

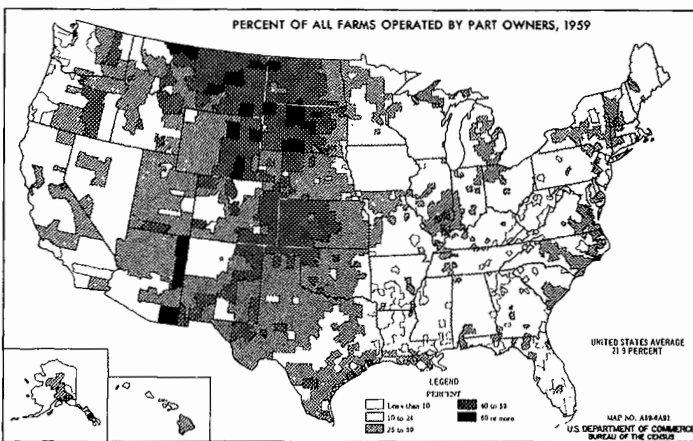
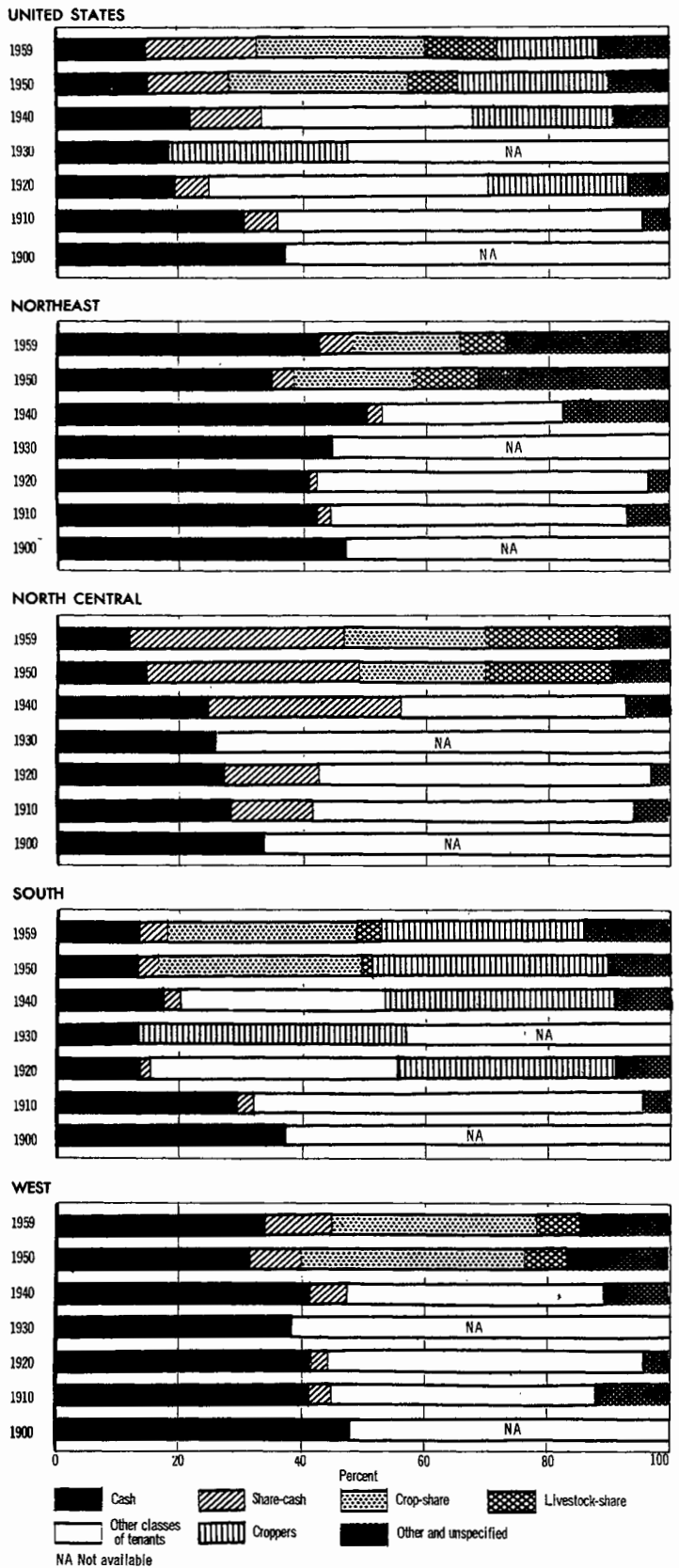
The number of tenant farms.—In 1959 only 735,849 farms in the United States were operated by tenants. This is the smallest number since tenant farms were first enumerated by the census in 1880, and 2.1 million less than the peak number in 1935. Not only is this the smallest number of tenants in the history of the census, but it also represents the smallest percentage of tenant farms.

Crop-share tenants operated 201,046 farms in 1959, or approximately one-fourth of all tenant farms in the entire United States. Share-cash tenants were the second largest tenant class, with 132,524 tenants classified in this group. The cropper system is reported only in the South. The sharp decline in cropper units between 1950 and 1959 moved sharecropper arrangements from second to third position in the class ranking of tenant farms. Cash tenants were the fourth largest class, operating 107,217 farms, or one in seven of all tenant farms. The livestock-share lease was the least used of all rental arrangements. Only 86,429 tenant farms were leased under this arrangement.

Changes in class of tenant.—The improved methods of agricultural production that were adopted during the last decade have contributed to changes in the pattern of rental arrangements. Farms operated by all tenants declined from 1,447,455 in 1950 to 735,849 in 1959, a decrease of nearly 50 percent. The sharp drop in number of tenant farms affected some classes of tenants more than others.

Between 1950 and 1959 the proportion of cash tenants remained almost unchanged at approximately 15 percent. However, the proportion of tenants who paid a share-cash rent increased to 18.0 percent in 1959, a rise of almost 5 percent since 1950. The wide adaptability and popularity of the crop-share lease is evident in the relatively high proportion of tenants using this type of lease. In 1959, 27.3 percent of all tenants used a crop-share lease compared with 29.0 percent in 1950. Livestock-share tenants are becoming relatively more important. The production of tenants using this type of lease increased from 8.0 percent in 1950 to 11.7 percent in 1959. Sharecroppers have decreased to the lowest proportion of all tenants since 1920, the first census this group was separately classified. In 1959 sharecroppers represented only 16.4 percent of all tenants. The decline in sharecropping is even more noticeable when only tenants in the South are considered. There, sharecroppers dropped from 38.3 percent of all tenants in 1950 to 33.0 percent in 1959.

DISTRIBUTION OF TENANT OPERATED FARMS, BY CLASS OF TENANT, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1900 TO 1959



PART-OWNER FARM OPERATORS

Part-owner operations have become the dominant tenure form in U.S. agriculture. Their importance is greater than their number would suggest. Part owners generally operate larger farms than either full owners or tenants; even though they account for only 22.5 percent of all farms, they operate 44.8 percent of all the farmland. This is just 0.6 percent less than the combined acreage of full owners and tenants.

Part ownership is a means by which a tenant with limited capital can seek to increase his security of tenure and begin to acquire some equity in the land he operates. In addition to this use of part-owner arrangements as a first step in owner-operatorship,