

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		
CASH-GRAIN										
Kansas:										
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
Montana:										
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
Oklahoma:										
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
Texas:										
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
Washington:										
22 Grant.....	1,090	538	859	479	224	51	20.7	9.6	7	8

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

	All farm operators (number)		Operators residing on farm operated (number)		Operators not residing on farm operated				Operators not reporting residence (number)	
					Number		Percent of operators reporting residence			
	1954	1950	1954	1950	1954	1950	1954	1950	1954	1950
COTTON										
23	Arizona:									
	Pinal.....									
	1,047	1,168	703	924	332	215	32.1	18.9	12	29
24	California:									
	Kern.....									
	2,304	2,599	1,767	2,073	503	460	22.2	18.2	34	66
25	Texas:									
	Cameron.....									
	2,836	3,564	2,114	2,855	570	487	21.2	14.6	152	222
26	Dawson.....									
	1,101	1,229	860	1,120	231	78	21.2	6.5	10	31
27	Duval.....									
	652	711	464	476	173	178	27.2	27.2	15	57
28	Hall.....									
	747	951	502	787	150	162	20.2	17.1	5	2
29	Hidalgo.....									
	4,072	5,314	3,115	3,813	858	1,176	21.6	23.6	99	325
30	Knox.....									
	837	887	648	742	179	110	21.6	12.9	10	35
31	Reeves.....									
	322	241	156	137	158	83	50.3	37.7	8	21
32	San Patricio.....									
	888	938	683	753	191	168	21.9	18.2	14	17
33	Starr.....									
	1,023	1,233	746	706	269	272	26.5	27.8	8	255
34	Willacy.....									
	865	946	616	704	237	196	27.8	21.8	12	46
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY										
Utah:										
35	Emery.....									
	718	747	474	632	238	85	33.4	11.9	6	30
36	Iron.....									
	465	510	212	279	235	212	52.6	43.2	18	19
37	Juab.....									
	337	349	132	105	200	196	60.2	65.1	5	48
38	Millard.....									
	1,094	1,133	837	494	243	599	22.5	54.8	14	40
39	Sanpete.....									
	1,363	1,570	971	826	372	646	27.7	43.9	20	98
40	Washington.....									
	637	706	419	546	196	136	31.9	19.9	22	24
41	Texas:									
	Jack.....									
	843	888	607	733	228	149	27.3	16.9	8	6
42	Webb.....									
	277	327	110	149	166	168	60.1	53.0	1	10
43	Young.....									
	960	1,130	736	942	215	167	22.6	15.1	9	21
CASH-GRAIN AND COTTON										
Oklahoma:										
44	Jackson.....									
	1,572	1,630	1,143	1,393	409	216	26.4	13.4	20	21
45	Tillman.....									
	1,415	1,724	1,022	1,314	384	382	27.3	22.5	9	28
CASH-GRAIN AND LIVESTOCK SPECIALTY										
Colorado:										
46	Baca.....									
	934	999	620	731	303	248	32.8	25.3	11	20
47	Kiowa.....									
	443	493	272	316	154	166	36.2	34.4	17	11
48	Kit Carson.....									
	1,085	1,067	828	893	242	151	22.6	14.5	15	23
49	Oklahoma:									
	Harper.....									
	694	814	535	665	153	142	22.2	17.6	6	7
CITRUS										
California:										
50	Orange.....									
	4,593	5,713	3,383	4,144	1,122	1,461	24.9	26.1	88	108
51	Ventura.....									
	1,856	2,049	1,434	1,644	383	385	21.1	19.0	39	20
Florida:										
52	Brevard.....									
	1,017	705	721	497	286	186	28.4	27.2	10	22
53	Broward.....									
	408	423	211	252	193	148	47.8	37.0	4	23
54	Dade.....									
	1,527	1,301	1,195	1,028	322	246	21.2	19.3	10	27
55	De Soto.....									
	505	496	326	366	161	117	33.1	24.2	18	13
56	Hardee.....									
	1,114	1,188	832	952	248	222	23.0	18.9	34	14
57	Highlands.....									
	583	396	289	267	275	102	48.8	27.6	19	27
58	Indian River.....									
	683	446	379	308	299	114	44.1	27.0	5	24
59	Lake.....									
	2,920	1,711	1,368	1,215	1,518	422	52.8	25.8	44	74
60	Manatee.....									
	804	831	608	663	188	157	23.6	19.1	8	11
61	Orange.....									
	2,726	1,780	1,700	1,374	1,001	333	37.1	19.5	25	73
62	Pinellas.....									
	758	789	577	625	174	122	23.2	16.3	7	22
63	Polk.....									
	4,020	3,256	2,277	2,343	1,535	719	40.3	23.5	208	194
64	St. Lucie.....									
	735	515	358	345	358	157	50.0	31.3	19	13
65	Seminole.....									
	789	541	615	406	167	116	21.4	22.2	7	19
VEGETABLES										
Florida:										
66	Palm Beach.....									
	874	851	577	586	288	267	33.3	32.1	9	18
MIXED TYPES										
California:										
67	Imperial.....									
	1,633	2,131	1,182	1,556	427	529	26.5	25.4	24	46

¹Includes counties with 150 or more nonresident farm operators in 1954, provided these represented 20 percent or more of all operators in the county.

Data as to residence of the farm operator have been obtained for the last four Censuses beginning with 1940. Table 2 presents data for the residence of farm operators for counties with 150 or more nonresident farm operators in 1954 when these represented 20 percent or more of all operators in the county. These counties have been grouped according to the most important type or types of commercial farms operated by nonresident operators.

Years on present farm (year began operation of present farm).—

The data for years on present farm reflect the stability of operators on particular farms. It should be noted that the number of years does not refer to the total years of farm experience. For a farm operator who moved from another farm, the years on his present farm represent only part of his experience as a farmer. Likewise, a son who succeeds his father as operator of a particular farm may have had considerable previous farm experience.

Data relating to years on present farm were secured on the basis of the inquiry:

15. When did you begin to operate this place? . . . (Month) (Year)
(Do not report month if you began to operate this place before 1933.)

The data obtained from this inquiry are presented under two headings, as follows: (a) Operators by years on present farm, and (b) operators by year began operation of present farm. When the data are presented in terms of the replies to the questionnaire inquiry, the term, "year of occupancy" or "month of occupancy" is used. For comparison of the data with those for prior Censuses, the data are expressed as "years on present farm." For the 1954 Census, data are presented by two-month periods for those operators who began to operate their present farms from January and February 1953, through September 1954, or later.

Information on years on farm has been obtained for each Census beginning with 1910. County data were published for 1940 and 1945. In the Censuses of 1954, 1950, 1930, and 1925, the inquiry called for the month as well as the year of occupancy. For 1945, 1940, and 1935 the inquiry called for only the year of occupancy. Instead of asking for the year of occupancy, the questionnaire for 1920 and 1910 asked for the number of years and months the operator had operated the farm occupied at the time of the Census.

The data presented in this chapter on years on the present farm for 1954 are not fully comparable with those for other Censuses. For each Census, the data on years on farm have been summarized by years-on-present-farm groups. The number of years or months comprising these years-on-present-farm groups has not always been the same because of changes in the dates of the Census enumeration. Major years-on-farm groups used for compiling the data are: Less than 5 years, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 or more years. The less-than-5-year group has been subdivided into single-year groups. The selection of farm operators to be included in each years-on-farm group has generally been made on the basis of the calendar year in which the farm operator began to operate his present farm. However, the starting dates for the Census enumerations have been January 1, April 1, April 15, and October and November for the Censuses taken since 1910. Thus, for the year in which the Census was taken, the elapsed time from the beginning of the year and the date of the Census enumeration has been 0, 3, 3½, and 9-10 months for the various Censuses. Likewise, the elapsed time from the date of the Census enumeration to the end of a specific calendar year would vary from Census to Census. The differences in the elapsed time from the date of the Census enumeration are shown in Table 3 for each years-on-farm group, for each Census since 1910. In