

Included in the rural farm population are many farm operators and members of their families who work at other jobs and businesses. (See figure 3.) More than 2 million farm operators reported working off their farms in 1950 and in 1954. Of greater significance in respect to levels of off-farm work, is the number of farm operators who worked off the farm 100 or more days. This figure indicates that off-farm work provides a major source of employment and income. Most of the farm operators in this group worked off their farms 200 or more days. While the number of operators working off their farms less than 100 days has decreased in recent years, those working off the farm 100 days or more has increased in each part of the country.

Off-farm work of operators is a major indication of the increasing importance of nonfarm sources of income to farm people. In addition, many other members of the families—wives and children—work at jobs removed from the farm. Moreover, many farm people now receive annuities or money from investment funds and savings as a result of the greater coverage of the population in provisions for retirement and for social security, as well as the general increase in income levels. The income to farm families from nonfarm sources has grown steadily since the 1930's; in 1954 it accounted for nearly a third of the farm family income. (See figure 4.)

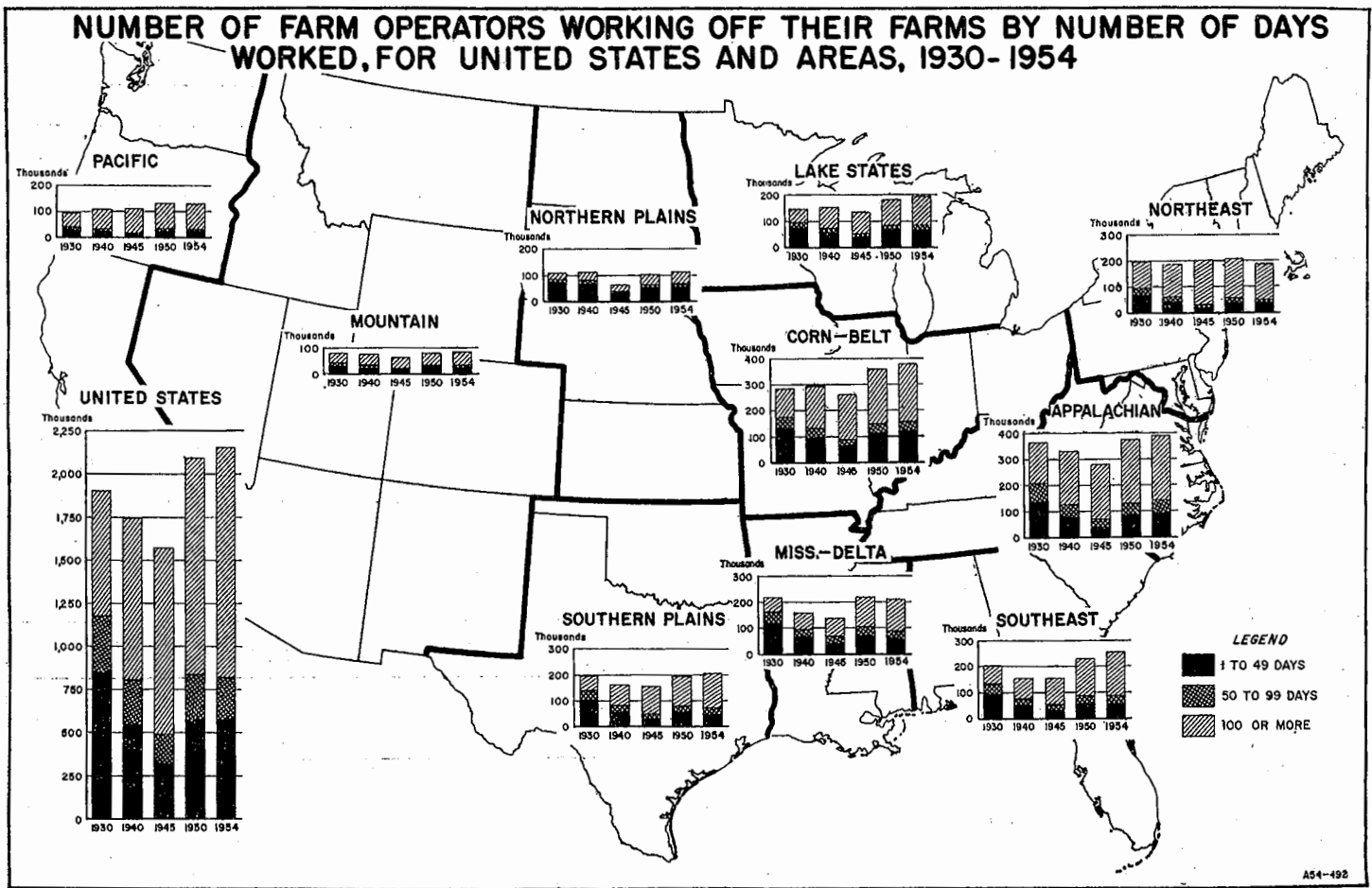


FIGURE 3.

Since the total number of farms has been decreasing, the proportion of operators working off farm 100 or more days has increased more than the increase in the number alone would indicate. The table below shows this proportion for the United States and major geographic regions from Censuses of 1930 to 1954. For the United States this increase was from 12 percent of the farms in 1930 to 28 percent in 1954. The increase has been much more rapid in the South than in other regions—from 11 percent of the farms in 1930 to 30 percent in 1954.

| Year              | Percent of all farm operators working off farm 100 or more days |           |           |          |
|-------------------|---|-----------|-----------|----------|
|                   | United States   | The North | The South | The West |
|                   | Percent   | Percent   | Percent   | Percent  |
| 1929 <sup>1</sup> | 11.6  | 11.1      | 10.8      | 17.8     |
| 1939 <sup>2</sup> | 16.8  | 16.5      | 18.8      | 24.0     |
| 1944 <sup>1</sup> | 18.4  | 17.8      | 18.1      | 27.1     |
| 1949 <sup>2</sup> | 23.9  | 22.0      | 24.3      | 31.5     |
| 1954 <sup>2</sup> | 28.3  | 25.3      | 29.6      | 35.2     |

<sup>1</sup> Percents based on all farm operators.  
<sup>2</sup> Percents based on operators reporting as to off-farm work.

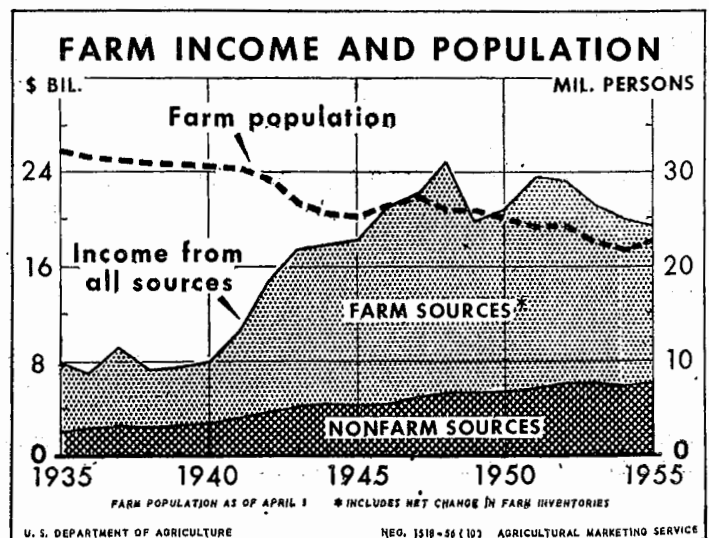


FIGURE 4.