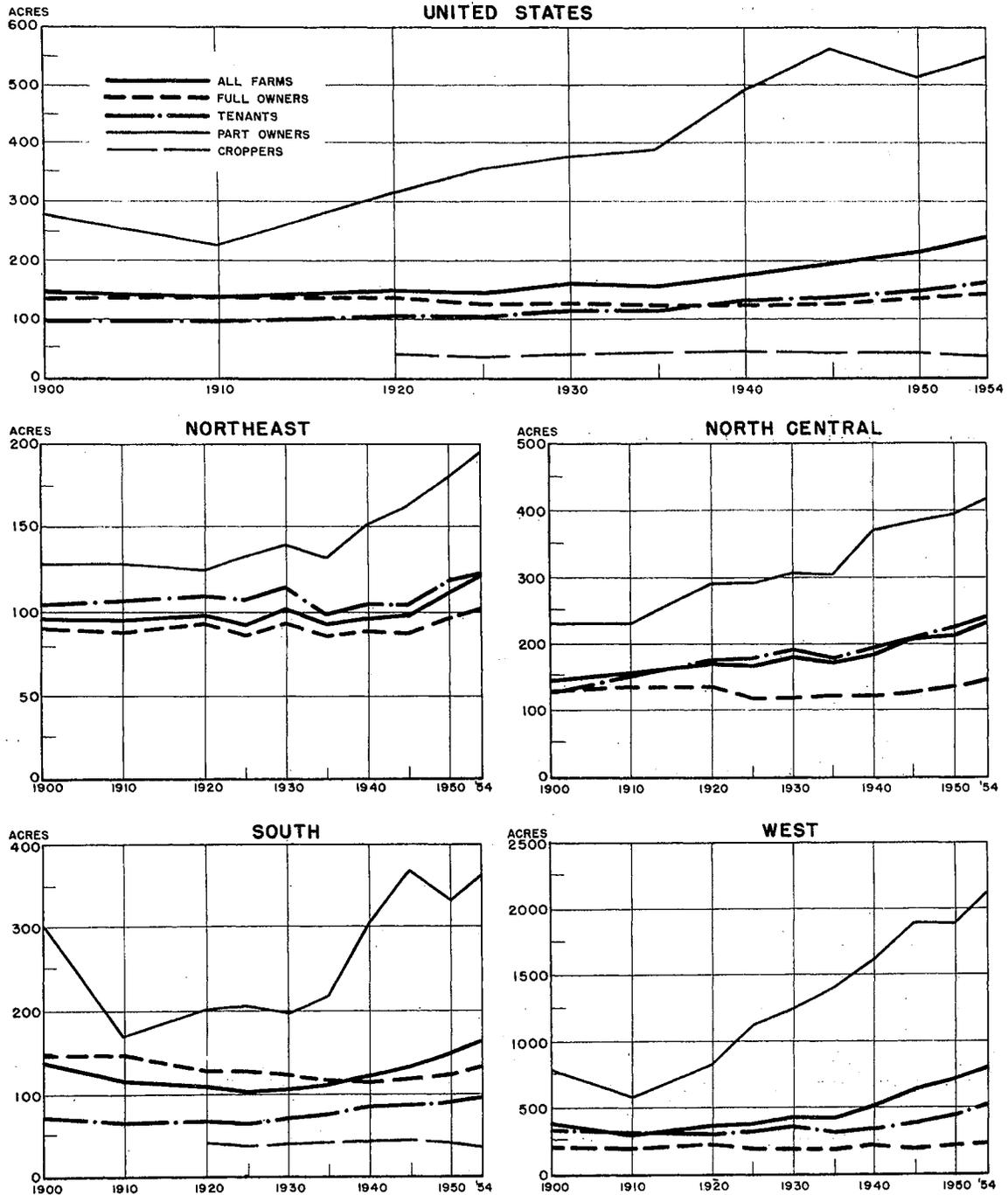


A GRAPHIC SUMMARY

AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR
THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1900-1954

84C-181

Figure 31.

SIZE OF FARM

Increases in farm size.—One of the outstanding characteristics of twentieth century agriculture in the United States has been the growth in farm size. Since the total acreage of land in farms has changed little in this period, it follows that most of the increase in average farm size has come from the reduction in farm numbers. In 1954, 599,746 fewer farms were recorded than in 1950, while the average size of farm increased from 215.3 acres to 242.2 acres. For the United States as a whole, this trend toward larger, and fewer farms is accelerating.

The largest increases in average farm size have taken place

in part-owner farms. Since 1910, the only reduction in the size of farms operated by part owners occurred in the post World War II period. Part of this reduction may have been due to the return of servicemen whose lands had been operated under lease by other farmers. Between 1950 and 1954, the average size of part-owner farms increased 36.7 acres or 7.2 percent. Part-owner farms have increased in number and in acreage per farm since 1950. Both owner and tenant farms have increased in size since 1935.

Acreage is only one measure of farm size. Other factors of production such as labor, capital, and management also must be