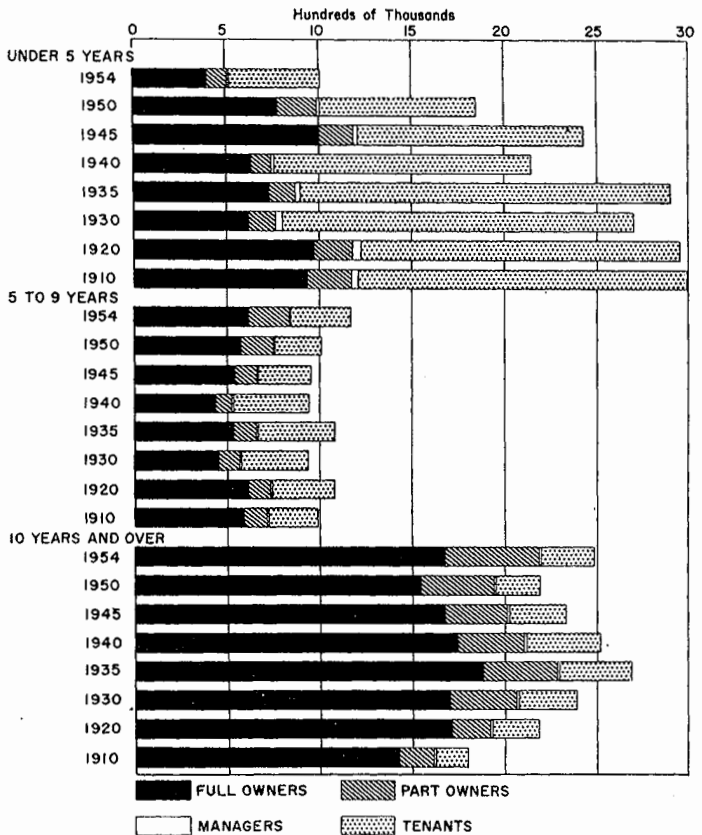
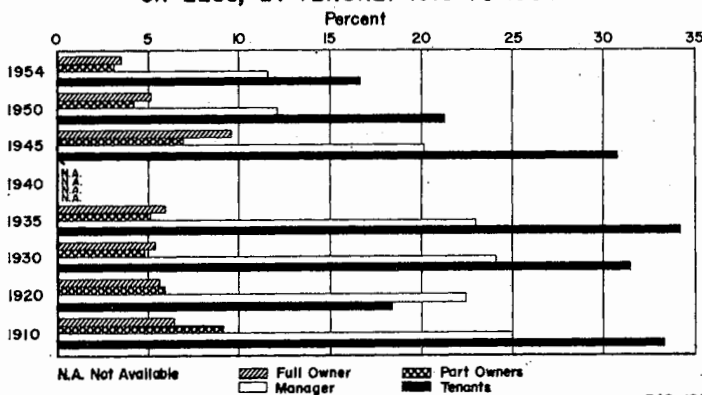


YEARS ON FARM - NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1954



54C-109

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



54C-108

Figure 51.

of occupancy for full owners may also be attributable, in part, to age differentials. Part owners include many operators who have taken over additional land during their prime. Full owners

include some operators who have semi-retired on the farm. Full owners averaged 5.6 years older than part owners.

Among the classes of tenants, share-cash tenants and other and unspecified tenants had been on their farms somewhat longer than cash tenants, share tenants, and croppers but this difference was not great and did not hold for all regions. In the North Central region, the period of occupancy of crop-share tenants was less than for livestock-share tenants, but in all other regions there was no appreciable difference. In the South, croppers reported a period of occupancy slightly less than crop-share and livestock-share tenants, who in turn reported shorter periods of occupancy than cash tenants and share-cash tenants. In the West, there was little difference among the tenant classes except for a slightly longer period of occupancy reported by share-cash tenants.

Distribution of farms by years on present farm.—More than *one-half* of all farm operators (53.3 percent) in 1954 had been operating their present farms 10 or more years, *one-fourth* (25.1 percent) had occupied their farms 5 to 9 years, and *one-fifth* (21.6 percent) had been on their farms less than 5 years with 1 in 15 (6.6 percent) reporting 1 year or less. Through the years the proportion of farm operators occupying their farms 10 years or longer and 5 to 9 years has been increasing, and the proportion on their farms less than 5 years decreasing. In 1910, more than *one-half* (51.8 percent) of the farm operators had been on their farms less than 5 years.

Most owner-operators have occupied their farms 10 or more years. In 1954, more than *three-fifths* of the owner-operators reported occupancy of their farms for a period of 10 or more years. Only 14.4 percent had begun operation of their farms within 5 years preceding the Census. The proportions were similar for both part owners and full owners.

A high proportion of tenant-operators have occupied their farms only a short period of time. In 1954, of all tenant-operators 44.5 percent had been on their farms less than 5 years and more than *one-third* of these (16.7 percent of all tenants reporting) had been on their farms 1 year or less. In the Northeast and North Central regions, a substantially smaller proportion of tenants than in the South or West had occupied their farms less than 5 years, a higher proportion 10 or more years. In the South, the proportion of croppers who had occupied their farms 10 or more years was lower than for tenants other than croppers. More than *one-half* of all croppers (54.8 percent) had occupied their farms less than 5 years.

The smaller proportion of tenants than owners on present farms 5 or more years may be explained in part by age differentials, in part by greater mobility of tenants from farm to farm, and in part by farmers who leave the ranks of tenants to become owners.

Operators on present farm 1 year or less.—The greater mobility of tenant operators is also shown in the proportion of farmers who reported occupancy of their farms 1 year or less. In 1954, only 1 in 30 owner-operators (3.5 percent of full owners, and 3.1 percent of part owners reporting) had occupied their present farms 1 year or less. Of all tenant-operators reporting year of occupancy 1 in 6 (16.7 percent) had occupied their farms no longer than 1 year. For croppers the ratio was 1 to 4 (24.2 percent). Some of these farm operators who had been on their farms only 1 year or less were obviously new operators, but many were operators who had moved from other farms.