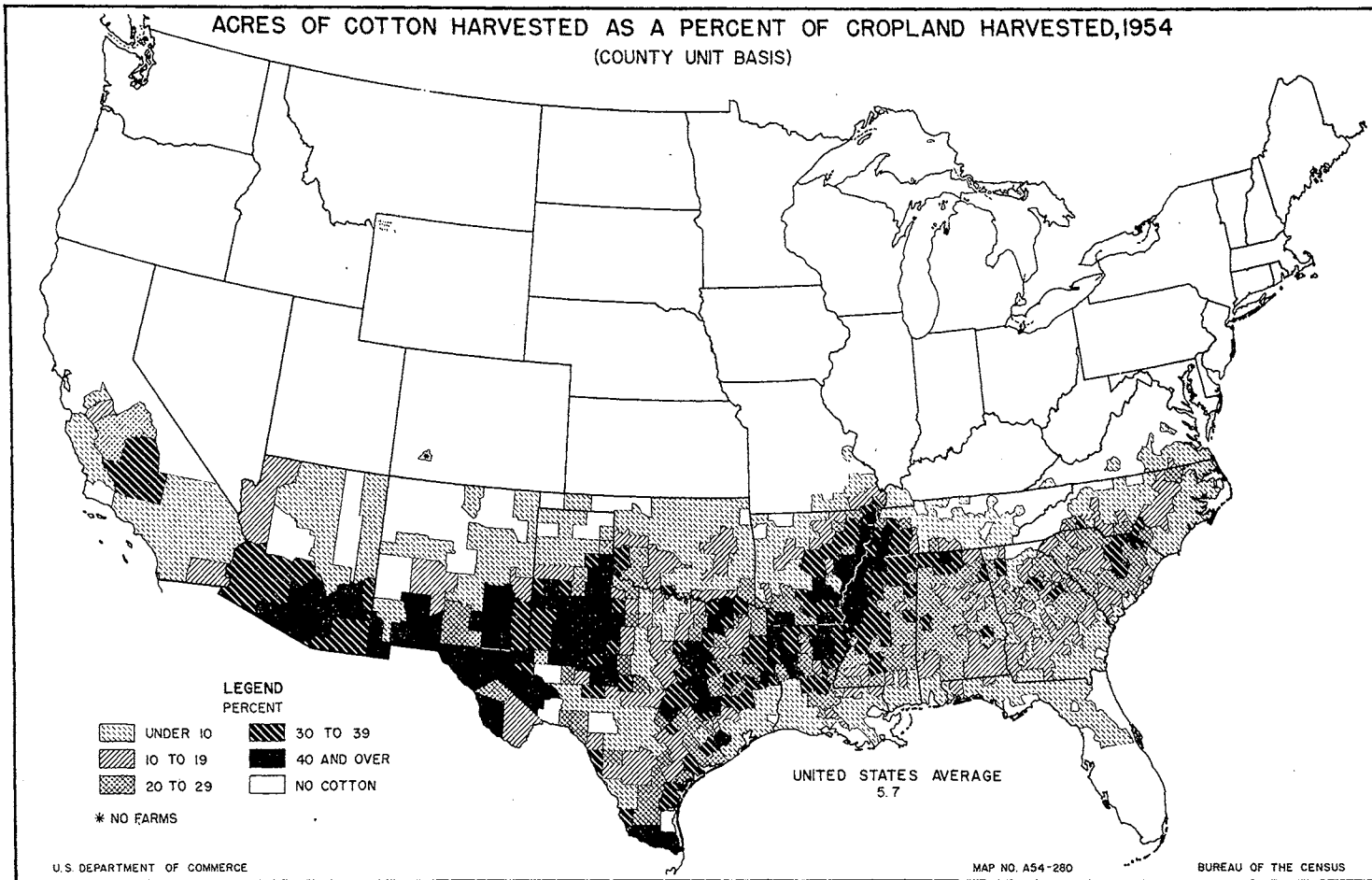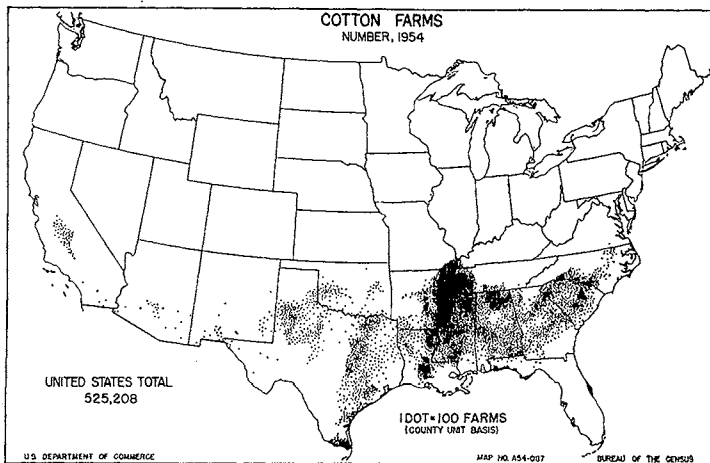FIGURE 1.

FIGURE 2.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

It would seem, therefore, that additional information concerning the economic structure, and the resource-use characteristics of this industry, and of the farms which comprise it, would be valuable to producers, consumers, handlers, and processors, and to those responsible for the planning and execution of governmental policy.

Data gathered by the Bureau of the Census have long been a mainstay of analyses of this type. The Agriculture Census of 1954 provided, for the first time, special tabulations of farm characteristics for type of farm, cross classified by economic class of farm. Census types of farms are delineated by the criterion of the commodity source of 50 percent or more of farm sales. One of the farm types so established is the cotton farm. This is a farm on which 50 percent or more of all sales are from cotton and cottonseed. The economic classes of farms used by Census since 1950 are volume or size-of-business groups classified according to the value of total sales of farm products. These groups range from Class I farms, having total sales of $25,000 or more, to Class VI farms which are characterized by sales of $250 to $1,199.

Analysis of the 1954 Census data made available, for selected subregions, by the special tabulations of data for cotton farms by economic class, sheds new light upon the economic structure and characteristics of the industry of cotton production and of the farms which comprise it.

Most of this report is concerned with these new data which have been supplemented by other statistics from the Bureau of the Census and other sources.