

Table 12.—PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDING VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, 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..	31.9	10.8	4.6	4.4	6.4	12.6	24.3	82.5	67.2	12.4
.....1949..	29.1	7.6	4.6	4.2	5.3	10.2	20.7	86.2	65.9	23.7
New England.....1954..	38.9	17.3	6.3	7.4	10.5	22.4	47.8	81.7	70.1	9.2
.....1949..	41.5	14.0	4.5	6.1	10.6	19.1	38.4	85.7	72.8	10.6
Middle Atlantic.....1954..	34.2	16.1	4.6	5.2	8.5	21.0	44.7	82.4	68.3	4.3
.....1949..	36.0	12.4	5.1	4.9	8.1	15.8	34.9	85.6	69.4	21.4
East North Central.....1954..	26.7	12.9	2.7	2.6	5.6	16.5	36.1	82.7	66.7	7.1
.....1949..	26.5	8.8	3.3	2.3	3.7	10.3	26.6	84.9	67.3	24.3
West North Central.....1954..	15.3	6.1	2.5	1.6	2.4	7.3	20.7	83.1	64.9	17.2
.....1949..	14.6	4.8	2.7	1.9	2.3	5.4	15.7	84.6	63.4	20.9
South Atlantic.....1954..	35.9	11.6	11.8	12.5	10.9	10.8	20.2	81.5	66.1	13.3
.....1949..	35.0	7.5	9.5	11.6	10.6	10.2	16.8	85.5	64.3	27.3
East South Central.....1954..	30.9	7.8	9.9	8.5	7.9	8.1	13.9	79.2	62.1	16.7
.....1949..	32.4	5.2	8.1	9.6	9.2	10.4	15.7	86.2	60.4	28.3
West South Central.....1954..	37.5	12.0	5.6	7.6	10.1	13.5	23.0	85.0	71.4	14.9
.....1949..	33.2	7.9	5.3	5.7	7.4	11.6	19.7	87.2	68.9	30.2
Mountain.....1954..	27.0	11.8	3.2	3.4	6.9	15.6	36.1	83.9	69.0	9.1
.....1949..	26.1	9.4	4.2	4.1	5.7	12.0	28.6	88.3	72.5	20.9
Pacific.....1954..	41.7	20.1	4.2	8.0	16.6	31.6	50.9	88.0	78.6	23.8
.....1949..	41.0	16.7	4.6	7.2	12.6	23.7	43.4	91.0	78.0	26.0

The next largest relative declines among part-time and residential farms were in the East South Central, East North Central, and Pacific divisions. The two latter divisions generally are regarded as coming next after New England and the Middle Atlantic States in regard to off-farm opportunities for farm people. In contrast to these declines, there were relatively large increases in numbers among the Classes I and II farm operators in some of these divisions, although the increases were not all consistent with the declines.

Enough evidence is available to suggest the hypothesis that in areas where off-farm employment opportunities are most readily available sharp declines will occur in the number of part-time and residential farms, and farm operators in the higher economic classes will take advantage of these opportunities to the extent of increasing the percentage of farmers in these classes who have off-farm income exceeding the value of farm products sold. This also suggests that many part-time farmers engage in farming activities primarily for the additional income rather than as a "way of life." Those in the lower economic classes—such as from Class V through

Class VIII—discontinue farming when off-farm employment and income reach a certain level.

Those in the higher income classes—especially those in Classes I and II—take advantage of off-farm employment to a greater extent when it becomes available. The evidence suggests that these men continue to farm, and at least in some cases the off-farm earnings of the family are used to help expand the earning capacity of the farm. This inference derives from the fact that the number of farm operators in the higher income classes with off-farm income exceeding the value of farm products sold increased relatively more in the more industrialized regions, which implies either of two things: (1) Members of the farm-operator family in these classes were seeking outside employment in greater numbers in 1954 than in 1949, and finding it most readily in the industrialized areas, or (2) the earnings of the members of the farm-operator family were being used in such a way as to move the classification of a number of farms, on which off-farm income exceeded the value of farm products sold, from a lower economic class into a higher one.