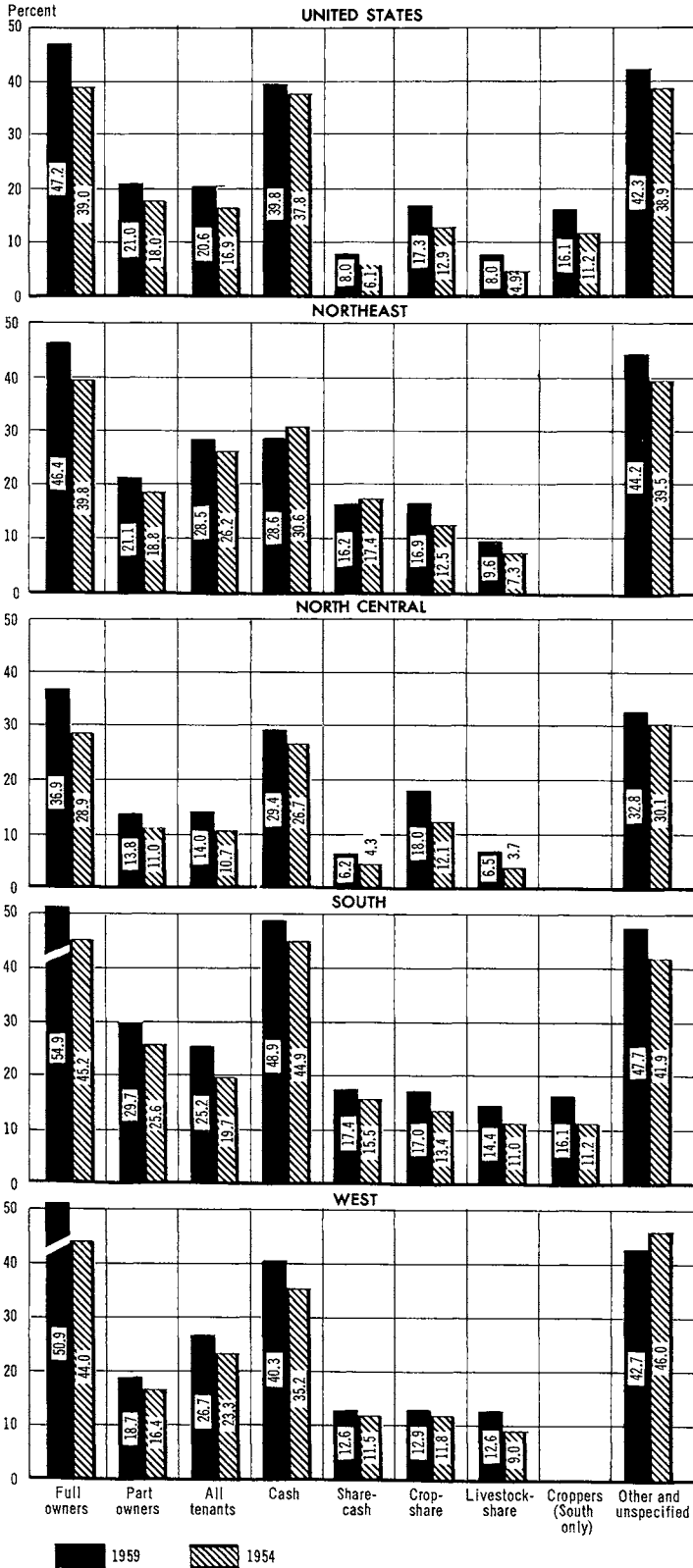


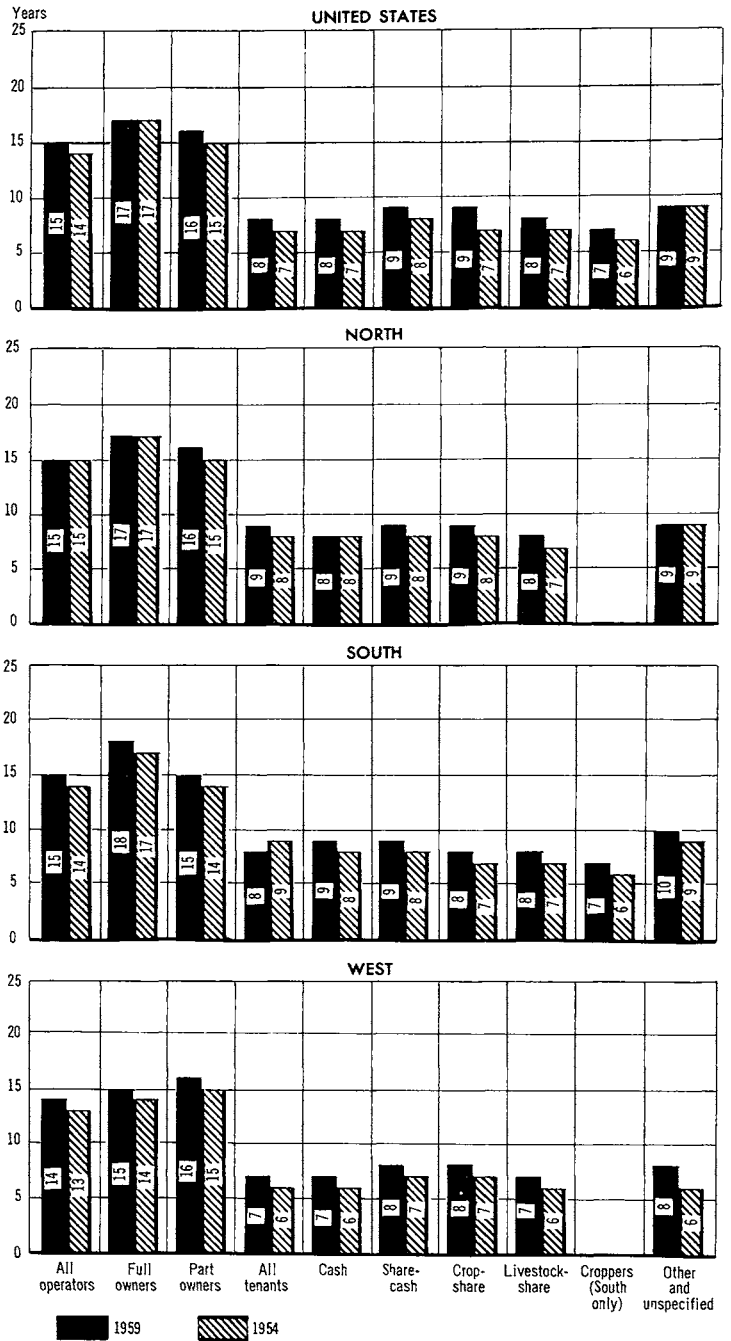
PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS WITH OTHER INCOME OF FAMILY EXCEEDING THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959 AND 1954



LENGTH OF TENURE AND MOBILITY

Years on present farm.—In 1959 farm operators had been on their present farms an average of 15 years, compared with 13 years in 1950 and 12 years in 1940. The advancing age of farm operators may account for most of the change, as the average age

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS ON PRESENT FARM, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959 AND 1954



of farmers had increased by 2.5 years since 1940. This gradual lengthening of the period of occupancy while farm size has been growing so rapidly indicates that many farmers have expanded their operations by absorbing neighboring land instead of moving to larger farms. The average period of occupancy was slightly longer in the North and South than in the West.

Owner-operators had occupied their farms twice as long as tenants. In 1959, full owners and part owners had been on their present farms 17 and 16 years, respectively, whereas tenants had occupied their present farms only 8 years. This large difference can be explained largely by the age differences between owner-operators and tenants. On the average, owners were 9.6 years older than tenants in 1959. Most tenants either move to the ranks of owner-operator or leave farming by the time they reach the older age groups. In addition, the mobility of tenants to shift from farm to farm also decreases their length of occupancy.