



In 1945, about 337,000 farm operators, or 5.8 percent of the total number, did not live on the farms they operated. In 1940, the percentage not living on their farms was 5.4. The most prominent areas with a high percentage of off-farm residence included central and south Florida, southwestern and northwestern Texas, southwestern Kansas, much of Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, and southern California. In two large areas the percentage of the farm operators who did not live on the farms they operated was very small. One included Iowa, most of Minnesota and Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois, and eastern Kansas and Nebraska. The other included northern Georgia, most of Alabama, Mississippi, southwestern Tennessee, Louisiana, Arkansas, southeastern Texas, and eastern Oklahoma.

A high degree of seasonality of farm work encourages off-farm residence. This is characteristic of the extensive wheat regions of the Great Plains and the fruit and vegetable areas

of southern California, Florida, and Texas. In such areas considerable hired labor is used, and the owners may live elsewhere. Areas where most of the work is done by the family, such as parts of the South and the Midwest, generally have a low percentage of operators residing off their farms.

Undesirable living conditions in parts of the country encourage some operators to live in urban places. Nonresident operators, particularly in the West, often live considerable distances from their farms and may be present only during the seasons when farm work is being done. In the eastern part of the country, where farms are much smaller than in the West, the operator may live in a village close to his farm and do the work there more regularly throughout the year than the nonresident farmer of the West. Tenants who farm "patches" of intensive cash crops frequently do not live on their farms and may rent different lands each year.