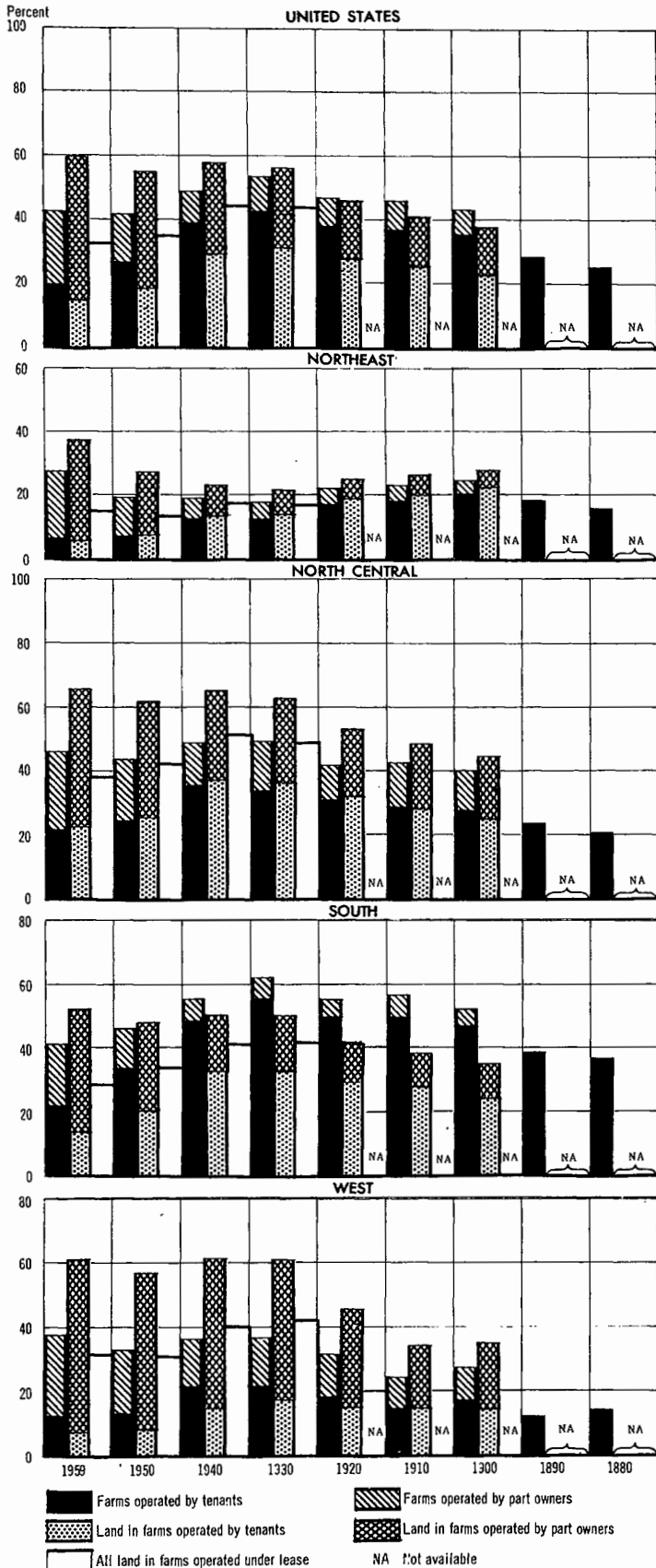
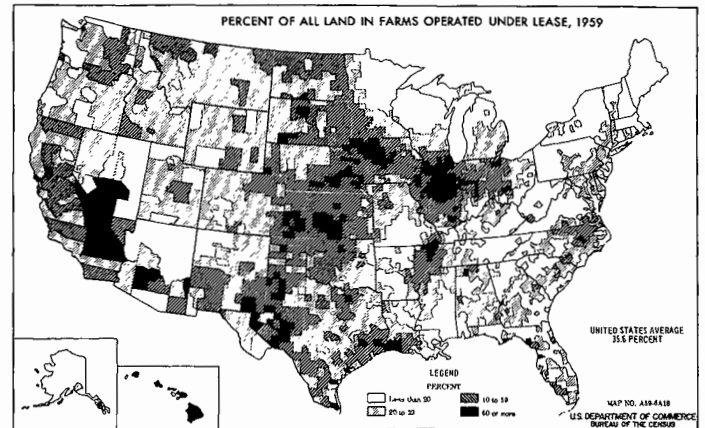


PERCENT OF FARMS AND FARMLAND OPERATED BY PART OWNERS AND TENANTS, AND PERCENT OF TOTAL FARMLAND UNDER LEASE, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1880 TO 1959



The growing importance of part owners is observed in the fact that they rented approximately 218.6 million acres compared with 163.2 million acres rented by tenants. In 1959 part owners exceeded tenants for the first time both in number of operators and in acreage rented. From 1930 to 1959 the proportion of all farmland leased and operated by part owners increased from 12.7 to 19.5 percent.

In general the trend within each of the four regions tends to correspond to the trend for the entire United States. In the Northeast, both tenancy and part-owner operations are quite low; together tenants and part owners rented 14.4 percent of the farmland in 1959. The North Central region has a relatively high proportion of tenancy and part-owner operations, with about 38 percent of the farmland in this region operated under some form of leasing arrangement. In the South, tenant farms and land in tenant farms dropped more than 50 percent between 1930 and 1959, but all land under lease declined by only one-third during this period, as part-owner operations became more numerous. Part owners have been the largest operators of leased land in the West since 1930. The proportion of all farmland that they lease remained fairly constant since 1930, at about one-fourth. Thus, the drop in all land under lease in the West is due to the drop in land rented by tenants.



Geographic distribution of leased land.—The proportion of leased land within different areas of the Nation tends to correspond with the relative productivity of the land in the area. In areas of high productivity and high land values, operators with limited capital seek rented land. This permits them to operate more land than would be possible if they chose to own all of their resources and operate smaller farms. The highest proportions of leased land (40 percent or more) are found in the grain-producing, livestock-feeding areas of the North Central region and also in areas of intensive cash-crop production in the other regions. An exception to the direct relationship between high productivity and high proportion of leased land is noted in the West, where large amounts of low-producing land are rented for grazing purposes.

Land farmed by various classes of tenants.—In 1959 tenants operated approximately 163.2 million acres of farmland, or about 14.5 percent of all farmland in the United States. Most of this land, 70.2 percent, was leased under some form of share arrangement, including share-cash leases, crop-share leases, livestock-share leases, and sharecropper agreements. The proportion of rented land operated by tenants under share leases has remained virtually unchanged from the 70.5 percent recorded in 1950, notwithstanding the sharp drop in number of tenant farms between 1950 and 1959.

Share-cash tenants were the second most numerous class of tenants (18.0 percent), but rented more land than any other