

and the members of his family was greater than the value of farm products sold. Farms with a total value of sales of farm products of less than \$250<sup>3</sup> were designated in Census tabulations as *residential farms*. Some of these residential farms represent farms on which the operator worked off farm more than 100 days in 1954. Some represent farms on which the income from nonfarm sources was greater than the value of sales of agricultural products. Others represent subsistence and marginal farms of various kinds.

This study does the following: (1) It shows location, percentage distribution, and increases and decreases in all classes of farms where the operator worked off farm 100 days or more, or where income of the family from nonfarm sources exceeded the value of farm sales. (2) It compares certain operation and expenditure characteristics of the various classes of farms. (3) It presents for the first time a tabulation of Economic Class V farms, with value of farm sales of \$1,200 to \$2,499, dividing them into part-time farms (those farms where the operator worked off farm 100 or more days or other income of the family exceeded the value of farm sales) and commercial farms (those farms where the operator did not work off farm as much as 100 days and the value of farm sales exceeded the other income of the family). Detailed farm-operation characteristics of part-time and commercial farms are given, and some items that enter into the level of living—such as electricity, telephone, and piped running water—are compared between the two groups. (4) On the basis of a special restricted sample, the study lists sources of off-farm income for all classes of farms. (5) It gives the results of special survey data of farm-mortgage debt for part-time, residential, and Class V and Class VI farms.

Detailed comparisons, based on Census data for part-time farms, are largely drawn from the farms with value of farm sales of less than \$2,500 in 1954. This group of 2,679,374 farms, or 56 percent of the total number of farms tabulated in the 1954 Census of Agriculture, is classified according to Census tabulations as follows:

Table 1.—CLASSIFICATION OF FARMS HAVING LESS THAN \$2,500 VALUE OF FARM SALES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Economic class	Gross sales	Total	Part-time	Commercial
Class V.....	\$1,200 to \$2,499.....	1,769,080	1,233,780	1,535,300
Class VI.....	\$250 to \$1,199.....	462,442	462,442	462,442
Part-time.....	\$250 to \$1,199.....	574,579	574,579	.....
Residential.....	Less than \$250.....	879,094	590,397	288,697
<b>Total.....</b>		<b>2,685,195</b>	<b>1,398,766</b>	<b>1,286,430</b>

<sup>1</sup> Estimate based on a sample of approximately 1 percent of all farms. The total number of Class V farms shown by the Census was 763,000.

<sup>2</sup> For the 1954 and the 1950 Censuses of Agriculture, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms if the annual value of agricultural products, exclusive of home-garden products, amounted to \$150 or more. The products could be either for home use or for sale. Places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms only if the value of sales of agricultural products amounted to \$150 or more. Places for which the value of agricultural products for 1954 was less than these minima because of crop failure or other unusual conditions, and places that were being operated for the first time at the time Census was taken, were counted as farms if normally they could be expected to produce these minimum quantities of agricultural products.

<sup>3</sup> See *Farms and Farm People: Population, Income and Housing Characteristics by Economic Class of Farm*, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., June 1953; Louis J. Ducoff, "Classification of the Agricultural Population of the United States," *Journal of Farm Economics*, Vol. XXXVII, No. 3, August 1955, pp. 511-523.

<sup>4</sup> This classification was more restrictive than the criterion of dependency on agriculture implies. The Census data do not permit separation of off-farm work into farm and non-farm work, and income from off-farm work on other farms would be classified simply as nonfarm income. The classification understates the size of the groups labeled "completely dependent on agriculture" by an estimated 200,000 farm operators in 1950. cf. Ducoff, *Ibid.*, pp. 512 and 513.

Certain inferences are drawn in respect to the Economic Class I to Class IV farms with value of farm sales of \$2,500 or more when the nonfarm income exceeds the value of farm sales, or when the operator reported 100 or more days of work off the farm in 1954 although tabulations have not been made comparing operation characteristics of these farms with the commercial farms where operators did not work off farm 100 days and other income of family did not exceed the value of farm sales. Information is given on the location of these farms and on the increases and decreases in number.

In summary, the percentages of farms that reported other income exceeding the value of farm sales in 1949 and 1954 are as follows:

Table 2.—PERCENTAGE OF FARMS REPORTING OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDING VALUE OF FARM SALES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1949 AND 1954

Economic class	1949	1954
	Percent	Percent
Class I.....	4.6	4.6
Class II.....	4.2	4.4
Class III.....	5.3	0.4
Class IV.....	11.0	12.6
Class V.....	20.7	24.3
Part-time.....	86.2	82.5
Residential.....	65.9	67.2

This study is not limited, therefore, to the part-time farms. It includes comparison among all economic classes as to farm organization and living facilities by regions. It emphasizes those comparisons that seem important in assessing the status of part-time farming and the impact of off-farm income. Part-time farms are generally regarded as those farms on which the operator works off farm 100 days or more and/or the income of the family from off-farm sources exceeds the value of farm products sold.

**Comparison with other studies.**—Previous studies based on data of the 1950 Census have classified farm-operator households into three groups according to their degree of dependence on agriculture: (1) Wholly dependent on agriculture, (2) partly dependent on agriculture with agriculture as the major source of family income, and (3) partly dependent on agriculture with nonagriculture as the major source of income.<sup>4</sup> In 1950, out of 5,341,000 farms, about 2 million farms (2,031,000), or 38.0 percent of the total, were classed as wholly dependent on agriculture.<sup>5</sup> The remainder of the farm operators—those partly dependent on agriculture—were divided between those who listed agriculture as the major source of family income (1,444,000 or 27.1 percent of the total) and those who listed nonagriculture as the major source (1,615,000 or 30.2 percent of the total). A small number (251,000 or 4.7 percent) were not classifiable.