

FARMERS AND FARM PRODUCTION

Tables 36 and 37 supplement the description of Table 35 by providing a direct comparison of relationships (1) with part-time and commercial farms as a percentage of all farms with similar tenure in the same region (Table 36), and (2) with part-time and commercial farms as a percentage of the United States total (Table 37).

Table 36.—CLASS V FARMS (PART-TIME AND COMMERCIAL), BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954

Tenure of operator and type of farm	Percent distribution within each tenure					
	United States	East-ern Region	South-ern Region	Cent-ral Region	Great Plains Region	West-ern Region
Total all farms.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	30.3	30.9	21.0	39.6	31.1	53.5
Commercial farms.....	69.6	69.1	79.0	60.4	68.9	46.5
Full owners.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	36.6	34.5	29.8	39.5	32.7	57.5
Commercial farms.....	63.4	65.5	70.2	60.5	67.3	42.5
Part owners.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	33.3	30.1	28.8	40.4	32.7	41.6
Commercial farms.....	66.6	69.9	71.2	59.6	67.3	58.4
Managers.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	44.8	100.0	51.9	-----	28.6	20.0
Commercial farms.....	55.2	-----	48.1	-----	71.4	80.0
Tenants.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	17.8	19.7	12.6	38.8	27.0	42.9
Commercial farms.....	82.2	80.3	87.4	61.2	73.0	57.1
Cash.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	32.9	50.0	14.9	40.0	52.0	48.7
Commercial farms.....	67.1	50.0	85.1	60.0	48.0	51.3
Share-cash.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	27.2	100.0	5.0	37.1	29.1	4.8
Commercial farms.....	72.8	-----	95.0	62.9	70.9	95.2
Crop-share tenants and crop- pers.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	14.2	14.0	12.2	41.8	18.1	38.7
Commercial farms.....	85.8	86.0	87.8	58.2	81.9	61.3
Livestock share.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	20.4	11.8	-----	41.7	18.3	-----
Commercial farms.....	79.6	88.2	100.0	58.3	81.7	-----
Other and unspecified.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Part-time farms.....	32.3	49.5	22.2	32.3	36.9	64.3
Commercial farms.....	67.7	50.5	77.8	67.7	63.1	35.7

Operators working off farm, by age of operator.—Table 38 shows that in each region the number of days the operator works off farm is closely correlated with the age of the operator. It also shows that whether or not he works off farm at all is considerably influenced by his age. Among all farms, for instance, the percentage of farmers working off farm decreases steadily from the 35-to-44 age group to the group 65 years and over; from a peak of 56.9 percent of all farm operators 35 to 44 years of age working off farm to 18.6 percent working off farm in the 65-year-and-over group.

Generally, although almost as large a percentage of the operators under 25 years of age work off farm as among those 35 to 44 years of age, the younger operators do not work off the farm as many days. Table 38 shows that 92.8 percent of the part-time operators under 25, for example, worked off farm, compared with 94.4 percent of those 35 to 44 years of age; yet only 67.4 percent of those under 25 years worked 100 days or more off farm, whereas 87.7 percent of those 35 to 44 years old did so. Only 42.0 percent of the younger age group worked 200 days or more off farm while 64.6 percent of those 35 to 44 years old worked off farm that much. A similar tendency is found among the commercial farms, where 33.7 percent under 25 worked off farm as compared with 31.0 percent of those 35 to 44 years of age. More of the younger ages worked off farm 1 to 49 days and relatively more of those over 25 worked 50 days or more off farm.

In almost all regions the operators of middle age, that is, from

Table 37.—CLASS V FARMS BY TENURE, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954

Tenure of operator and type of farm	Farms in region as percent of United States total					
	United States	East-ern Region	South-ern Region	Cent-ral Region	Great Plains Region	West-ern Region
Total all farms.....	100.0	16.2	40.7	24.4	13.7	6.0
Part-time farms.....	100.0	16.5	28.2	31.8	14.0	10.5
Commercial farms.....	100.0	15.1	46.2	21.2	13.5	4.0
Full owners.....	100.0	18.5	27.0	33.8	12.5	8.3
Part-time farms.....	100.0	17.4	21.9	36.5	11.1	13.0
Commercial farms.....	100.0	19.1	29.9	32.2	13.2	5.6
Part owners.....	100.0	13.9	35.5	23.5	20.6	6.4
Part-time farms.....	100.0	12.6	30.7	28.5	20.2	8.0
Commercial farms.....	100.0	14.6	38.0	21.0	20.8	5.6
Managers.....	100.0	8.6	46.6	-----	36.2	8.6
Part-time farms.....	100.0	19.2	53.8	-----	23.1	3.8
Commercial farms.....	100.0	-----	40.6	-----	46.9	12.5
Tenants.....	100.0	10.0	67.7	8.5	12.2	1.7
Part-time farms.....	100.0	11.1	47.9	18.5	18.4	4.0
Commercial farms.....	100.0	9.7	72.0	6.3	10.8	1.2
Cash.....	100.0	8.7	43.7	21.8	21.5	4.2
Part-time farms.....	100.0	13.2	19.9	26.5	34.1	6.3
Commercial farms.....	100.0	6.5	55.4	19.4	15.4	3.2
Share-cash.....	100.0	8	15.9	27.9	52.1	3.3
Part-time farms.....	100.0	2.9	2.9	38.0	55.6	.6
Commercial farms.....	100.0	-----	20.8	24.1	50.8	4.4
Crop-share tenants and crop- pers.....	100.0	9.9	77.6	3.7	7.7	1.0
Part-time farms.....	100.0	9.8	66.6	11.0	9.8	2.8
Commercial farms.....	100.0	10.0	79.4	2.5	7.3	.7
Livestock share.....	100.0	26.2	18.5	29.6	25.3	.3
Part-time farms.....	100.0	15.2	-----	60.6	22.7	1.5
Commercial farms.....	100.0	20.1	23.3	21.7	28.0	-----
Other and unspecified.....	100.0	12.4	44.5	22.9	15.0	5.2
Part-time farms.....	100.0	19.1	30.5	22.9	17.2	10.3
Commercial farms.....	100.0	9.3	51.1	22.9	14.0	2.7

25 to 54 years who worked off farm at all, did so more days than those who were under 25 years or those 55 years old and over. Also both the percentage working off farm, and the days worked by those so working, declined sharply in the 55-to-64 and in the 65-years-and-over age groups.

Thus, these small-scale farms—particularly the part-time farms—generally did not absorb the full energies of the operators in the middle-age brackets. As the operators grew older and off-farm earnings declined, the farms served more as a basis for subsistence. However, the large percentage working off farm in all age groups under 65 possibly suggests that the extent of off-farm work and earnings is determined considerably by the opportunities that are available, rather than by the willingness of the operators to do such work.

Farms having specified facilities.—In the case of each of the facilities a larger percentage of the part-time farms than of the commercial farms have the facility throughout each of the major regions (Table 39). Sometimes, as with electricity, the differences are not large and possibly not significant. In most of the other cases, however, the differences are substantial and they indicate a higher level of living for the part-time farmers. These differences appear to be greatest in the South and least in the Western Region.

Summary and conclusion.—Dividing the farms in Economic Class V into part-time and commercial groups reveals noteworthy differences. The part-time farms generally are shown to average higher in value per farm and per acre. A higher percentage of the commercial farms are shown to be predominantly field-crop farms while the part-time farms are more generally livestock, except in the Corn Belt or Central Region where the opposite situation prevails. Part-time farms are somewhat better equipped and apparently have a higher level of living. The work done off farm is correlated with the age of the operator.