

Household facilities, by economic class, by five regions.—The percentage of farms that reported electricity, telephone, and piped running water is directly related to economic class (Table 22). Classes I, II, and III generally have a higher percentage with the facility than is the case with the lower commercial classes. Part-time farms (Class VII) ranked significantly higher than those in Class VI, indicating relatively higher levels of living among the part-time farms. The residential (Class VIII) farms are generally somewhat lower in percentage than the part-time group, especially in the East.

Comparisons by regions show that the South ranks considerably lower than the others. However, almost as large a percentage of southern farms (89.0 percent) have electricity as in the United States as a whole (93.0 percent). The percentage of farms in the South (41.7 percent) having piped running water is lower than that of any other region and is significantly lower than the United States average (58.8 percent). Telephones show the widest or greatest difference. Only 19.8 percent of the Southern farms have telephones as compared with 48.8 percent for the United States, and a high of 68.3 percent in the Central Region.

Data on television sets and home freezers give evidence of considerable differences by economic class in levels of living (Table 23). For the United States, for example, 63.1 percent of Class I farms have television sets as compared with only 16.2 percent of Class VI farms. The variation in percentage having home freezers is even wider from 65.4 percent of Class I farms to 16.6 percent of Class VI. The percentage of part-time farms having these items is about twice that for Class VI. The relationship or percentages are remarkably consistent among the major regions.

Table 23.—PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TELEVISION SET AND HOME FREEZER, BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954

Region and economic class	Television set, 1954	Home freezer, 1954	Region and economic class	Television set, 1954	Home freezer, 1954
UNITED STATES			THE SOUTH		
All farms.....	35.5	32.2	All farms.....	25.2	22.5
Class I.....	63.1	65.4	Class I.....	62.3	63.1
Class II.....	56.4	58.9	Class II.....	52.5	53.7
Class III.....	45.3	46.2	Class III.....	39.2	40.0
Class IV.....	33.2	32.6	Class IV.....	24.9	25.8
Class V.....	28.3	23.5	Class V.....	19.0	17.8
Class VI.....	16.6	14.7	Class VI.....	12.6	11.9
Part-time.....	36.2	27.4	Part-time.....	27.4	22.4
Residential.....	32.4	21.9	Residential.....	25.1	17.8
Abnormal.....	52.9	53.5	Abnormal.....	57.3	57.4
THE NORTH			THE WEST		
All farms.....	46.8	41.1	All farms.....	37.8	42.3
Class I.....	68.1	68.1	Class I.....	56.5	63.4
Class II.....	60.5	61.1	Class II.....	42.3	55.2
Class III.....	48.9	48.7	Class III.....	35.5	44.9
Class IV.....	40.4	37.3	Class IV.....	31.2	38.6
Class V.....	37.5	30.8	Class V.....	30.2	34.6
Class VI.....	26.6	20.3	Class VI.....	22.0	26.3
Part-time.....	51.4	33.0	Part-time.....	38.5	36.2
Residential.....	48.3	28.3	Residential.....	39.5	33.8
Abnormal.....	58.6	57.7	Abnormal.....	35.5	40.2

The percentage of farms reporting telephone and electricity increased sharply between 1950 and 1954 (Table 24). In 1950 only 38.2 percent had a telephone. In 1954, 48.8 percent had one. As to electricity, 78.3 percent had it in 1950, whereas 93.0 percent had electricity in 1954. Substantial changes occurred in each of three major regions—the North, the South, and the West.

Substantial and rather remarkable changes occurred in some regions and classes. In the South, for example, only 70.5 percent of the farms had electricity in 1950, whereas 90.4 percent had it in 1954. Only 57.5 percent of Class VI farms in the South had electricity in 1950 as compared with 82.9 percent in 1954.

Table 24.—PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICITY, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: CENSUSES OF 1954 AND 1950

Region and economic class	Telephone		Electricity	
	1954	1950	1954	1950
UNITED STATES				
All farms.....	48.8	38.2	93.0	78.3
Class I.....	84.0	71.1	97.8	90.8
Class II.....	80.1	71.1	98.1	93.7
Class III.....	68.3	63.2	97.4	91.7
Class IV.....	49.2	45.1	95.3	85.2
Class V.....	36.2	29.4	91.4	75.5
Class VI.....	25.0	16.7	84.2	60.8
Part-time.....	43.6	32.5	92.6	78.5
Residential.....	37.9	25.6	90.3	70.8
Abnormal.....	83.2	60.0	89.1	71.8
THE NORTH				
All farms.....	70.6	61.5	95.7	81.4
Class I.....	92.7	84.4	99.0	93.1
Class II.....	87.4	81.7	98.7	96.0
Class III.....	78.7	73.7	97.8	92.7
Class IV.....	67.8	61.7	96.2	87.1
Class V.....	59.9	52.1	93.5	80.3
Class VI.....	51.0	40.8	87.3	68.5
Part-time.....	64.0	54.0	95.3	84.8
Residential.....	59.7	47.9	93.1	80.0
Abnormal.....	90.0	72.5	93.5	77.6
THE SOUTH				
All farms.....	26.2	16.1	90.4	70.5
Class I.....	70.9	51.9	96.5	87.5
Class II.....	57.7	44.2	97.0	91.3
Class III.....	39.7	32.6	96.9	89.4
Class IV.....	24.2	19.3	94.4	82.0
Class V.....	19.1	12.7	90.1	71.3
Class VI.....	14.0	8.0	82.9	57.5
Part-time.....	28.8	17.0	90.8	73.3
Residential.....	26.3	14.6	88.8	65.6
Abnormal.....	88.9	47.8	96.8	69.2
THE WEST				
All farms.....	67.2	50.9	94.5	86.5
Class I.....	82.6	69.7	97.0	90.6
Class II.....	76.9	62.9	96.8	91.1
Class III.....	69.9	56.0	95.7	89.6
Class IV.....	63.7	49.5	94.5	86.6
Class V.....	59.9	46.1	92.0	85.1
Class VI.....	47.9	33.1	87.3	75.9
Part-time.....	66.5	48.3	94.3	86.9
Residential.....	61.0	42.6	93.7	83.2
Abnormal.....	61.9	51.1	70.4	63.8