

estimates based upon tabulations for a sample of approximately 20 percent of the farms. Therefore, in a few cases, the data for average age of farm operators and the distribution of farm operators by age groups are not fully consistent because of sampling variability. The average age of farm operators was not based on a sample of the farms but was calculated by dividing the total of the ages of all farm operators reporting age by the total number of operators for which age was reported.

A distribution of farm operators by age and by color and tenure has been made for each decennial Census, beginning with 1910, and for the mid-decennial Census of 1945. No information on age of operator was obtained in the Censuses of 1925 and 1935. The Censuses of Population for 1890 and for 1900 included a classification of occupants of farm homes by age groups. Although these data for earlier Censuses are on a slightly different basis, the data on age distribution of each tenure class are reasonably comparable with those for other Censuses.

In 1954, the average age of farm operators in the United States was 49.6 years as compared with an average age of 48.3 years in 1950. Between 1950 and 1954, the proportion of farm operators in the age group 65 or more years, increased from 14.8 percent of all operators in 1950 to 16.6 percent in 1954. During the same period, the percentage of farm operators in the under-35-years-of-age group decreased from 18.9 percent to 15.1 percent. The percentage of farm operators in the older age groups is increasing, while the percentage in the younger age group is decreasing. The proportion of operators in the middle age groups has remained relatively constant from 1950 to 1954. Operators of farms with limited agricultural production are slightly older than operators of farms with greater agricultural production. Some of the changes in the distribution of farm operators by age for 1954 and 1950, as compared with 1945 and earlier Censuses, may be the result of changes in the number of farms resulting from the change in the definition of a farm.

**Residence of farm operator.**—Farm operators were classified by residence on the basis of whether or not they lived on the farm operated. The inquiry in 1954 and 1950 was: "Do you live on this place? . . .  No  Yes." This inquiry was made of all farm operators and the replies were tabulated separately to show the number of farms reporting "No," those reporting "Yes," and the number of farms not reporting. Some of the data for residence of farm operator represent totals for all farm operators, and the remaining data represent estimates based on tabulations for only a sample of farms.

Some of the operators not living on the farm operated may have been living on other farms. When a farm operator rented land from others, or worked land on shares for others, and had the use of a dwelling as part of the rental arrangement, enumerators were instructed to consider the dwelling as a part of the farm operated. The dwelling assigned might have been on a tract other than that assigned for crops. Since some operators live on their farms only a portion of the year, comparability of the figures for various Censuses may be influenced slightly by the difference in the dates of enumeration.

Some farm operators live in nearby urban areas and go to their farms day by day or when necessary. These operators were considered as living on their farms if there were also some agricultural operations carried on at the residence. In Utah, where many farm operators live in villages and operate farms outside the villages, 17.2 percent of the oper-

TABLE 1.—RESIDENCE OF FARM OPERATORS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1940 TO 1954

[Figures for divisions and States in Table 21]

Item and year	Number of operators	Percent of all operators	Percent of operators reporting as to residence
All farm operators.....1954....	4,782,416	100.0	xxx
.....1950....	5,382,162	100.0	xxx
.....1945....	5,859,169	100.0	xxx
.....1940....	6,096,799	100.0	xxx
Residence:			
Reporting residence.....1954....	4,682,081	97.9	100.0
.....1950....	5,250,506	97.6	100.0
.....1945....	5,796,734	98.9	100.0
.....1940....	5,819,920	95.5	100.0
On farm operated.....1954....	4,392,205	91.8	93.8
.....1950....	4,982,330	92.6	94.9
.....1945....	5,459,841	93.2	94.2
.....1940....	5,506,322	90.3	94.6
Not on farm operated.....1954....	289,876	6.1	6.2
.....1950....	268,176	5.0	5.1
.....1945....	336,893	5.7	5.8
.....1940....	313,598	5.1	5.4
Not reporting residence.....1954....	100,335	2.1	xxx
.....1950....	131,656	2.4	xxx
.....1945....	62,435	1.1	xxx
.....1940....	276,879	4.5	xxx

ators reporting as to residence in 1954 were reported as not residing on their farms.

Farm activities in some areas are restricted to short, but rather definite periods, especially for such crops as wheat and other small grains. In such cases, the operator may live at a considerable distance from his land, being on his farm only during the seeding and harvesting seasons.

TABLE 2.—FARM OPERATORS REPORTING RESIDENCE ON OR OFF FARM FOR SELECTED COUNTIES: 1 1954 AND 1950

State, county, and type of agriculture	All farm operators (number)		Operators residing on farm operated (number)		Operators not residing on farm operated				Operators not reporting residence (number)	
	1954	1950	1954	1950	Number		Percent of operators reporting residence		1954	1950
					1954	1950	1954	1950		
<b>CASH-GRAIN</b>										
<b>Kansas:</b>										
1 Finney.....	726	739	524	527	189	199	26.5	27.4	13	13
2 Ford.....	1,299	1,146	978	955	318	155	24.5	14.0	3	36
3 Gray.....	672	619	500	522	161	79	24.4	13.1	11	18
4 Hamilton.....	406	350	240	207	160	113	40.0	35.3	6	30
5 Meade.....	638	635	470	476	162	155	25.6	24.6	6	4
6 Ness.....	885	884	673	749	205	108	23.3	12.6	7	27
7 Rush.....	972	996	748	818	215	156	22.3	16.0	9	22
8 Russell.....	941	1,065	658	862	204	183	23.7	17.5	79	20
9 Scott.....	479	369	312	290	160	70	33.9	19.4	7	9
10 Stevens.....	436	426	275	303	154	121	35.9	28.5	7	2
11 Thomas.....	731	755	534	537	189	191	26.1	26.2	8	27
<b>Montana:</b>										
12 Daniels.....	609	588	414	462	191	118	31.6	20.3	4	8
13 Hill.....	899	959	693	741	193	185	21.8	20.0	13	33
14 Sheridan.....	965	981	717	731	236	234	24.8	24.2	12	16
<b>Oklahoma:</b>										
15 Cimarron.....	559	616	378	421	166	177	30.5	29.6	15	18
16 Klawns.....	1,642	1,870	1,291	1,600	342	248	20.9	13.4	9	22
17 Texas.....	1,156	1,260	886	931	249	316	21.9	25.3	21	13
<b>Texas:</b>										
18 Childress.....	706	785	553	646	151	123	21.4	16.0	2	16
19 Deaf Smith.....	674	721	498	518	173	189	26.2	26.7	13	14
20 Hansford.....	421	311	204	198	214	101	51.2	33.8	3	12
21 Oohiltree.....	466	439	287	286	176	148	38.0	34.1	3	5
<b>Washington:</b>										
22 Grant.....	1,090	538	859	479	224	51	20.7	9.6	7	8