

Census Specified Expenses

The 1954 Census of Agriculture obtained data on the following farm expenditure items: Hired labor, machine hire, feed for livestock and poultry, gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil, and commercial fertilizers and liming material. The individual expense items obtained by the Census for type by economic class of farm are not shown separately in this chapter but appear in volume III, part 8, of the Census of Agriculture.

The average per farm of the total specified expenses and the proportion they comprise of the total value of farm products sold are shown for each type of farm by economic class in table 48. By type of farm the average expenditure ranged from about \$1,300 for other field-crop farms to over \$7,000 for vegetable and poultry farms. The specified farm expenses amounted to 37 percent of the value of farm products sold for commercial farms as a group, but this varied considerably by type of farm—from a fourth on cash-grain farms to nearly three-fourths on poultry farms. Also, the specified expenses were higher, relative to sales, on the smaller economic classes of farms for most types. This is influenced by the higher proportion of the farm products produced on these farms that are consumed in the home rather than sold.

TABLE 48.—SPECIFIED FARM EXPENSES, AVERAGE PER FARM AND AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1954

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm					
		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
Specified expenses per farm:¹							
All commercial farms.....dollars...	2,674	21,368	5,251	2,558	1,380	752	380
Cash-grain.....do.....	2,076	9,956	3,356	1,865	1,168	756	433
Cotton.....do.....	1,588	23,461	5,496	2,237	943	472	249
Other field-crop.....do.....	1,330	23,912	5,149	1,963	945	502	235
Vegetable.....do.....	7,548	47,144	7,510	3,269	1,626	894	409
Fruit-and-nut.....do.....	4,689	21,491	4,997	2,475	1,358	777	449
Dairy.....do.....	2,905	26,393	6,269	2,904	1,564	893	451
Poultry.....do.....	7,100	35,095	11,588	5,035	3,043	1,462	582
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....dollars...	3,116	17,734	4,992	2,723	1,705	1,029	527
General:							
Primarily crop.....do.....	2,719	24,260	4,718	2,344	1,293	721	350
Primarily livestock.....do.....	2,250	19,400	5,365	2,706	1,660	984	504
Crop and livestock.....do.....	2,176	16,365	4,517	2,354	1,435	871	461
Miscellaneous.....do.....	4,598	25,674	4,730	2,120	1,213	643	337
Specified expenses as a percent of the value of farm products sold:							
All commercial farms.....percent...	36.6	36.8	35.3	35.0	37.3	30.6	50.3
Cash-grain.....do.....	24.9	21.8	22.7	25.5	30.4	29.6	53.6
Cotton.....do.....	32.0	33.6	35.6	33.0	27.6	26.7	32.4
Other field-crop.....do.....	30.6	40.1	34.5	28.4	25.4	26.1	29.2
Vegetable.....do.....	47.1	46.5	48.6	46.5	46.6	51.5	59.5
Fruit-and-nut.....do.....	32.5	32.7	31.1	31.7	33.1	38.1	56.3
Dairy.....do.....	44.5	52.6	44.2	40.9	41.8	47.3	57.5
Poultry.....do.....	73.7	71.0	73.7	76.6	79.9	77.8	87.4
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....percent...	35.3	30.5	32.7	37.3	46.5	56.1	75.5
General:							
Primarily crop.....do.....	36.9	37.1	35.0	35.6	37.9	42.2	47.6
Primarily livestock.....do.....	41.4	48.9	37.6	37.9	44.7	52.2	62.1
Crop and livestock.....do.....	34.8	34.5	32.0	32.9	28.9	46.4	55.9
Miscellaneous.....do.....	34.9	36.2	31.4	31.0	34.3	33.1	45.0

¹ Includes the following expenses: Cash wages, machine hire, feed for livestock and poultry, fuel and other petroleum products, and commercial fertilizer and liming materials.

Relation of Census Specified Expenses to Total Farm Expenses

The 1954 Census of Agriculture obtained specified farm expenses for the year 1954. Data from the Farm Expenditure Survey relate to 1955. Because of the different years involved the two series of data may not be compared directly. However, in the light of data from the Farm Expenditure Survey it is possible to make a meaningful evaluation of the Census specified expenses to appraise how representative they are of total expenses. For this purpose, the categories of expenses from the Farm Expenditure Survey which correspond to the Census specified items have been computed as a proportion of total current cash expenses (exclusive of capital expenditures). These percentages for types of farms by specified economic classes are shown in table 49.

On the basis of relationships from the Farm Expenditure Survey, the farm expenses obtained by the 1954 Census of Agriculture comprised slightly more than half of the total cash farm expenses of commercial farmers. The Census specified expenses accounted for a high of approximately three-fourths of the total expenses for poultry farmers and nearly three-fifths for those of cotton, other field-crop, dairy, and general livestock farmers. In contrast, these expenses amounted to less than half of the total expenses of cash-grain and other livestock producers.

There was little difference in this respect between the two size groups for most types of farms. Notable exceptions are dairy farms and other livestock farms. Among dairy farms the Census specified expenses accounted for a greater proportion of total expenses for the larger economic classes. This was due partly to the higher expenditure for feed reported by the larger farms. For other livestock farms the Census specified expenses comprised a greater proportion of total expenses on the smaller economic classes. This was partly because the Census specified expenses did not include the expense for purchase of livestock and poultry. As mentioned previously, this was a much more important expense on the larger than on the smaller economic classes of farms.

TABLE 49.—SPECIFIED GROUP OF FARM EXPENSE ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL CASH FARM EXPENSES, BY TYPE OF FARM BY ECONOMIC CLASS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1955¹

Type of farm	Total	Economic class of farm		
		I and II	III through VI	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	
All commercial farms.....				
Cash-grain.....	54.2	53.8	54.7	
Cotton.....	48.6	49.3	47.9	
Other field-crop.....	57.8	55.8	59.3	
Vegetable.....	58.9	57.8	60.0	
	51.5	52.8	48.3	
Fruit-and-nut.....				
Dairy.....	53.9	53.0	56.4	
Poultry.....	59.3	64.7	55.8	
Livestock other than dairy and poultry.....	73.9	75.9	69.8	
	46.8	43.4	52.2	
General:				
Primarily crop.....	55.2	53.1	58.7	
Primarily livestock.....	57.7	61.7	56.2	
Crop and livestock.....	52.2	51.0	53.1	
Miscellaneous.....	56.9	58.2	52.4	

¹ The following expenses, cash wages, machine hire, feed for livestock and poultry, fuel and other petroleum products, and commercial fertilizer and liming materials, were divided by the total cash farm expenses (excluding those for construction, land improvement, and purchase of motor vehicles, farm machinery and equipment).