

Acres in flue-cured and Burley tobaccos have increased only moderately since 1920 (see Figure 12). Acres in Maryland tobacco, although small, were about two-thirds greater in 1954 than in 1920. The big shifts have been in dark-fired and air-cured types. Comparing 1920-24 with 1950-54, the average acres in dark-fired and air-cured types declined from 412,000 acres to 77,000 acres, or 81 percent. During this same period acres in cigar types decreased from 167,000 to 81,000 acres.

Of the total acres in tobacco in the 1920-24 period, 44 percent was in flue-cured, 20 percent in Burley, 2 percent in Southern Maryland, 24 percent in dark-fired and air-cured, and 10 percent in cigar types. Total acres in tobacco were almost the same in the 1950-54 period as in the 1920-24 period, but in the latter, as a result of shifts in types, 62 percent was in flue-cured tobacco, 26 percent in Burley, 3 percent in Southern Maryland, 4 percent in dark-fired and air-cured types, and 5 percent in cigar types.

Yield.—Since the passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, major control programs have affected the production and marketing of most types of tobacco. Advances in technology, coupled with more intensive practices of farmers who wanted to grow more pounds on the "allotted" number of acres, have resulted in significant increases in yields per acre for most types of tobacco.

The average yield of all tobacco increased from 819 pounds in the 1910-14 period to 1,292 pounds in the 1950-54 period, or 58 percent. Most of the increase in yield has come since control programs were adopted, with the largest increase in pounds during the 1945-49 period. Yield per acre of flue-cured and Burley tobaccos almost doubled from 1920 to 1954 (see Figure 12). Unlike most types, yield per acre in Southern Maryland tobacco increased only slightly during the last 35 years: 786 pounds in the 1920-24 period and 836 pounds in the 1950-54 period. Yield per acre of dark-fired and air-cured types increased about 58 percent from 1920 to 1954. Yield per acre of the cigar type increased from an average of 1,176 pounds in the 1920-24 period to 1,498 pounds in the 1950-54 period.

Production.—Although there has not been a large change in acres of tobacco, higher yields per acre have brought a noteworthy increase in production. Average production of all tobacco in 1950-54 was 2,184 million pounds compared with 1,046 million pounds in 1910-14. Between 1920 and 1954, production of both flue-cured and Burley more than doubled. Production of Maryland tobacco increased the same as the increase in acres, or 62 percent. Production of dark-fired and air-cured types in 1954 was only one-fourth of the production in 1920. Production of cigar types declined from 224 million pounds in 1920 to 75 million pounds in 1934. Production increased again during the latter part of the 1930's and during the war years but was fairly constant from 1946 to 1950. It has declined again since that time—in 1954 it was 100 million pounds less than in 1920.

Since yield per acre has changed more for some types than for others, the change in the proportion that various types makes up of total production has been different from that of acreages. Of the total pounds of tobacco grown in the United States during the 1920-24 period, 37 percent was flue-cured, 21 percent Burley, 2 percent Maryland, 25 percent dark-fired and air-cured, and 15 percent cigar types. In the 1950-54 period, of the total pounds, 61 percent was flue-cured, 27 percent Burley, 2 percent Maryland, 4 percent dark-fired and air-cured, and 6 percent cigar types.

DISPOSITION OF SUPPLIES

From 1950 to 1954, of the total disappearance of tobacco each year, about three-fourths was in domestic uses and one-fourth was exported. The use for domestic purposes depends largely on per capita consumption, for only a very small proportion of the crop is used for other purposes.

Trends in per capita consumption.—The big increase in domestic use of tobacco from 1940 to 1953 was due to an increase in per capita consumption of tobacco products and to an increase in the number of people of smoking age. With the exception of the depression years, consumption per person 15 years and over in the United States was fairly constant from 1920 to 1940, varying from 8.75 to 9 pounds (see Figure 13). Consumption per person (including overseas armed forces) increased about 40 percent during the war years and reached a peak of 12.46 pounds in 1945. Consumption declined slightly after 1945 and was approximately 12 pounds per person of 15 years and over, from 1946 to 1950. Consumption was at an all time high in 1952 and 1953. It declined slightly in 1954 and increased slightly in 1955 but still was 5.8 percent below the peak reached in 1952.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: CONSUMPTION PER CAPITA, 15 YEARS OLD AND OVER, IN THE UNITED STATES AND BY OVERSEAS FORCES: 1920-1955

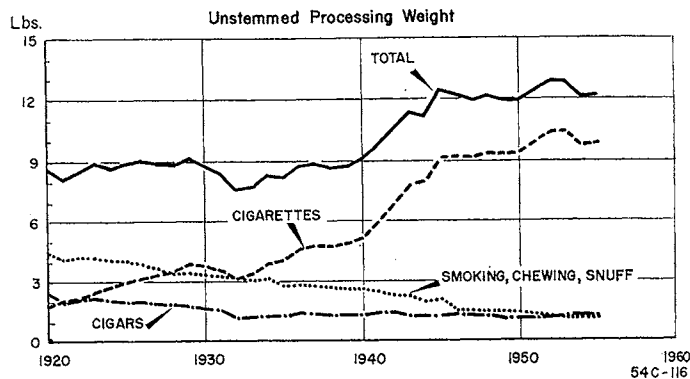


FIGURE 13

Reflecting the change from "strong" to "mild" tobacco and especially the increase in use of cigarettes, the trend in consumption per person 15 years and over has been different for different products. The consumption of tobacco in the form of cigarettes increased about 5 times from 1920 to 1955 or from 1.89 pounds to 9.83 pounds. Use for smoking, chewing, and snuff declined almost steadily each year, from 4.33 pounds in 1920 to 1.12 pounds in 1955. Average consumption in the form of cigars has declined since 1920 but has remained fairly constant since 1932.

Manufacture of products.—In only 7 years from 1920 to 1955 was there a decrease compared with the preceding year in the amount of tobacco used in the manufacture of tobacco products (see Figure 14). The peak year was in 1952 when 1,526 million pounds were used—an increase of 138 percent over the 640 million pounds in 1920. Total leaf used in tobacco manufacture declined 4.3 percent from 1953 to 1954 but about half of this loss was regained in 1954.

In 1955 cigarettes accounted for a little more than four-fifths of the total leaf used in tobacco manufacture compared with a little more than one-half in 1935-39 and slightly more than one-fifth in 1920-24. The increase in leaf used in cigarette manufacture was a sharp contrast to the amount used in the manufacture of smoking and chewing tobacco which was only one-third as much in 1955 as in 1920. The total quantity of leaf used in the manufacture of both snuff and cigars declined only moderately from 1920 to 1955.

Exports of leaf tobacco.—Exports of leaf have always been a significant factor in the disposition of tobacco crop. In 1955, leaf tobacco was the third ranking agricultural export in dollar value, exceeded only by wheat and cotton. The total value of unmanufactured tobacco exported exceeded \$356 million. Over the years, with the increase in the quantity of tobacco used for domestic purposes, the proportion that exports make up of total disappearance has declined. In the 1925-29 period, exports were 43 percent of disappearance but declined to 26 percent in the 1950-54 period.