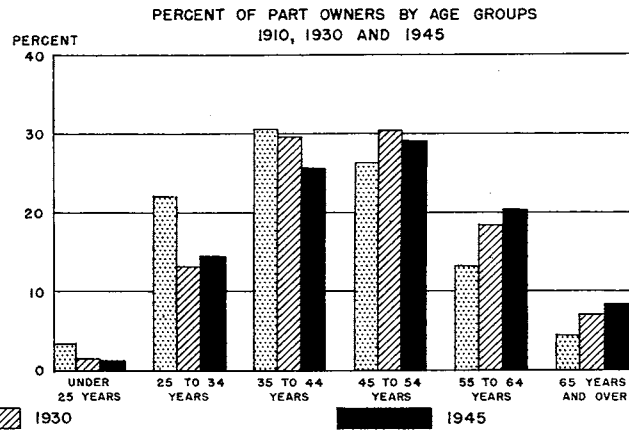
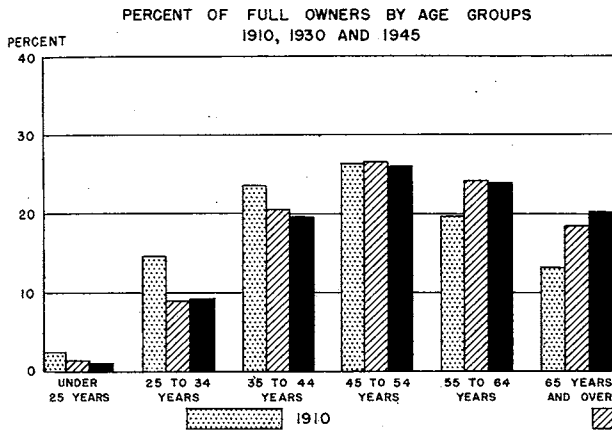
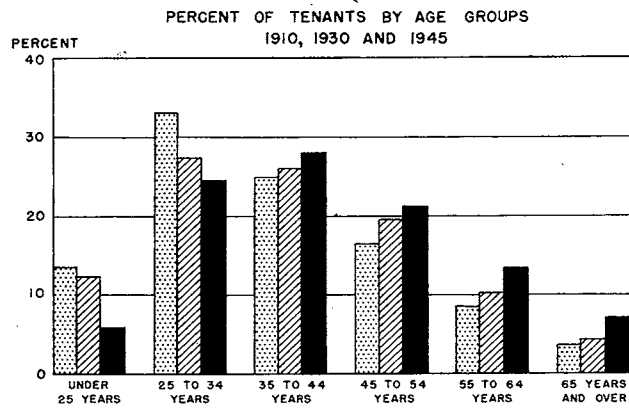
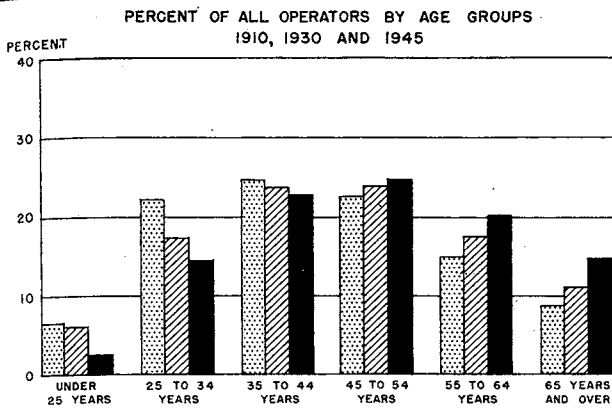


CHANGE IN AGE OF FARM OPERATORS IN EACH TENURE CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES, FOR SELECTED PERIODS



The loss of younger people from the farms, the general increase in life expectancy, and perhaps the failure to retire from farming at as early an age as formerly have caused the average age of farm operators to increase by 4.2 years in the past 35 years. The average age of farm operators was 48.7 years in 1945 and 48.0 in 1940. Similar averages computed from age distribution data were 45.1 in 1920 and 44.5 in 1910. The number of operators under 25 years of age decreased from 6.6 percent of the total in 1910 to 2.6 in 1945; those over 65 years increased from 8.7 to 14.7. In 1945, the average age of tenant operators was 42.8 years and of all owner operators 51.5. The average age of all owner operators decreased by 0.6 year from 1940 to 1945, while that of tenants increased 1.3 years.

Although tenant operators are 8.7 years younger than owners, their average age has been increasing more rapidly than that of owners. Tenants under 35 years have been decreasing in proportion to total tenants—from 46.6 percent to 30.3 percent in the 35-year period from 1910 to 1945. The average age of full

owners increased rather rapidly from 1910 to 1930 and decreased during the war. The percentage of full owners 25 to 34 years of age increased during the war, while the percentage of those 45 to 64 decreased. Part owners are older than tenants but younger than full owners. The average age of part owners has increased since 1910, but this increase was halted during the war when the outstanding changes were an increase in the proportion of those 25 to 34 years old and a decrease in the proportion of those from 45 to 54 years.

The age of full-owner operators generally decreased in the Northeastern, North Central, and far Western States during the war, while there was an increase in age in the South and Southwest. The dairy, cash-grain, and fruit and vegetable areas in the main showed decreases in ages of full owners while the cotton areas and some range areas showed increases. The areas showing increases in ages were generally those in which there was a heavy loss of the younger men for industrial work and for the Armed Forces.