

erators of farms with gross sales of \$2,500 to \$9,999 working off the farm 100 or more days as indicated by the following data :

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING WORK OFF THE FARM, BY TOTAL VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1949

Value of farm products sold per farm	Percent of farm operators reporting—					
	Work off farm			100 or more days of work off farm		
	1959	1954	1949	1959	1954	1949
All farm operators.....	44.8	45.0	38.8	29.8	27.9	23.3
Under \$2,500.....	58.1	55.5	47.6	46.1	40.5	32.6
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	43.4	36.3	28.3	28.7	18.2	11.0
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	35.1	31.2	24.0	16.2	10.2	7.0
\$10,000 or more.....	26.6	25.6	21.0	9.9	7.5	6.7

The most significant change in off-farm work since 1954 has been in the increased proportion of farm operators working 100 or more days off the farm. Of the farm operators working off the farm in 1959, 66.5 percent reported 100 or more days of off-farm work. This compares with 61.9 percent in 1954. The proportion of all farm operators working any days off the farm has remained relatively constant at about 45 percent. If the definition of a farm had not been changed the proportion of farm operators working off their farms for 1959 would have been higher.

Of the three regions, the West had the highest proportion of all operators working off the farm 100 or more days, 35.6 percent, whereas the South had the greatest increase as the proportion increased from 29.5 percent in 1954, to 32.9 percent in 1959. In the South in 1959, 35.1 percent of the white operators worked off the farm 100 or more days compared to only 21.4 percent of the nonwhite operators.

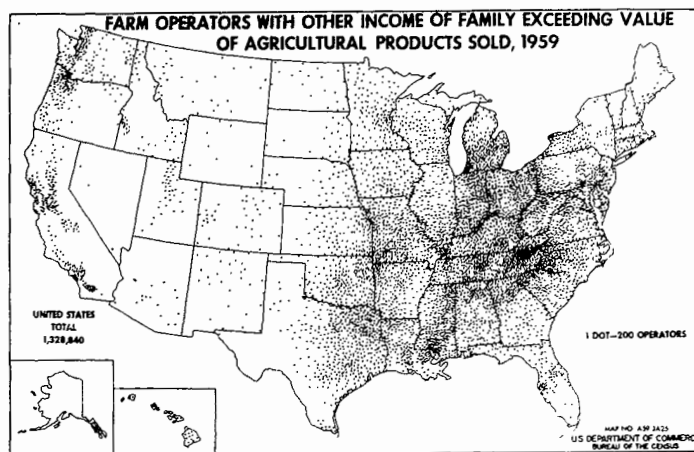
The change in the number of farm operators working off their farms from 1954 to 1959 is affected by the change in the definition of a farm, and also by the large decline in the number of farms with relatively low gross sales of farm products. More than half of the farm operators of farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500 worked off their farms in 1954. In 1959, on the other hand, there was a substantial increase in the number of farm operators working off their farms 100 days or more in areas, such as the Midwest, where there are substantial numbers of farms with sales of farm products of \$2,500 to \$9,999.

Other members of operator's family.—For 1959, 21.6 percent of all farm operators reported other members of their family performed work off the farm, compared with 15.9 percent in 1954.

The proportion of farm operators reporting members of their families having nonfarm jobs, businesses, or professions is much greater for the group of farms with the farm operator working off the farm than for the group of farms with the farm operator not working off the farm.

Off-farm income.—For 1959, 39.3 percent of all farm operators reported income from sources other than the farm operated as compared with 27.9 percent in 1954. This income included sale of products from land rented out, cash rent, boarders, old-age assistance, pensions, allowances, unemployment compensation, interest, dividends, profits from nonfarm business, and help from members of their families. Since 1954, the proportion of farm operators reporting income from sources other than the farm operated has increased in every geographic division.

The importance of this off-farm income has also increased. The proportion of farm operators reporting family income from off-farm sources exceeding the value of agricultural products sold has increased from 29.8 percent in 1954, to 35.8 percent in 1959. If there had been no change in definition of a farm the



proportion would have been 38.8 percent in 1959. Although the proportions for all geographic areas increased, the increase for the South was more than for any other area.

In 1959, three-fifths of the farm operators of farms, with the farm operator reporting work off the farm, reported the income of the farm operator and members of his family from sources off the farm exceeded the value of farm products sold. There was also a significant number of farm operators not working off their farms (or not reporting work off their farms) with income from off-farm sources exceeding the value of farm products sold.

Income of farm operators' families from sources other than the farm operated.—Data on the amount of income of farm operators' families from sources other than the farm operated are available from a special survey made for a sample of farms in 1960. The relative importance of income of the families of farm operators from sources other than the farm operated has been increasing. In 1960, 4 out of 5 farm-operator families received income from other sources as compared with 7 out of 10 which received income from sources other than the farm operated in 1955. The average income per farm-operator family from other sources was 36 percent greater in 1960 than in 1955. The average income from other sources per operator-family with income from other sources was \$2,926 in 1960, as compared with \$2,405 in 1955.

Income from wages and salaries, nonfarm businesses, social security, and Soil Bank payments have become increasingly important sources of income of farm-operator families. In 1960, 45 out of 100 farm-operator families received income from wages and salaries, one out of 10 farm-operator families received income from nonfarm businesses or professional practices, and one out of 6 received income from social security, pensions, retirement pay, etc. Wages, salaries, and income from nonfarm businesses or professional practices were important income sources on part-time farms. Almost half the income from wages, salaries, and nonfarm businesses or professional practices for all farm operators was received by operators of part-time farm operations. The average income per part-time farm-operator family from these sources was \$3,768. Almost 4 out of 5 families of part-retirement farm operators received income from social security, pensions, etc., and their income from such sources was equal to almost 15 percent of the income of all farm-operator families from such sources.

Income from sources other than the farm operated was important for farm-operator families of all sizes of farms. Almost 70 percent of the families of the operators of commercial farms received income from sources other than the farm operated and the amount of income from such sources averaged \$1,753. Approximately seven-tenths of the families of operators of farms with a value of farm products sold of \$10,000 or more had income from sources other than the farm operated and the income from other sources averaged more than \$2,800 per farm-operator family.