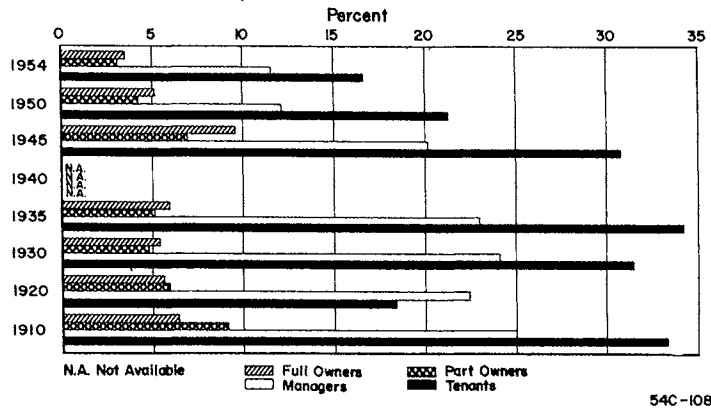


PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS ON PRESENT FARMS 1 YEAR OR LESS, BY TENURE: 1910 TO 1954



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TABLE 4.—MONTH OF OCCUPANCY FOR FARM OPERATORS WHO BEGAN OPERATION OF THEIR PRESENT FARM SINCE SEPTEMBER 1953, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS OF 1954

[Data are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text. Figures for divisions and States in Table 25]

Month	Operators reporting	Percent distribution
September 1953 to date of enumeration, total.....	339,565	100.0
1953—September and October.....	30,490	9.0
November and December.....	57,194	16.8
1954—January and February.....	113,429	33.4
March and April.....	69,991	20.6
May and June.....	23,127	6.8
July and August.....	17,454	5.1
September or later.....	27,880	8.2
Approximate 12-month period:		
November 1953 through date of enumeration.....	309,075	91.0
September 1953 through August 1954.....	311,685	91.8

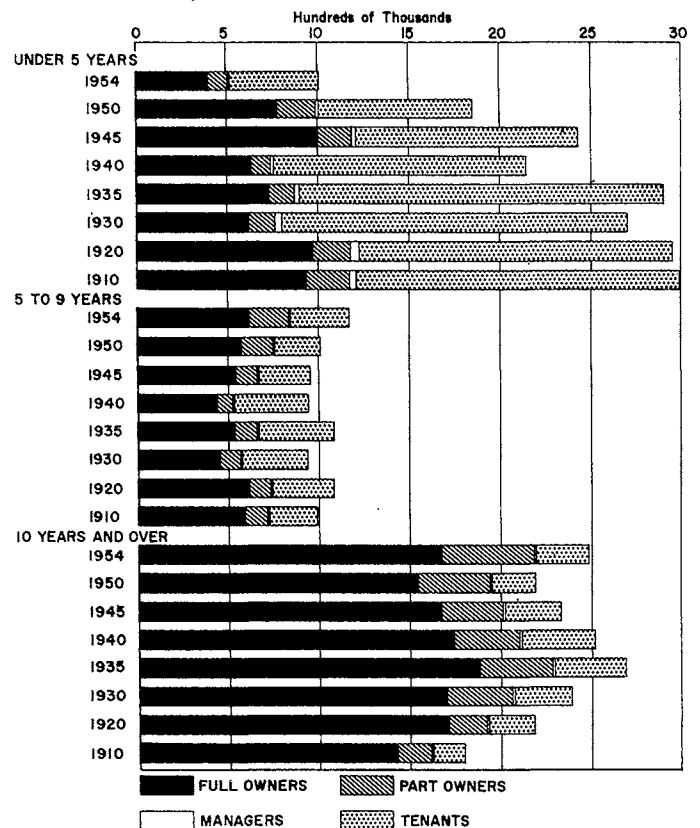
Table 3, the columns show the years-on-farm groups. For each Census year are shown: (a) The year of occupancy represented by each column; (b) the exact period included in the classification, expressed as years and months from the Census date, as well as an indication of how these periods relate to the calendar years; (c) the United States total for each classification; and (d) the proportion of all farm operators represented in each classification. The particular column, in which each total is entered, indicates the years-on-farm group in which this particular classification is shown in the tables.

The difference between Censuses in elapsed time from the date of the Census enumeration affects the comparability of data much more for the years-on-farm groups under 5 years than for the years-on-farm groups of 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 or more years.

For 1954, the average year of occupancy for the United States was 1940 as compared with 1937 for the 1950 Census. This average was calculated by dividing the sum of the years of occupancy for all farms reporting by the total number of operators reporting. The resulting quotients are shown as whole numbers, all fractions being dropped. For 1954, a United States average of 1940 for year began operation of present farm was determined for the above calculation. This average was subtracted from 1954 to establish 14 as the average number of years on present farm for the United States.

The average year of occupancy and average number of years on present farm have been obtained for each Census

YEARS ON FARM - NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1954



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beginning with 1940. Because of the variation in the dates of the Census enumerations, that is, October-November for 1954, April 1 for 1950 and 1940, and January 1 for 1945, the average number of calendar years on present farm is not strictly comparable. For 1954, a calculated average of 14 years actually means 13 years 10 months to 14 years 10 months, while for 1950 and 1940, a calculated average of 13 years actually means 12 1/4 years to 13 1/4 years on present farm prior to Census date. For 1945, an average of 13 years means 13 years up to, but not including, 14 years.

Off-farm work.—Farm operators reporting off-farm work vary from those who supplement their farm incomes with odd or spare-time jobs to those operators who have regular nonfarm jobs and use the farm to either supplement their regular income or as a rural residence. The operators with odd or spare-time jobs usually consider their nonfarm employment to be of secondary importance, and they may work part-time on someone else's farm, or work at seasonal nonfarm jobs.

Many persons who may be employed in cities or have other regular nonfarm jobs, are living in rural areas as a way of life and may have sufficient agricultural activities to qualify their places as farms. Some of these operators may be only producing agricultural products for home use, while others may be using the farm to supplement their regular nonfarm income. Many of the operators in this group are undoubtedly using their nonfarm income as a source of capital in the process of expanding their farming operations.

The questionnaire for both the 1954 and the 1950 Censuses of Agriculture carried the following four inquiries to determine the extent to which farm operators were dependent upon off-farm work and income from sources other than the farm operated.