

PEANUTS: PER CENT ACREAGE PICKED AND THRESHED IS OF TOTAL ACREAGE GROWN ALONE FOR ALL PURPOSES, BY AREAS AND FOR UNITED STATES, 1925-1955

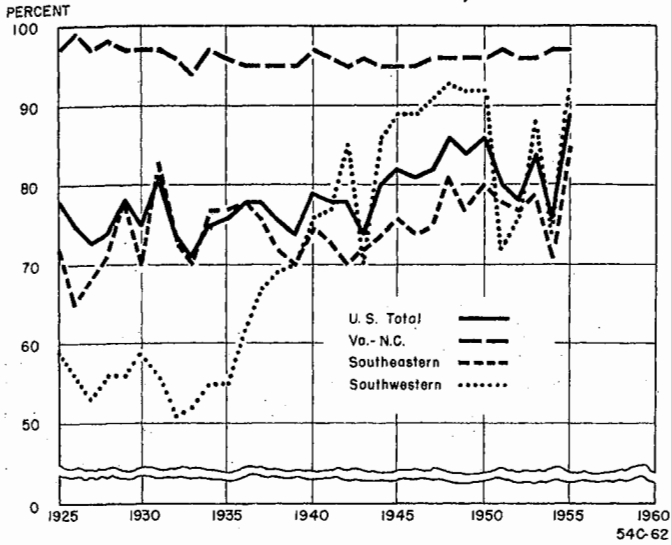


FIGURE 21

Yield.—Unlike most other crops, the yield per acre of peanuts has not shown much increase from 1910 to 1955. It decreased during both of the war periods. This decline was due primarily to the relative greater acreage expansion in the lower yielding areas of the West and the influence of new and inexperienced growers. As the acreage has decreased since 1948, yield per acre has increased. Normally, yield per acre in the North Carolina-Virginia region is about 50 percent more than in the Georgia-Alabama-

Florida region and 2 to 3 times as great as in the Oklahoma-Texas region.

Production.—Peanuts picked and threshed rose from 384 million pounds in 1940 to a record high of 2,336 million pounds in 1948. This was a sixfold increase. Up to 1949 the increase in production was somewhat proportionate to the increase in acres, except during war periods when yield per acre declined. Since 1949, total production has not declined as much as acreage has decreased for there has been an upward trend in yield per acre. Because of the very favorable yield in 1955, the total production was 67 percent of the peak production in 1948, although the 1955 acreage was only 51 percent of the 1948 acreage.

During the last 5 years, 1951 to 1955, 49 percent of the peanuts harvested were produced in the Georgia-Alabama-Florida region, 34 percent in the North Carolina-Virginia region, and 17 percent in the Oklahoma-Texas region. Production in the Oklahoma-Texas region during this period was lower than it would normally have been because of a fairly low yield per acre in 3 of the 5 years.

DISPOSITION OF SUPPLIES

The major concern in agricultural program and price policy is the problem of adjusting the quantity produced to the quantity consumed. This has been a problem for the peanut crop during the last few years, although during the war considerable effort was made to get producers to increase production.

The uses of peanuts in the United States have increased along with production (see Figure 22). The peak in domestic disappearance was reached in the year beginning September 1944 when 2,173 million pounds (farmers' stock basis) were used. This compared with an average of only 424 million pounds during the 1910-14 period. Although exports were fairly limited before 1945, large quantities have been exported in several years since that time.

PEANUTS: SUPPLY AND DISPOSITION, UNITED STATES, 1910-1955

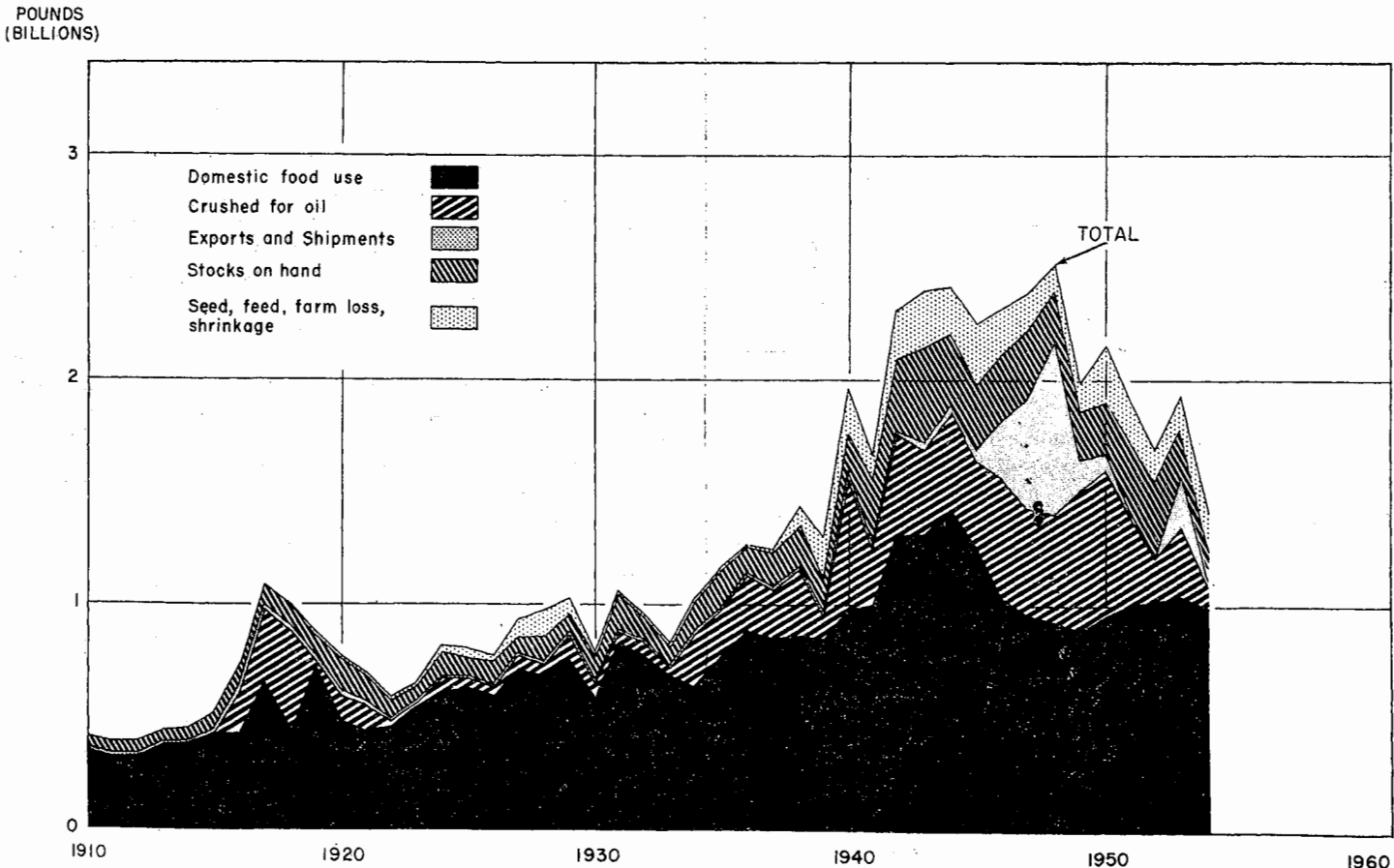


FIGURE 22