

PART-TIME FARMING

Table 8.—PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS WORKING OFF FARM 100 DAYS OR MORE, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION, BY ECONOMIC CLASS: 1954 AND 1949

Geographic division and year	All farms	Commercial farms	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Part-time	Residential	Abnormal
United States.....1954..	27.9	13.0	7.8	7.4	10.2	16.2	24.4	71.1	55.9	11.5
.....1949..	23.3	9.1	8.1	6.3	7.0	11.0	17.4	61.8	50.7	19.5
New England.....1954..	40.6	21.3	9.9	12.9	18.4	28.0	43.4	77.2	69.5	10.9
.....1949..	37.0	15.3	7.7	9.2	12.4	21.4	34.4	72.1	63.8	6.5
Middle Atlantic.....1954..	36.2	20.1	8.8	9.3	13.8	27.3	44.5	80.1	66.2	8.7
.....1949..	33.4	13.7	8.5	7.1	9.9	18.1	32.9	75.1	64.7	19.4
East North Central.....1954..	29.4	17.0	6.0	5.7	10.6	22.8	38.5	81.1	64.5	9.3
.....1949..	25.8	9.7	6.4	4.2	5.9	12.3	20.1	75.5	62.4	15.3
West North Central.....1954..	15.5	8.2	4.9	3.6	5.1	10.4	20.8	71.5	52.6	13.4
.....1949..	12.8	5.2	5.7	3.2	3.4	6.3	14.3	64.5	49.2	20.7
South Atlantic.....1954..	31.5	12.3	15.8	15.2	12.5	12.1	19.7	68.1	55.3	7.6
.....1949..	26.3	9.6	14.8	14.9	10.9	9.3	12.7	57.1	49.6	22.5
East South Central.....1954..	25.9	9.0	13.3	13.1	11.3	10.6	14.4	63.8	47.1	15.2
.....1949..	21.1	7.5	11.9	12.2	10.4	9.3	10.6	51.3	40.1	22.9
West South Central.....1954..	31.3	13.7	8.6	11.5	14.0	16.1	22.4	68.4	52.2	10.6
.....1949..	23.6	9.7	9.5	9.5	10.4	11.8	15.4	54.4	46.3	19.3
Mountain.....1954..	28.1	15.3	6.2	5.9	11.3	21.7	37.3	76.3	63.2	11.0
.....1949..	23.8	10.2	7.4	6.0	8.3	15.1	26.3	70.2	59.4	15.9
Pacific.....1954..	40.1	22.3	7.6	11.8	21.9	33.6	46.5	75.6	72.0	20.4
.....1949..	35.8	18.1	7.7	9.8	14.9	24.4	36.6	71.1	66.6	28.1

Table 9.—NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS WORKING OFF FARM 100 DAYS OR MORE, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION, BY ECONOMIC CLASS: 1954 AS PERCENT OF 1949

Geographic division	All farms	Commercial farms	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Part-time	Residential	Abnormal
United States.....	106.3	128.8	125.3	137.6	142.4	135.1	119.3	103.4	94.1	37.7
New England.....	85.7	110.8	140.8	135.9	130.8	104.8	96.5	76.3	77.8	118.8
Middle Atlantic.....	94.2	123.0	132.3	148.5	128.2	128.5	111.7	85.6	79.9	27.3
East North Central.....	106.7	142.1	151.0	182.5	171.3	152.8	122.3	93.1	84.2	45.6
West North Central.....	111.5	129.6	106.0	131.8	138.6	142.2	118.0	99.8	100.1	39.2
South Atlantic.....	107.3	135.7	153.6	146.2	162.4	136.8	126.7	111.3	95.5	24.2
East South Central.....	106.0	138.9	144.3	128.7	140.2	146.7	136.2	109.4	92.4	38.8
West South Central.....	113.8	116.3	104.2	115.4	121.3	120.7	113.1	124.1	105.0	23.9
Mountain.....	108.8	118.0	93.3	100.8	123.8	120.7	120.7	99.6	106.7	49.4
Pacific.....	101.8	111.7	137.4	133.6	131.0	109.4	96.6	91.5	101.1	40.2

Changes by geographic division: Number of farm operators reporting other income of family exceeding value of farm products sold, 1949 to 1954.—The number of farm operators in the United States reporting other income of the family exceeding the value of farm products sold has declined in recent years in every major geographic division (Tables 10 and 11). Numbers decreased from 1,566,000 in 1949 to 1,424,000 in 1954, or 9.1 percent. The relatively largest declines occurred in the eastern part of the United States in the New England and in the Middle Atlantic and the East South Central divisions. The relative declines were, respectively, 26.0 percent, 15.2 percent, and 17.5 percent (Table 11). The South Atlantic Division had a decline of 8.3 percent. The Pacific Division's decline was 7.3 percent. The Midwest and Western divisions had relatively small declines ranging from 5.7 percent in the East North Central to 3.1 percent in the West South Central.

These declines were generally greatest in areas of rapid population growth and in places where industrialization is also rapid. This suggests that part-time farming is often a transitional stage; the part-time farmers discontinue farming as industrial or other nonfarm work becomes available.

Changes by economic class of farm: Number of farm operators reporting other income of family exceeding value of farm products sold, 1949 to 1954.—An important change by economic class of farm took place between 1949 and 1954. There was a considerable increase in number of Classes I, II, III, and IV farm operators who had other income in the family that exceeded the value of farm products sold and this was accompanied by little change in the number of Class V farm operators in this category, and by substantial declines in the number of part-time and residential farmers who had other income exceeding the value of farm sales (Tables 10 and 11).

In other words, between 1949 and 1954, there was (1) a movement of the farm operators, who had other income exceeding the value of farm sales, from a lower economic class to a higher class, which would be accomplished by expanding farm operations and increasing the value of farm sales, and/or (2) an increase in the off-farm earnings of a number of farmers within the higher economic classes.

The inferences to be drawn from these two possibilities are quite different in respect to the economic status of agriculture and the welfare of farm people. They merit careful appraisal.