

1954. The 1950 data, however, are somewhat more inclusive, since they included the acreage of irrigated cropland not harvested and not pastured for the 17 Western States, Arkansas, Florida, and Louisiana, and the acreage of irrigated pasture for Arkansas and Louisiana. For 1950 and 1945, the irrigation data for all States include all land irrigated. For 1940, the inquiries were for irrigated cropland harvested and irrigated pasture. For 1935, the figures relate only to irrigated cropland harvested. For 1930, the figures are for 19 States only. For 1930, the number of irrigated farms relates to farms reporting irrigated crops harvested and the acreage irrigated represents the sum of the acreages of irrigated crops, including some duplication where two or more crops were harvested from the same land. For 1920 and 1910, the number of irrigated farms relates to farms reporting any land irrigated. For 1920 and 1910, no figures for irrigated acreage are included in the tables. Figures for crops irrigated are available for these two years, but the data were not considered to be complete. For the 1900 and 1890 Censuses, the data are for 19 States and relate to the number of irrigators and area irrigated.

Land-use and conservation practices.—Each of the inquiries relating to land-use and conservation practices was included on the questionnaires for specified States only.

Cultivated summer fallow, for 17 Western States, has been discussed under the land-use classifications.

Cropland used only for crops not harvested and not pastured. This question, included on the questionnaire for the remaining 31 States, was expected to reflect the acreage in soil-improvement crops. This item has also been discussed under the land-use classification.

Land in cover crops turned under for green manure.—This inquiry was included on the questionnaires for all States lying east of the Mississippi River, those bordering that river on the west, and for 123 counties in East Texas. The data for this item represent land on which a cover crop was turned under in 1954 and another crop was planted.

Land in row crops, or close-seeded crops, grown in strips for wind erosion control.—This question was included in 15 of the States lying along and to the west of the 100th meridian. This question was not included in Arizona or in California; and, for Texas, the inquiry was included for 131 counties in the western part of the State. The data relate to the area of row crops or close-seeded crops that were grown in strips across the path of prevailing winds to prevent or reduce the blowing of topsoil.

Cropland used for grain or row crops farmed on the contour.—This inquiry was carried in all States except Florida. The data relate to land used in 1954 for grain and row crops planted around the slope to maintain comparatively level rows instead of being planted in straight rows running up and down the slope. All land farmed on the contour is not included. The data omit contoured land used in 1954 solely for hay or pasture.

Population.—Data on total population, rural population, and farm population are presented for the United States for each Agriculture Census year for which data are available. Figures

for decennial Census years are based on the decennial Censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability. Figures for other years are estimates. Figures for 1910 to 1954 relate to April 1; those for earlier years to June 1. Figures for total population for 1940 to 1954 include members of Armed Forces overseas.

Rural population is that part of the population not classed as urban. The data for rural population relate to the civilian population only. All members of the Armed Forces are excluded from the figures for rural population. The 1954 figures for rural population are estimates of persons living in rural areas as determined for the 1950 Census of Population. According to the definition used in the 1950 Census, the urban population comprised all persons living in—

(a) Places of 2,500 inhabitants or more incorporated as cities, boroughs, and villages;

(b) Incorporated towns of 2,500 inhabitants or more except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where "towns" are simply minor civil divisions of counties;

(c) The densely settled urban fringe, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas, around cities of 50,000 or more; and

(d) Unincorporated places of 2,500 inhabitants or more outside any urban fringe.

TABLE 7.—TOTAL, RURAL, AND FARM POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1954

Item and year	Number of persons ¹	Percent of total population	Increase or decrease (—)		
			Number	Percent	
Total population ²	1954	161,763,000	100.0	10,631,000	7.0
	1950	151,132,000	100.0	11,549,000	8.3
	1945	139,583,000	100.0	7,763,000	5.9
	1940	131,820,000	100.0	4,763,000	3.7
	1935	127,057,000	100.0	4,282,000	3.5
	1930	122,775,000	100.0	7,373,000	6.4
	1925	115,402,000	100.0	9,313,000	8.8
	1920	106,089,000	100.0	14,204,000	15.5
	1910	91,885,000	100.0	15,890,425	20.9
	1900	75,994,575	100.0	13,046,861	20.7
	1890	62,947,714	100.0	12,791,931	25.5
1880	50,155,783	100.0	10,337,334	26.0	
1870	39,818,449	100.0	8,375,128	26.6	
1860	31,443,321	100.0	8,251,445	35.6	
1850	23,191,876	100.0			
Rural population ³	1954 ⁴	57,124,000	35.3	3,406,731	6.3
	1950	53,717,269	35.5	(NA)	(NA)
	1945	61,769,897	40.9	4,524,324	7.9
	1940	57,245,573	43.5	3,425,350	6.4
	1930	53,820,223	43.8	2,267,576	4.4
	1920	51,552,647	48.6	1,579,313	3.2
	1910	49,973,334	54.4	4,138,680	9.0
	1900	45,834,654	60.3	4,993,205	12.2
	1890	40,841,449	64.9	4,815,401	13.4
	1880	36,026,048	71.8	7,370,038	25.7
	1870	28,656,010	72.0	3,429,207	13.6
1860	25,226,803	80.2	5,578,643	28.4	
1850	19,648,160	84.7			
Farm population ⁶	1954	21,890,000	13.5	-3,168,000	-12.6
	1950	25,058,000	16.6	-237,000	-0.9
	1945	25,295,000	18.1	-5,252,000	-17.2
	1940	30,547,000	23.2	-1,614,000	-5.0
	1935	32,161,000	25.3	1,632,000	5.3
	1930	30,529,000	24.9	-661,000	-2.1
	1925	31,190,000	27.0	-784,000	-2.5
	1920	31,974,000	30.1	-103,000	-0.3
	1910	32,077,000	34.9		

NA Not available.

¹ Figures for 1910 to 1954 relate to April 1, those for earlier years to June 1. Figures for decennial years are based on the decennial Censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability; those for other years are estimates.

² Figures for 1940 to 1954 include members of Armed Forces overseas, for the earlier years the number of persons in the Armed Forces overseas was not available but was probably negligible. Figures for 1870 include adjustment for underenumeration in Southern States.

³ Figures shown for rural population exclude members of Armed Services overseas; the percent of total population for 1954, 1950, and 1940, respectively, is based on the civilian population.

⁴ Figures are estimates for the territory classified as rural in the 1950 Census. The data for 1954 are not fully comparable with those shown for 1950 because many of the areas classed as rural in 1950 would have qualified in 1954 as urban under the 1950 definitions. The data for 1954 are not comparable with those for earlier years because of change in definition. See text.

⁵ Rural population as determined on the basis of the definition used in the 1940 and earlier Censuses. See text.

⁶ The figures shown for farm population are estimates roughly comparable with the current estimates of the farm population obtained from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. For most years, these estimates differ substantially from the farm population as tabulated from the decennial Censuses of Population and from the 1945, 1935, and 1925 Censuses of Agriculture.

TRENDS IN POPULATION, CROPLAND & FARM OUTPUT IN U.S.

