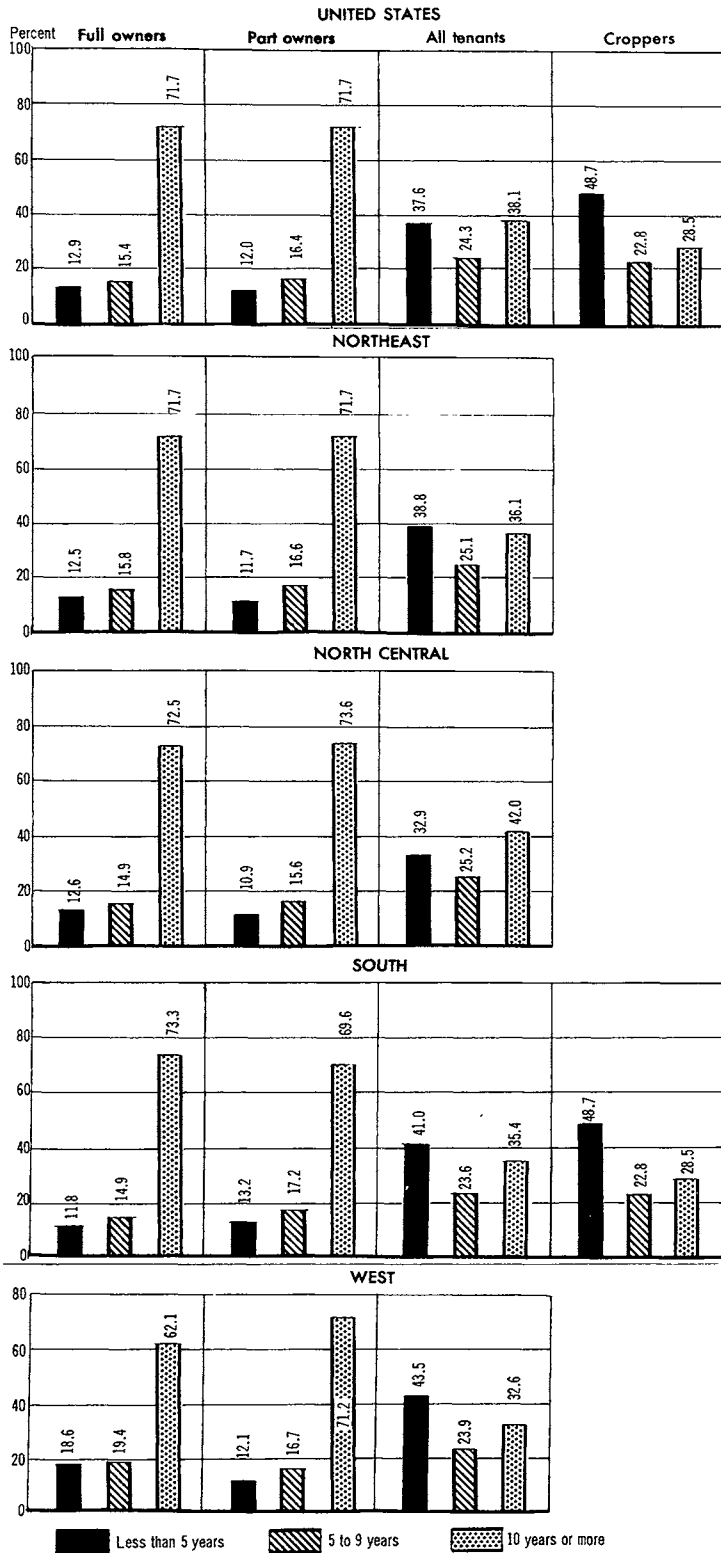


There was little variation in the average period of occupancy among the various tenant classes. The largest difference was in the South, where the range extended from 7 years for sharecroppers to 10 years for other and unspecified tenants. Livestock-share tenants were relatively low in their period of occupancy in all regions. Age may have been an important factor here as livestock-share tenants averaged 3.2 years younger than the average of all tenants.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS IN EACH TENURE GROUP, BY YEARS ON PRESENT FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959



Distribution of farms by years on present farm.—In 1959 nearly two-thirds of the farm operators (64.8 percent) had occupied their farms for 10 years or more, while the remaining 35.2 percent of the operators were evenly divided between those who had been on their present farms from 5 to 9 years and those who had been on their present farms less than 5 years. Since 1910 the proportion of farmers occupying their present farms 10 years or more has steadily increased. In 1910 only 31.1 percent of the farm operators had been on their farms 10 years or more, while 51.8 percent had occupied their farms less than 5 years.

There was very little difference in length of time on present farm between full owners and part owners in any of the regions. For the United States, approximately 72 percent of the owner-operators had been on their farms 10 years or more; 16 percent, from 5 to 9 years; and 12 percent, less than 5 years. The tenants, however, were grouped mainly into two groups. Approximately 38 percent of the tenants of the United States had been on their present farms 10 years or more and an additional 38 percent had occupied the present farm less than 5 years. Nearly one-half of the croppers had been on their farms less than 5 years.

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS BY YEARS ON FARM, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1959

