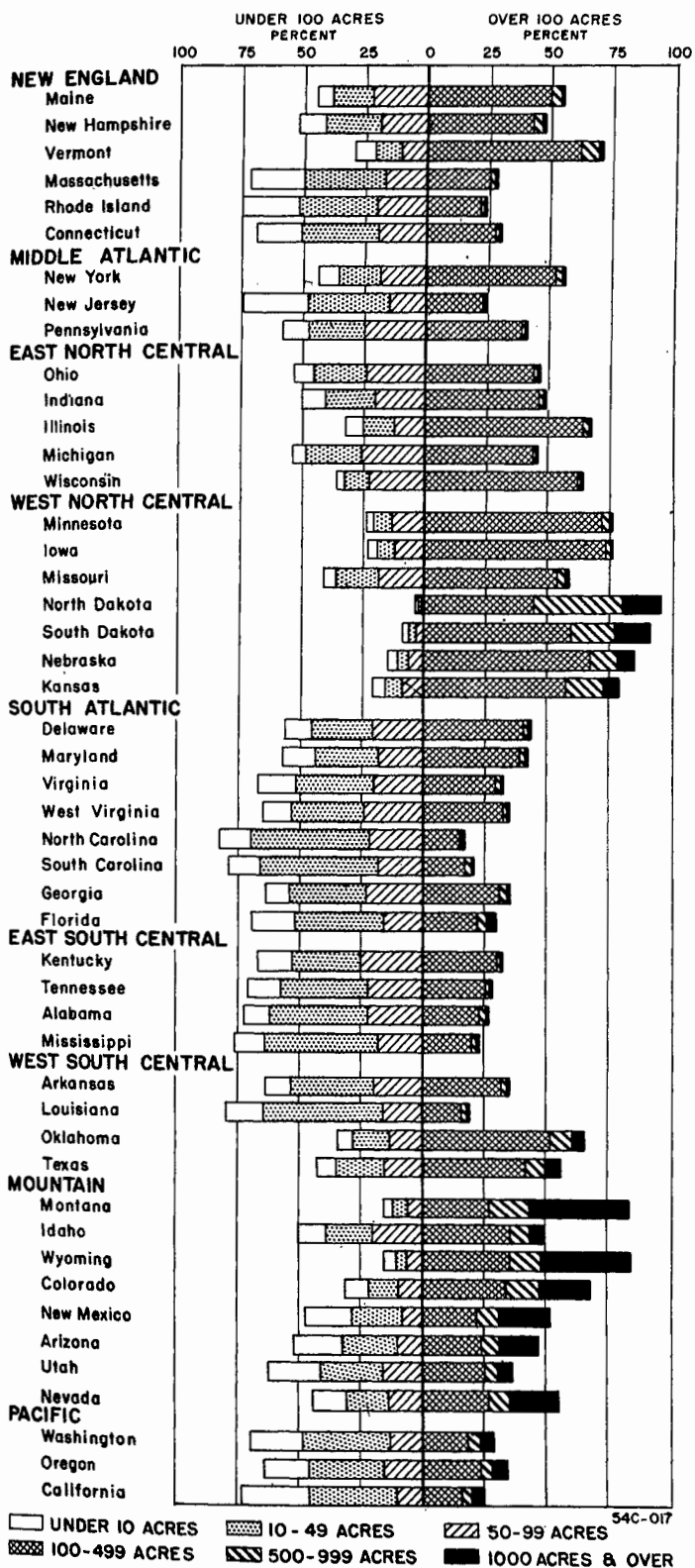


PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF THE NUMBER OF FARMS, BY SIZE, BY STATES: 1954



A group average derived entirely from the total acres in each place brings together, in a single size group, farms representing numerous types of agriculture and intensity of production. This is especially true when the averages are for geographic divisions, regions, or for the United States. Size of agricultural operations in North Carolina, for example, are quite different from those in the extensive dry-land range country in Arizona.

Changes in the definition of a farm and in the enumeration procedure have affected the number of farms reported for the various Censuses, especially for farms under 3 acres. The effect of changes in definition is discussed in the Introduction to this volume. Table 2 presents the number of farms under 3 acres for each Census beginning with 1880, the minimal value criteria relating to such farms as given in the Census definitions, and the index numbers of prices received by farmers.

TABLE 2.—NUMBER OF FARMS UNDER 3 ACRES IN SIZE, PERCENT OF ALL FARMS, MINIMUM VALUE OF PRODUCTS, AND INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS; FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1880 TO 1954

[Figures for States in Table 12]

Year	Farms under 3 acres in size		Minimum value-of-products criterion for farms under 3 acres (dollars)		Index numbers of prices received by farmers (1910-1914=100) ¹
	Number	Percent of all farms	All farm products sold or used by farm households	Farm products sold	
1954.....	99,896	2.1	-----	150	249
1950.....	76,606	1.4	-----	150	250
1945.....	98,966	1.7	250	-----	197
1940.....	35,977	0.6	250	-----	95
1935.....	35,573	0.5	250	-----	90
1930.....	43,007	0.7	250	-----	148
1925.....	15,151	0.2	250	-----	143
1920.....	20,350	0.3	² 250	-----	217
1910.....	18,033	0.3	² 250	-----	104
1900.....	41,385	0.7	(³)	(³)	(NA)
1890.....	(NA)	(NA)	-----	500	(NA)
1880.....	4,352	0.1	-----	500	(NA)

NA Not available.

¹ For all years, except 1954 and 1910, each index number is for the calendar year preceding the Census date. For 1954 and 1910, the index numbers are for those calendar years. Data for 1939 to 1954 from Table 607 in "Agricultural Statistics, 1955"; and for years prior to 1939, see Table 604, "Agricultural Statistics 1954" United States Department of Agriculture.

² "Or requiring for its agricultural operations the continuous services of at least one person."

³ No minimum limit used in the 1900 Census on value of products. "All agricultural establishments with less than three acres were reported as farms whenever their operation or management required the constant services of at least one individual."

The total area of land in farms and the distribution by size groups for the various Census periods for some States is affected by the method of enumerating and processing large ownership tracts such as grazing associations and Indian reservations. As indicated in the section of this chapter on "Land in farms," lands in grazing associations and Indian reservations, not reported by individual Indian or other operators, were to be reported as one farm. In certain instances, all of the agricultural land in a grazing association or in a reservation may have been reported as one farm, while in other years, all or part of this land may have been reported for a considerable number