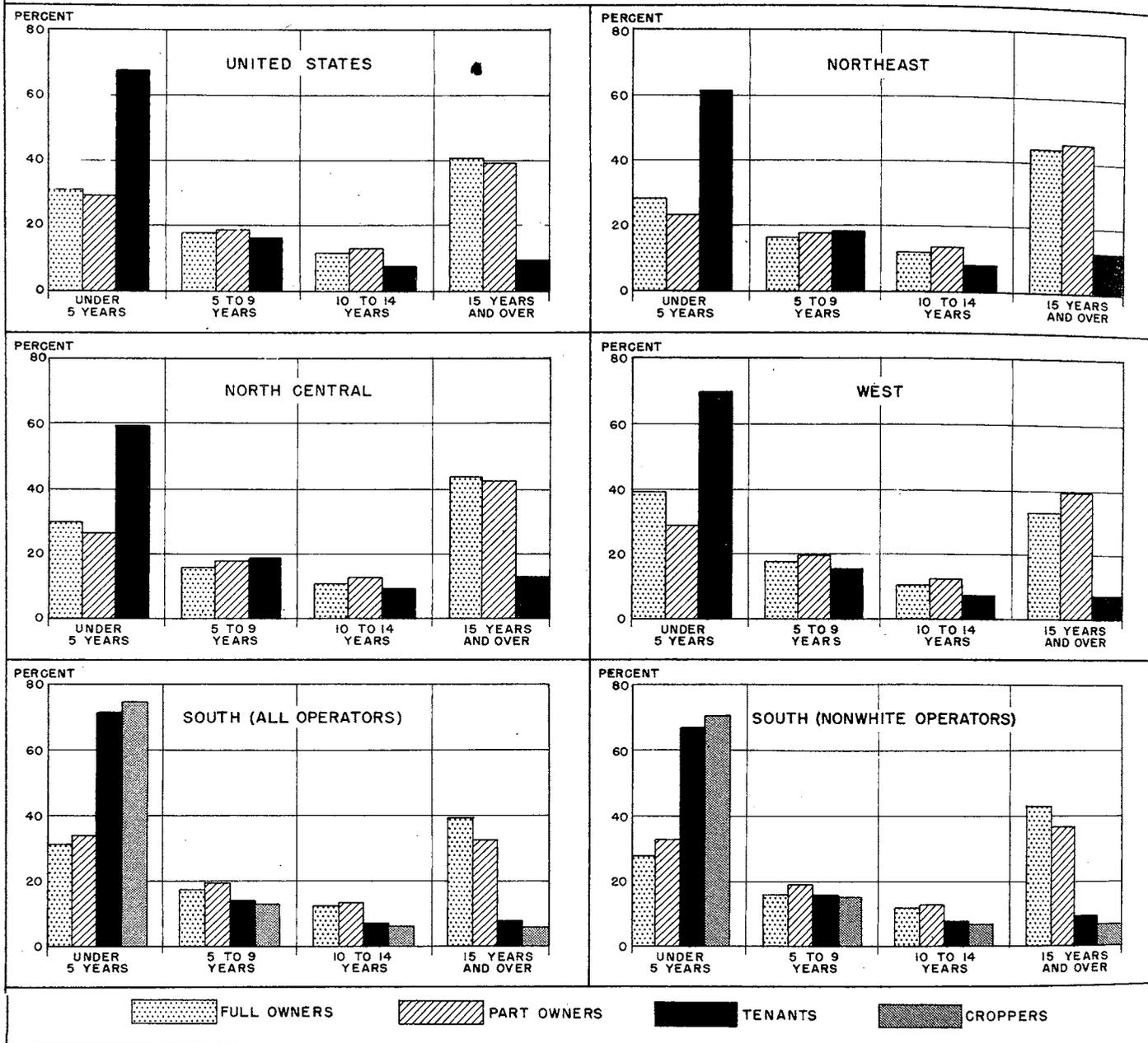


PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS BY TENURE AND YEARS ON FARM,  
FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUS OF 1945



The terms "number of years on farm" and "year of occupancy" are intended to reflect the stability of operators as a group and, to a lesser extent, the stability between tenure classes. A direct comparison of the data for the various tenure classes has several limitations. An operating owner of a farm may have first spent a few years on that farm as a tenant; his total length of time on the farm as an operator would be associated with ownership.

In 1945, farm operators of the Nation had been operating their farms an average of approximately 13 years. The average years on farm for the several tenure classes varied from approximately 16 for full owners to 7 for tenants. Part owners had operated their farms for a slightly shorter time than full owners. Although the data for 1945 and 1940 cannot be compared directly, there is some indication that, in 1945, farm operators had been on their farms slightly longer than those reporting in 1940. Further, full owners and part owners had been on their farms for a slightly shorter period in 1945 than the like group in 1940. Tenants averaged a longer time on their farms in 1945 than those in 1940. The increase in the number

of full owners and part owners during the war tended to reduce the average years on farm for these groups. This was a period of decreasing numbers of tenants—more after the younger men—and so the average years on farm for this group increased.

In 1945, full-owner operators in the North Central Region and in the South had operated their farms longer than part owners. However, part owners had the longer tenure in both the Northeast and the West. The increase in number of full owners during the war was relatively much greater in the Northeast and the West than in the North Central Region and the South. Of the tenants, 71.4 percent in the South and 69.7 in the West had been on their farms less than 5 years in comparison with 61.5 percent in the Northeast and 59.2 in the North Central Region. Only 7.6 percent of the tenants in the South and 7.8 in the West had been on their farms for at least 15 years in comparison with 12.2 percent in the Northeast and 12.8 in the North Central Region. The length of tenure for nonwhite operators in the South averaged longer in 1945 for each tenure group than that for white operators.