

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Table 10.—TOTAL NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDING VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION: 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..	1,424,233	350,356	6,104	19,799	45,578	102,295	185,400	474,145	590,397	335
.....1949..	1,566,154	335,547	4,773	15,855	38,377	90,249	186,293	550,872	678,736	900
New England.....1954..	31,820	8,703	243	785	1,355	2,460	3,860	8,321	14,780	16
.....1949..	42,704	9,060	168	672	1,563	2,616	4,061	12,261	21,457	26
Middle Atlantic.....1954..	87,983	28,518	381	1,776	4,075	8,837	13,440	27,316	32,137	12
.....1949..	103,802	26,577	335	1,474	4,250	7,792	12,726	35,338	41,790	97
East North Central.....1954..	213,258	80,048	535	2,008	9,553	28,042	41,010	71,336	61,842	32
.....1949..	226,254	65,034	413	1,895	6,674	19,698	36,354	84,507	76,567	196
West North Central.....1954..	138,827	48,007	660	2,350	5,585	14,541	24,862	47,662	43,000	68
.....1949..	143,253	44,302	581	2,267	5,802	12,485	23,167	53,845	44,970	136
South Atlantic.....1954..	307,889	58,780	1,286	3,764	7,655	15,409	30,656	95,503	153,652	54
.....1949..	335,638	53,722	715	2,439	5,271	13,905	31,392	107,467	174,294	155
East South Central.....1954..	243,806	38,463	410	1,183	3,025	8,592	25,253	91,787	113,522	34
.....1949..	295,433	41,174	260	1,114	2,736	8,533	28,531	113,608	140,552	99
West South Central.....1954..	250,793	48,868	1,130	3,337	6,502	12,600	25,299	88,002	113,899	24
.....1949..	258,946	49,049	929	2,620	5,298	12,299	27,903	91,548	118,238	111
Mountain.....1954..	48,583	16,154	418	955	2,368	4,595	7,818	15,114	17,282	33
.....1949..	50,836	15,257	490	1,128	2,131	4,210	7,289	17,344	18,128	107
Pacific.....1954..	101,274	31,815	1,131	2,732	5,450	9,219	13,283	29,104	40,293	62
.....1949..	109,198	31,372	883	2,246	4,662	8,711	14,870	34,964	42,740	122

Table 11.—NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDING VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, 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.....	90.9	107.1	129.8	124.9	118.8	113.3	99.6	80.1	87.0	33.5
New England.....	74.0	96.0	153.8	116.8	87.3	94.0	95.1	67.9	68.9	61.5
Middle Atlantic.....	84.8	107.3	113.7	120.5	95.9	113.4	105.7	77.3	78.9	12.4
East North Central.....	94.3	123.1	129.5	153.5	143.1	132.2	112.8	84.4	80.8	16.3
West North Central.....	96.9	108.4	113.6	104.1	96.3	116.5	107.3	88.5	95.8	50.0
South Atlantic.....	91.7	109.4	179.9	154.3	145.4	110.8	97.7	88.9	88.1	34.8
East South Central.....	82.5	93.4	157.7	106.2	110.6	100.7	88.5	80.8	80.8	34.3
West South Central.....	96.9	99.6	121.6	127.4	122.7	102.4	90.7	96.1	96.3	21.6
Mountain.....	95.6	105.9	83.8	84.7	111.1	109.1	107.3	87.1	95.3	30.8
Pacific.....	92.7	101.4	128.1	121.6	116.9	105.8	89.3	83.2	94.3	50.8

In respect to Class I and Class II farm operators, the percentages of the total number that had other income exceeding the value of farm sales were almost the same in 1954 as in 1949 although there had been substantial increases in the numbers of farmers in these classes (Table 12). In other words, the increase in the number of these operators who had other income of the family exceeding the value of farm sales was almost directly proportional to the increase in total number. At the same time relatively small increases in the number of Class III and Class IV farm operators with other income exceeding the value of farm sales is contrasted with the larger percentages these operators comprise of farms in each class. In the case of Class V farms, the total number of such farmers remained about the same and the percentage increased decidedly.

The logical explanation of these changes seems to be that there was a general movement up the economic class scale as farm operators increased their size of business and at the same time there was a general shift toward more off-farm employment and income among all of the Classes from I to V. The sharp declines in the number of part-time (Class VII) and in residential (Class VIII) farm operators suggest that a few of these operators moved into higher economic classes by increases in size of farm operations,

while in general their off-farm earnings remained large enough to be in excess of the value of farm sales. The decline in the percentage of part-time operators who had other income of the family exceeding the value of farm products sold suggests that the more aggressive in this group (those with the largest off-farm income) were moving out of this class faster or in greater relative numbers than those whose off-farm income did not exceed the value of farm products sold.

Changes by geographic divisions: Part-time and residential farm operators, 1949 to 1954.—A sharp downward shift has occurred in recent years in the number of part-time and residential farm operators in the New England and Middle Atlantic divisions (Tables 10 and 11). These are the two divisions of the United States where industrial employment is most easily or readily available to farmers. The number of part-time (Class VII) farm operators dropped by almost one-third (32.1 percent) in New England and by almost one-fourth (22.7 percent) in the Middle Atlantic Division. The number of residential (Class VIII) farmers also dropped by almost one-third (31.1 percent) in New England and by almost one-fourth (23.1 percent) in the Middle Atlantic States.