

Specified Machinery and Equipment, 1950 and 1954

Data on number of farms reporting specified machinery and equipment in 1950 and 1954 attest to the increasing mechanization of commercial agriculture in all classes. The data also point to the fact that relatively few part-time (Class VII) and residential (Class VIII) farms have the machines reported. Generally, a smaller proportion of Classes V and VI farms have the machines than is the case among Classes I to IV.

Grain combines, corn pickers, and pick-up balers.—The percentage of farmers reporting grain combines, corn pickers, and pick-up balers, increased substantially between 1950 and 1954 (Table 15). The increases were from 12.4 percent reporting grain combines in 1950 to 19.3 percent in 1954; from 8.3 percent reporting corn pickers in 1950 to 14.1 percent in 1954; and from 3.6 percent reporting pick-up balers in 1950 to 9.3 percent in 1954.

Percentage changes were similar in direction in each of the three major regions.

For the United States, since the number of Class I and Class II farms increased between 1950 and 1954, the increase in number of Classes I and II farms having this machinery is greater than the percentage changes alone would suggest. Conversely the percentage changes—which were relatively larger for the lower commercial classes than for the higher classes—were less meaningful for the lower economic classes, because of the decline in total numbers among these classes. Substantial increases in percentages occurred among all economic classes; but the weighted average of the increases by classes is less than the percentage increase for all farms, since many farms moved from a given economic class to a higher one and the percentage having this machinery is closely correlated by class.

Table 15.—PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, MOTORTRUCKS, AND AUTOMOBILES, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUSES OF 1954 AND 1950

[Data are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text]

Region and economic class	Grain combines		Corn pickers		Pick-up balers		Motortrucks				Automobiles			
							Farms reporting		Number per farm reporting		Farms reporting		Number per farm reporting	
	1954 (percent)	1950 (percent)	1954 (percent)	1950 (percent)	1954 (percent)	1950 (percent)	1954 (percent)	1950 (percent)	1954 (number)	1950 (number)	1954 (percent)	1950 (percent)	1954 (number)	1950 (number)
UNITED STATES														
All farms.....	19.3	12.4	14.1	8.3	9.3	3.6	46.3	34.2	1.2	1.2	70.9	63.0	1.3	1.2
Class I.....	50.1	40.9	30.4	22.5	29.4	18.2	89.5	84.4	2.4	2.3	94.1	89.2	2.4	2.2
Class II.....	55.7	44.0	44.0	33.8	28.6	14.1	77.9	70.2	1.4	1.3	92.9	89.1	1.4	1.4
Class III.....	42.0	31.1	33.7	24.5	19.6	7.8	63.9	52.5	1.2	1.2	87.4	84.8	1.3	1.3
Class IV.....	23.0	16.1	16.2	9.7	9.7	3.8	50.4	39.0	1.1	1.1	76.1	74.3	1.2	1.2
Class V.....	10.1	6.3	6.1	2.6	4.4	1.8	40.3	29.7	1.1	1.1	63.9	58.9	1.1	1.1
Class VI.....	3.9	2.2	1.9	.7	1.8	.8	29.5	19.4	1.1	1.1	46.0	39.3	1.1	1.1
Part-time.....	3.5	1.8	1.7	.5	1.9	.7	37.3	27.0	1.1	1.1	68.8	60.0	1.2	1.2
Residential.....	.8	.5	.3	.1	.4	.2	25.3	17.6	1.1	1.1	58.6	47.9	1.1	1.2
Abnormal.....	26.4	16.7	16.0	6.7	33.1	16.8	71.1	56.6	5.6	3.0	69.4	55.4	4.9	3.4
THE NORTH														
All farms.....	33.9	20.9	30.0	18.6	15.5	5.4	50.4	38.4	1.2	1.2	86.1	80.8	1.3	1.3
Class I.....	63.8	50.2	59.7	46.8	38.5	22.5	86.3	80.1	1.9	1.9	96.3	91.2	2.1	2.0
Class II.....	65.9	50.6	61.4	50.0	33.3	15.9	74.5	66.4	1.3	1.3	95.7	92.3	1.4	1.4
Class III.....	51.8	35.8	47.3	34.3	23.4	8.5	61.2	49.3	1.1	1.1	92.5	89.6	1.3	1.3
Class IV.....	34.4	21.3	28.5	16.5	13.4	4.3	50.1	37.5	1.1	1.1	87.4	84.8	1.2	1.2
Class V.....	18.7	10.0	14.6	6.2	6.8	2.1	40.4	30.2	1.1	1.1	81.8	77.4	1.2	1.2
Class VI.....	7.9	4.2	5.6	2.5	3.0	.9	28.2	21.2	1.1	1.1	67.5	62.9	1.1	1.1
Part-time.....	6.0	2.5	4.4	1.3	2.7	.8	34.3	26.1	1.1	1.1	82.0	75.6	1.2	1.2
Residential.....	1.4	.7	1.0	.3	.7	.3	24.8	19.1	1.1	1.1	75.5	65.4	1.2	1.2
Abnormal.....	30.5	18.6	26.3	10.8	41.3	18.3	58.9	63.2	1.3	2.6	76.1	58.9	4.3	3.4
THE SOUTH														
All farms.....	6.7	4.8	2.5	.8	3.7	1.9	38.8	26.9	1.2	1.2	55.3	45.4	1.2	1.2
Class I.....	45.6	38.9	14.0	7.9	23.5	16.3	89.9	85.2	2.4	2.3	90.4	85.1	2.6	2.2
Class II.....	36.8	32.9	14.7	7.0	19.5	12.2	82.5	72.9	1.4	1.4	83.9	80.1	1.5	1.4
Class III.....	21.3	19.2	9.3	3.9	11.1	6.8	65.2	54.4	1.2	1.2	73.6	70.1	1.2	1.2
Class IV.....	9.8	8.4	3.9	1.4	5.3	3.2	47.1	36.9	1.1	1.1	61.6	58.2	1.1	1.1
Class V.....	4.6	3.6	1.4	.5	2.7	1.6	38.0	27.0	1.2	1.1	51.5	45.2	1.1	1.1
Class VI.....	2.1	1.3	.6	.1	1.3	.7	28.6	17.7	1.0	1.0	36.9	30.5	1.1	1.1
Part-time.....	2.0	1.3	.5	.1	1.4	.6	37.0	25.9	1.1	1.1	59.5	48.3	1.1	1.1
Residential.....	.5	.4	.1	(Z)	.3	.2	23.4	15.5	1.0	1.1	50.2	38.2	1.1	1.1
Abnormal.....	26.4	18.4	10.4	5.1	32.6	10.4	75.4	47.9	3.7	3.3	68.8	51.7	4.2	3.1
THE WEST														
All farms.....	17.8	14.1	1.1	.7	9.0	3.9	67.3	55.8	1.6	1.4	83.5	76.7	1.4	1.4
Class I.....	34.0	29.5	2.1	1.4	21.2	14.0	93.8	89.6	2.0	2.6	94.4	90.2	2.7	2.5
Class II.....	33.2	31.2	1.8	1.7	10.0	8.8	87.5	82.5	1.7	1.5	92.3	87.4	1.5	1.5
Class III.....	26.9	23.0	2.0	1.3	14.0	5.5	79.1	69.7	1.4	1.3	87.8	82.4	1.3	1.3
Class IV.....	20.6	15.6	1.2	.8	9.8	3.2	71.3	58.6	1.2	1.2	81.8	76.4	1.2	1.2
Class V.....	12.5	8.5	.6	.4	6.4	2.1	62.1	49.4	1.2	1.2	77.8	73.0	1.2	1.2
Class VI.....	9.5	5.1	.6	.1	3.7	1.0	54.1	41.7	1.1	1.1	65.0	59.3	1.2	1.2
Part-time.....	3.7	2.2	(Z)	(Z)	2.4	.8	50.5	37.6	1.1	1.1	81.8	74.3	1.3	1.3
Residential.....	1.4	.7	(Z)	(Z)	.5	.3	41.0	29.9	1.1	1.1	77.2	69.2	1.3	1.3
Abnormal.....	17.8	10.7	1.8	.9	16.6	10.6	59.0	54.9	16.5	3.6	58.4	53.2	7.6	4.1

Z Less than 0.05 percent.