

Distribution of farm operators, sales of farm products, and off-farm income by class of farm.—Table 41 provides a basis for comparing the percentage distribution of all farm operators and of market sales of all farm products with the percentage distribution of off-farm income by economic class. The various sources of income in each class are expressed as a percentage of aggregate income received by all farmers from each source.

The farm-operator families on part-time (Class VII) and residential (Class VIII) farms, constituting 30.4 percent (12.0 percent plus 18.4 percent) of the total number of farm-operator families, receive only 1.8 percent of the total receipts from market sales of farm products and 46.6 percent (21.0 percent plus 25.6 percent) of the total off-farm income. Part-time and residential farm families, in other words, who have relatively small receipts from farming have higher-than-average off-farm income. Income from nonfarm work is largely concentrated in the part-time and residential groups. The farm-operator families on part-time and residential farms received more than three-fifths of the total income from non-farm work (28.0 percent plus 34.8 percent).

Farm-operator families on Class II to Class VI farms, constituting two-thirds (67.0 percent) of the total number of farm families, receive slightly less than half (48.5 percent) of the total off-farm income.

The distribution of nonfarm income by class of farm does not show as great extremes or as wide a range among the commercial

farm operators (Classes I to VI) as does the distribution of receipts from sales of farm products. Thus, farm operators in Economic Classes I and II constitute 12.2 percent of the total number of farm-operator families and receive 58.2 percent of the receipts from sale of farm products or about four and one-half the mean or average for all farms. But they receive only 12.6 percent of the aggregate off-farm income. At the other end of the class scale, Class V farm operators have receipts from sales of farm products, about one-third the average for all farms and receipts from off-farm income about three-fourths that for all farm-operator families. Class VI farm operators are 9.7 percent of the total (Class VI includes farm operators who work off the farm less than 100 days or whose off-farm income is less than the value of farm sales), yet they have receipts from sales of farm products constituting only 1.4 percent of the aggregate for all farms, which is about one-seventh the level for all farms, while their receipts of off-farm income, constituting 4.9 percent of the aggregate, are at a level about half as high as that of all farms. Thus, the distribution of off-farm income is such as to reduce the relative dispersion of aggregate income from all sources in comparison with income received from farm sources alone. The off-farm income of part-time (Class VII) and residential (Class VIII) farm operators is so high, in fact, as to form the basis for an inference that the "low-income problem" is largely concentrated in the lower class commercial farm in Classes IV, V, and VI, and particularly in Class VI.

Table 41.—PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF OFF-FARM INCOME OF FARM-OPERATOR FAMILIES FROM EACH SOURCE OF INCOME, BY CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955

| Source of income | United States | Group I | | | Group II | | | | Group III | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------|
| | | Total | Class I | Class II | Total | Class III | Class IV | Class V | Total | Class VI | Part-time | Residential |
| Total off-farm income of farm-operator families: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total from all sources..... | 100.0 | 12.6 | 4.9 | 7.7 | 35.9 | 10.4 | 12.6 | 12.9 | 51.5 | 4.9 | 21.0 | 25.6 |
| Total farm income (except this farm)..... | 100.0 | 32.2 | 16.0 | 16.2 | 41.9 | 16.8 | 14.2 | 11.0 | 25.8 | 6.0 | 9.3 | 10.5 |
| Total nonfarm income..... | 100.0 | 9.6 | 3.2 | 6.4 | 35.0 | 9.5 | 12.4 | 13.2 | 55.4 | 4.7 | 22.8 | 27.9 |
| Income received by farm operator: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Income from off-farm business or self-employment..... | 100.0 | 19.2 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 36.5 | 9.7 | 13.8 | 13.0 | 44.3 | 3.4 | 20.6 | 20.2 |
| Farm customwork..... | 100.0 | 39.6 | 22.6 | 17.0 | 53.6 | 23.5 | 15.3 | 14.8 | 6.9 | 1.7 | 3.5 | 1.6 |
| Farm trucking and hauling..... | 100.0 | 11.9 | | 11.9 | 44.7 | 7.6 | 20.7 | 16.4 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 9.4 | 29.6 |
| Nonfarm business..... | 100.0 | 15.5 | 7.5 | 7.9 | 32.4 | 6.9 | 13.1 | 12.4 | 52.1 | 3.7 | 24.9 | 23.4 |
| Income from working for others for wages or salary..... | 100.0 | 6.9 | 2.8 | 4.1 | 30.5 | 5.9 | 10.5 | 14.0 | 62.6 | 2.4 | 26.9 | 33.3 |
| Farm work..... | 100.0 | 40.1 | 26.6 | 13.5 | 30.0 | 8.8 | 11.9 | 9.3 | 29.9 | 5.6 | 11.8 | 12.6 |
| Nonfarm work..... | 100.0 | 4.5 | 1.1 | 3.5 | 30.5 | 5.7 | 10.4 | 14.4 | 65.0 | 2.2 | 28.0 | 34.8 |
| Income from rental of farm real estate..... | 100.0 | 27.7 | 12.2 | 15.5 | 43.9 | 19.9 | 13.9 | 10.1 | 28.4 | 7.0 | 10.8 | 10.6 |
| Income from rental of nonfarm real estate..... | 100.0 | 14.1 | 5.5 | 8.6 | 42.4 | 18.7 | 12.9 | 10.7 | 43.5 | 3.0 | 25.6 | 14.9 |
| Income from roomers and boarders..... | 100.0 | 7.9 | 2.3 | 5.7 | 37.7 | 14.0 | 11.8 | 11.8 | 54.4 | 4.4 | 25.0 | 25.1 |
| Income from interest, dividends, trust funds, or royalties..... | 100.0 | 33.5 | 12.8 | 20.8 | 47.3 | 25.5 | 15.3 | 6.4 | 19.2 | 1.2 | 3.8 | 14.2 |
| Income from veteran's pensions and compensation, veteran's school allotment, serviceman's family allotment..... | 100.0 | 6.2 | .9 | 5.3 | 41.1 | 13.3 | 11.9 | 15.9 | 52.7 | 13.9 | 14.7 | 24.1 |
| Income from retirement pay, unemployment compensation, old age pension, annuities, alimony, regular contributions or welfare received..... | 100.0 | 2.7 | .4 | 2.3 | 16.7 | 2.5 | 4.7 | 9.4 | 80.6 | 13.4 | 23.9 | 43.2 |
| Any other personal income..... | 100.0 | 15.3 | 5.3 | 10.0 | 56.1 | 13.1 | 27.3 | 15.6 | 28.6 | 6.9 | 8.3 | 13.4 |
| Income received by wife..... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| From farm sources..... | 100.0 | 10.0 | 2.8 | 7.2 | 42.2 | 11.3 | 18.6 | 12.3 | 47.7 | 7.6 | 21.0 | 19.2 |
| From nonfarm sources..... | 100.0 | 14.0 | .7 | 13.4 | 52.4 | 15.1 | 31.0 | 6.2 | 33.6 | 22.3 | 3.7 | 7.6 |
| From nonfarm sources..... | 100.0 | 9.9 | 2.9 | 7.1 | 42.0 | 11.2 | 18.3 | 12.5 | 48.1 | 7.2 | 21.4 | 19.5 |
| Income received by other family members..... | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| From farm sources..... | 100.0 | 14.3 | 2.9 | 11.4 | 44.9 | 16.5 | 13.6 | 14.7 | 40.8 | 10.6 | 11.6 | 18.7 |
| From nonfarm sources..... | 100.0 | 38.1 | 8.5 | 29.6 | 30.8 | 12.9 | 9.6 | 8.2 | 31.1 | 8.9 | 10.1 | 12.1 |
| From nonfarm sources..... | 100.0 | 11.3 | 2.2 | 9.1 | 46.6 | 17.0 | 14.1 | 15.5 | 42.0 | 10.8 | 11.8 | 19.5 |