

CHAPTER II

AGE, RESIDENCE, YEARS ON FARM, WORK OFF FARM

(65)

	Page
Introduction.....	67
Source of data.....	67
Presentation of statistics.....	67
Other published data.....	67
Comparability of 1959 data with earlier Censuses.....	67

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Farm operator.....	68
Commercial farms and other farms.....	68
Croppers.....	70

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS—Continued

	Page
Age of operator.....	70
Residence of farm operator.....	73
Years on present farm (year began operation of present farm).....	73
Off-farm work.....	77
Off-farm work by other members of farm operator's family..	81
Income of farm operator from sources other than farm operated.....	81
Relationship of income from off-farm sources to value of agricultural products sold.....	82

CHARTS

	Page
Farm operators by age, for the United States: 1920 to 1959	71
Age of farm operator—number of operators reporting, by tenure, for the United States: 1910 to 1959.....	73
Percent of farm operators on present farms 1 year or less, by tenure: 1910 to 1959.....	75
Years on farms—number of operators reporting, by tenure, for the United States: 1910 to 1959.....	77

	Page
Number of farm operators reporting work off their farms, by number of days, by tenure, for the United States: 1934 to 1959.....	78
Off-farm work and other income of farm operator and his family—number and percent of operators reporting, for the United States: 1959 and 1954.....	82

MAPS

	Page
Number of farms—increase and decrease, 1954-1959.....	69
Number of farms—decrease due to change in definition, 1954-1959.....	69
Percent of farm operators 65 years of age and over, 1959..	72
Percent of farm operators reporting residence off their farms, 1959.....	72
Farm operators reporting any off-farm work, number, 1959..	79
Farm operators working off their farms 100 days or more, number, 1959.....	79

	Page
Farm operators working off their farms, increase and decrease, in number, 1954-1959.....	80
Farm operators working off their farms 100 days or more, increase and decrease, in number, 1954-1959.....	80
Percent of all farm operators working off their farms, 1959.....	81
Farm operators with other income of family exceeding value of agricultural products sold, 1959.....	83

TABLES

Table—	Page
1.—Age, off-farm work by operator, and relationship of other family income to value of agricultural products sold, for places not counted as farms in 1959 because of change in definition of farm, and for Census farms; for the conterminous United States: 1959 and 1954.....	68
2.—Specified farm and farm-operator characteristics, by economic class and type, for commercial and other farms for the United States: 1959.....	70
3.—Farm operators reporting residence on or off farm for selected counties: 1959 and 1954.....	74
4.—Years on farm as classified for each census, with the number of operators in each classification: 1920 to 1959.....	76
5.—Month of occupancy for farm operators who began operation of their present farms since the beginning of the census year, for the conterminous United States, the North, the South, and the West: 1959 and 1954.....	77
6.—Farm operators by age, 1890 to 1959; and in each tenure, by age, for the United States: 1910 to 1959.....	84
7.—Farm operators in each color, and tenure, by age, for the South: 1920 to 1959.....	86
8.—Operators of commercial and other farms in each tenure, by age, for the United States, the North, and the West; and in each color and tenure for the South: 1959 and 1954.....	88
9.—Residence of farm operators, by tenure, for the United States: 1945 to 1959.....	96
10.—Residence of farm operators, by color and tenure, for the South: 1945 to 1959.....	96
11.—Residence of operators of commercial and other farms, by tenure for the United States, the North, and the West; and by color and tenure for the South: 1959 and 1954.....	97
12.—Operators of commercial and other farms in each tenure, by years on present farm, with percent distribution, for the United States, the North, and the West; and in each color and tenure for the South: 1959 and 1954.....	102
13.—Farm operators in each tenure, by years on present farm, with percent distribution, for the United States: 1910 to 1959..	110
14.—Farm operators in each color and tenure, by years on present farm, with percent distribution, for the South: 1910 to 1959	111
15.—Off-farm work by farm operators, for the United States: 1929 to 1959.....	113
16.—Off-farm work by farm operators, by tenure, for the United States: 1934 to 1959.....	113
17.—Off-farm work by farm operators, by color and tenure, for the South: 1934 to 1959.....	114
18.—Off-farm work by operators of commercial and other farms, and other income, by tenure of operator, for the United States, the North, and the West; and by color and tenure of operator for the South: 1959 and 1954.....	116
19.—Farm operators, by age, by divisions and States: 1940 to 1959.....	124
20.—Farm operators in each tenure (color and tenure for the South), by age, by divisions and States: 1959.....	128
21.—Residence of farm operators, by divisions and States: 1940 to 1959.....	140
22.—Residence of farm operators, by tenure (color and tenure for the South), by divisions and States: 1959.....	142
23.—Farm operators, by years on present farm, by divisions and States: 1945 to 1959.....	148
24.—Farm operators in each tenure (color and tenure for the South), by years on present farm, by divisions and States: 1959..	150
25.—Farm operators, by month and year of occupancy of present farm, by divisions and States: Census of 1959..	162
26.—Off-farm work by farm operator and by other members of farm operator's family, by divisions and States: 1934 to 1959....	164
27.—Off-farm work and other income, by tenure of operator, by divisions and States: 1959.....	168
28.—Other income of farm operator and relationship of other income to value of agricultural products sold, by divisions and States: 1959 and 1954.....	190

Chapter II.—AGE, RESIDENCE, YEARS ON FARM, WORK OFF FARM

Introduction.—The statistics presented in this chapter relate to the operators of farms and to off-farm work by members of the operator's family. The data for operators are shown for classifications based upon the following characteristics: Age; place of residence (whether on or off the farm operated); number of years on their present farm, and for those who reported a recent date, the month they began to operate their present farm; and the number of days farm operators worked off their farms in 1959. Data are also included regarding off-farm work by members of the operator's family; the receipt of income from sources other than the farm operated by the farm operator; and the relationship of the off-farm income received by the farm operator's family to the total value of farm products sold from the farm operated in 1959. Statistics are included for farms grouped by "commercial" and "other" by tenure of operator and by color and tenure of operator for the Southern States. Derived data are provided to aid in the use of the data.

Source of Data.—All data presented in this chapter are from the 1959 Census of Agriculture with comparative data from earlier censuses. In 1959, the inquiries relating to the operator's age, residence, number of years on farm, off-farm work by operator and by other members of the operator's family, other income of operators, and the relationship of off-farm income to the value of agricultural products sold were obtained for all farm operators. However, most of the data presented in this chapter are estimates based on tabulations of reports for only a sample of farms. All data for Alaska and Hawaii for 1959 and earlier censuses, and some data for residence of farm operator for the conterminous United States are the only data based on tabulations of reports for all farm operators.

Estimates made from the tabulation of information for only a sample of farms are based on a sample of approximately 20

percent of all farm operators. The tables presenting these estimates based on a sample of farms have an appropriate headnote. Estimates based on a sample of farms are subject to sampling errors, and do not agree exactly with similar data tabulated for all farms. A description of enumeration procedures, processing of the data, sampling method used, and statistical tables giving the reliability of the estimates based on a sample of farms may be found in the Introduction to this volume.

Presentation of Statistics.—The statistics are presented for the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii; for the conterminous United States; for 3 major regions; for 9 geographic divisions; and for each of the 50 States. An outline map showing the regions, geographic divisions, and the States, for which data are presented, appears in the Introduction to this volume.

This chapter contains 28 tables, 10 of which present data by geographic divisions and States. The remaining tables contain data for the United States and, in some instances, for major geographic regions. For 16 of the tables data are shown by tenure of operator and by color and tenure of operator for the South. The tabular presentation is also supplemented by maps and charts.

Other Published Data.—Data for States and counties from the 1959 Census of Agriculture are available in volume I for farm operators classified by age, residence, off-farm work, and by the relationship of off-farm income to the value of agricultural products sold. No State or county data were published in volume I for 1959 for number of years on present farm. The following table summarizes the kind and source of other published data from the 1959 Census of Agriculture in volume I and in this volume for the related items presented in this chapter.

OTHER PUBLISHED DATA FOR AGE, RESIDENCE, YEARS ON FARM, WORK OFF FARM, AND OTHER INCOME:
1959 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Where found	Geographic area for which available	Period	Classification	Subjects covered	Basis of tabulation 1959
Volume I					
State table 4-----	State-----	1920 to 1959.	All farm operators-----	Age of operator, residence, off-farm work, off-the-farm income.	Sample.
State table 10-----	State-----	1959-----	Places not counted as farms because of change in definition.	Years on place, age, off-farm work, off-the-farm income.	Complete count.
State tables 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.	State-----	1959-----	Economic class, size, commercial type, commercial tenure.	Age of operator, residence, off-farm work, off-the-farm income.	Sample.
County table 4-----	County and State-----	1959-----	Commercial farms-----	Off-farm work, off-the-farm income-----	Sample.
County table 5-----	County and State-----	1959 and 1954.	All farm operators-----	Age of operator, off-farm work, off-the-farm income.	Sample.
County table 6-----	County and State-----	1959 and 1954.	All farm operators-----	Residence of operator-----	Complete count.
Volume II					
Chapter X-----	United States, Divisions, and States.	1959 and 1954.	Commercial and "other" farms by tenure of operator.	Age of operator, off-farm work, off-the-farm income, years on farm.	Sample.
Chapter XI-----	United States, Divisions, and States.	1959 and 1954.	Economic class of farm-----	Age of operator, off-farm work, off-the-farm income.	Sample.
Chapter XII-----			Commercial farms, by type of farm and "other" farms.		

Comparability of 1959 Data With Earlier Censuses.—Comparability of data for the various censuses is influenced by changes in the wording of the inquiries, the instructions or definitions given to enumerators, the procedures used to collect and compile the statistics, and by the changes in the definition of a farm. In presenting statistics from earlier years, headnotes, footnotes, and the wording in the table stub or in the column headings are used to indicate any significant lack of comparability. In 1959,

data for the United States include data for Alaska and Hawaii. Data for Alaska and Hawaii from earlier censuses for 1950, 1940, 1930, 1920, 1910, and 1900 have been included in United States totals whenever comparable data are available. For some censuses many of the inquiries, related to the subjects for which data are presented in this chapter, were not asked in Alaska or Hawaii and for some censuses prior to 1959, the processing and tabulation of the data for Alaska and Hawaii were not always

identical with those for the conterminous United States. For example, data for tenants in Alaska for all censuses and for tenants in Hawaii for the 1940, 1930, 1920, 1910, and 1900 censuses are not available by class of tenant. Thus, whenever there are data shown by class of tenant, all data for tenants for Alaska or Hawaii for those years are included in the classification "other and unspecified tenants." Also, during past censuses the date of enumeration for Alaska and Hawaii has differed from that for the conterminous United States. Again footnotes are used to indicate any lack of comparability arising from the characteristics of the data available for Alaska and Hawaii. For the items in this chapter, the inclusion or exclusion of data for Alaska and Hawaii for earlier censuses has no significant effect on the usefulness of the data, especially United States totals. The inquiries for the censuses of 1959, 1954, and 1950 were essentially the same for the various items presented in this chapter.

The comparability of data for censuses of 1959 and 1950 to prior censuses has been affected by changes in the definition of a farm. In 1959, data were tabulated for the 232,000 places which were not considered as farms in 1959 but which would have been farms in 1954. These places account for about one-fifth of the decline in number of farms since 1954. Although these places produce only a small portion of the total agricultural production, their exclusion from the 1959 totals had a definite effect on the change in characteristics of farm operators

between 1959 and 1954. These places are characterized by having a high proportion of the operators reporting 65 years of age or more, 200 or more days work off the place during 1959, and other income of family exceeding the value of agricultural products sold. Many of these places are rural residences and the operators work at regular nonfarm jobs or are retired from farming or nonfarm employment. The agricultural enterprises on these places are used mostly to supplement the off-farm income or as a hobby for the operator or his family.

Table 1 shows selected data for 1959 census farms, 1959 data for places not counted as farms because of change in definition, 1959 totals for census farms and places not counted as farms, and comparative data for 1954. The proportion of farm operators 65 years of age and older has increased from 16.6 percent in 1954 to 16.8 percent in 1959, but if there had been no change in the definition of a farm the proportion would have been 17.4 percent in 1959. Although 23.6 percent of the farm operators reported 200 or more days of work off the farm in 1959 compared to 21.5 percent in 1954, the proportion would have been 25.4 percent for 1959 if the definition of a farm had not been changed. Operators reporting income of family from sources other than from the farm operated exceeding the value of agricultural products sold increased from 29.8 percent in 1954 to 35.8 percent in 1959, but would have increased to 38.8 percent, if not for the change in definition of a farm.

Table 1.—AGE, OFF-FARM WORK BY OPERATOR, AND RELATIONSHIP OF OTHER FAMILY INCOME TO VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR PLACES NOT COUNTED AS FARMS IN 1959 BECAUSE OF CHANGE IN DEFINITION OF FARM, AND FOR CENSUS FARMS; FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959 AND 1954

[Data, except places not counted as farms, are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text.]

Item	Farms, 1959		Places not counted as farms in 1959		Farms and places not counted as farms, 1959		Farms, 1954 ¹	
	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution	Number	Percent distribution
All farms or places.....	3,701,364	xxx	231,862	xxx	3,933,226	xxx	4,783,021	xxx
Operators reporting age.....	3,664,423	100.0	231,399	100.0	3,895,822	100.0	4,695,569	100.0
Under 55 years.....	2,246,773	61.3	128,673	55.6	2,375,446	61.0	2,964,977	63.1
55 to 64 years.....	801,216	21.9	42,069	18.2	843,285	21.6	951,310	20.3
65 or more years.....	616,434	16.8	60,637	26.2	677,091	17.4	779,282	16.6
Operators not reporting age.....	36,941	xxx	463	xxx	37,404	xxx	87,452	xxx
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
Operators reporting work off their farms in 1959.....	1,659,933	44.8	155,068	66.9	1,815,001	46.1	2,153,737	45.0
1 to 49 days.....	380,081	10.3	8,365	3.6	388,446	9.9	570,675	11.9
50 to 99 days.....	175,786	4.7	7,502	3.2	183,288	4.7	249,337	5.2
100 to 199 days.....	229,458	6.2	14,827	6.4	244,285	6.2	306,377	6.4
200 or more days.....	874,608	23.6	124,374	53.6	998,982	25.4	1,027,348	21.5
Operators reporting not working off their farms or not reporting as to work off their farms.....	2,041,431	55.2	76,794	33.1	2,118,225	53.9	2,629,284	55.0
Operators reporting other income of family exceeding value of agricultural products sold.....	1,324,652	35.8	203,146	87.6	1,527,798	38.8	1,424,233	29.8

¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

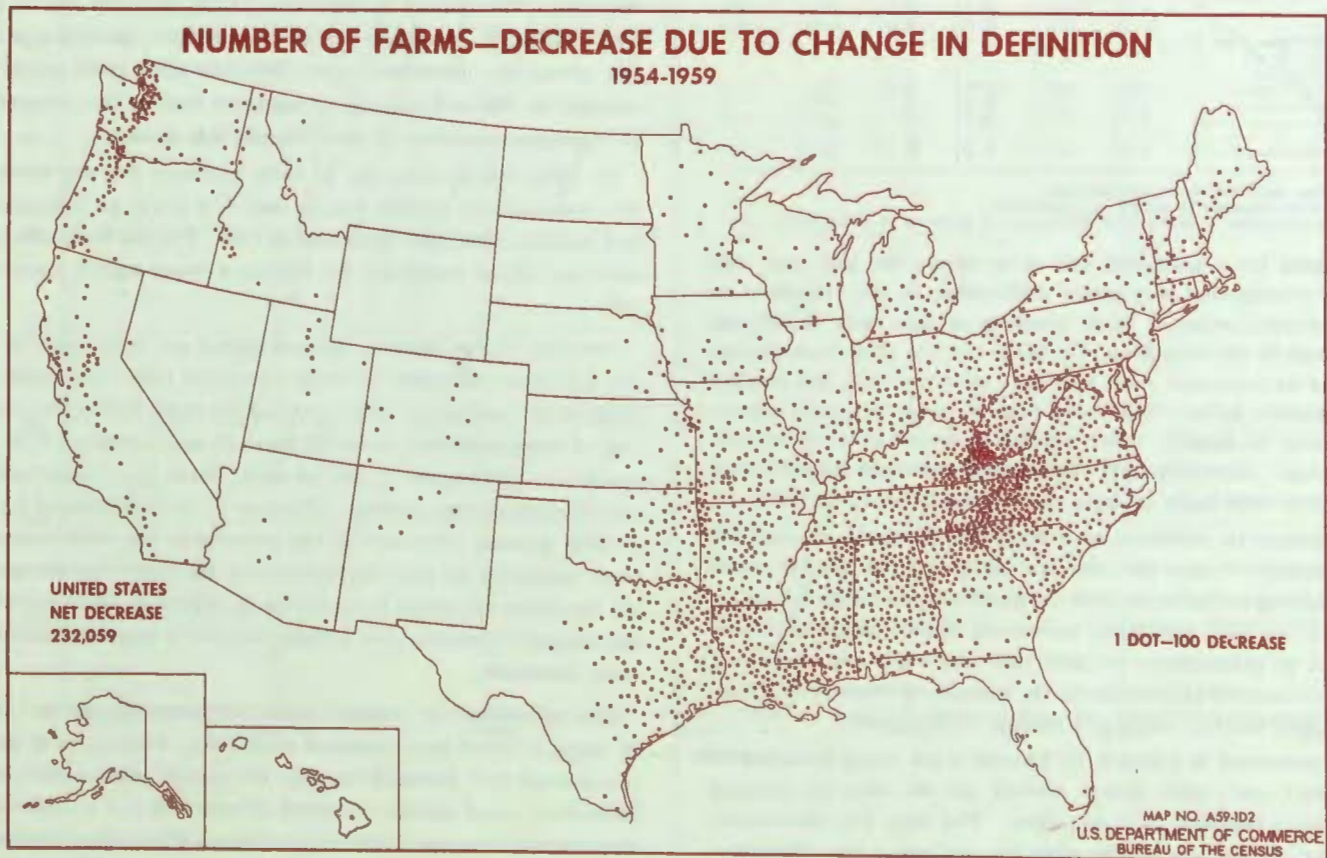
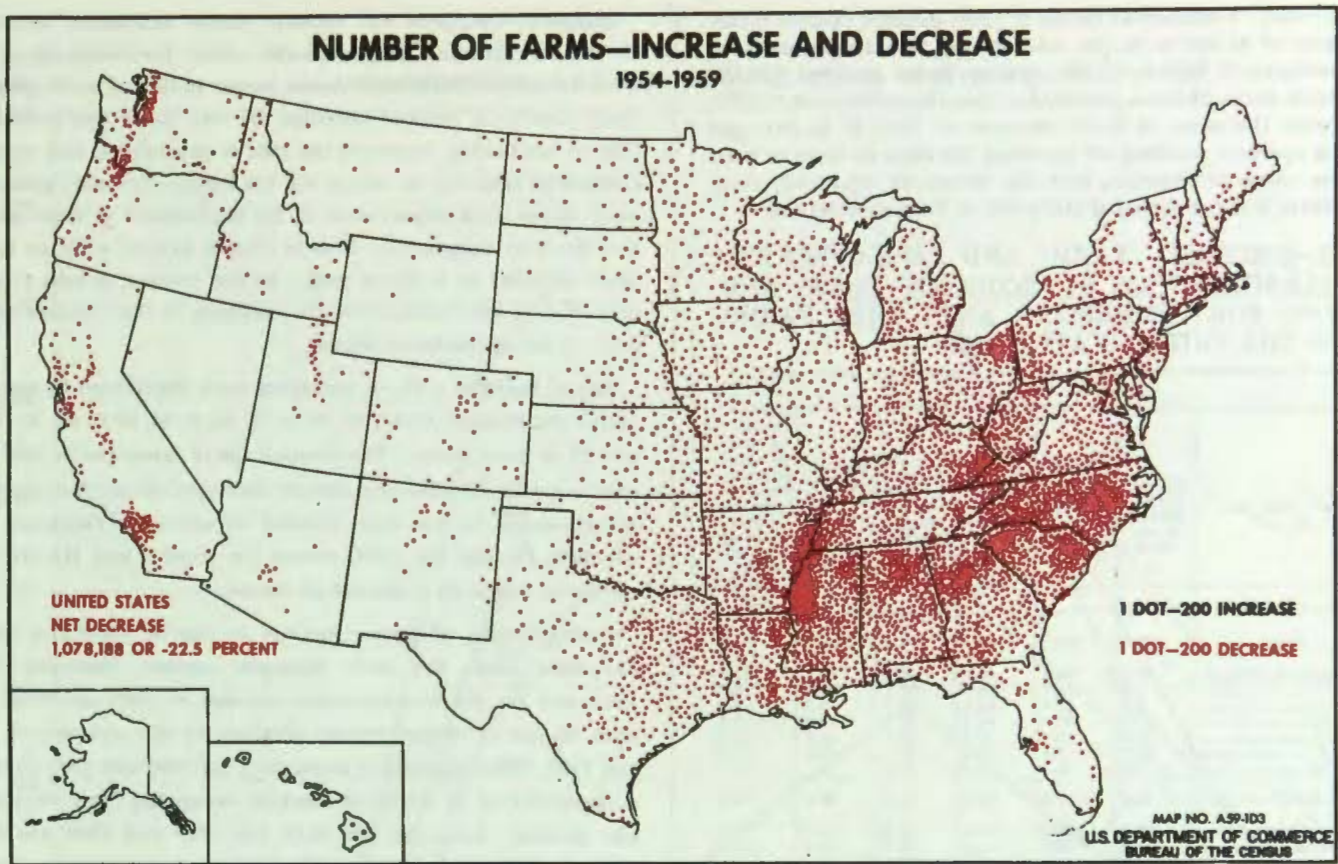
DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

For definitions having a general application, such as those for "a farm," "farms reporting," and "operators reporting," the classification of farms by tenure of operator and economic class of farm, and factors influencing the reliability of the data, see the Introduction to this volume.

Farm Operator.—A "farm operator" is a person who operates a farm either performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. He may be an owner, a hired manager, or a tenant. If he rents land to others or had land cropped for him by others, he is listed as the operator of only the acreage which he retains. In the case of a partnership, the characteristics were tabulated for only one member. The number of farm operators is considered the same as the number of farms.

Commercial Farms and Other Farms.—Data are presented for age of operator, days worked off the farm, residence of operator, and years on farm, for commercial and other farms for both 1959 and 1954.

In 1959, commercial farms comprised all farms with sales of farm products of \$2,500 and over plus all farms with sales of less than \$2,500, provided the farm operator was (1) under 65 years of age and (2) that the farm operator did not work off the farm 100 days or more in 1959, or that the farm operator did not report that the income that he and members of his family received from off-the-farm sources exceeded the value of farm products sold. The total of 2,416,017 commercial farms included 348,954 farms with the value of farm products sold of less than \$2,500. All farms, including abnormal (institutional farms), not classified as commercial were considered "other" farms. These 1,291,956 other farms included part-time and part-retirement farms. (See Introduction for definition of these economic classes of farms.) In 1954, commercial farms comprised all farms with sales of farm products of \$2,500, plus all farms with sales of farm products of \$250 to \$1,199, provided the farm operator did not work off the farm 100 days or more, or did not report the income received from off-the-farm sources received by him and members of his family did not exceed the value of farm



products sold. Commercial farms in 1954 included 763,348 farms with sales of \$1,200 to \$2,499, and 462,427 farms with sales of farm products of \$250 to \$1,199. Other farms included 878,136 farms with value of farm products of less than \$250, and 574,575 farms with the sales of farm products of \$250 to \$1,199, and the farm operator working off the farm 100 days or more or with the farm operator reporting that the income of his family from off-the-farm sources exceeded the value of farm products sold.

Table 2.—SPECIFIED FARM AND FARM-OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS, BY ECONOMIC CLASS AND TYPE, FOR COMMERCIAL AND OTHER¹ FARMS FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959

[Data for conterminous United States are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text.]

Economic class and type of farm ²	Percent distribution of all farms	Percent distribution of value of agricultural products sold	Average age of operator (years)	Percent of farm operators residing on farm operated ³	Percent of farm operators working off-farm 100 days or more	Percent of farm operators reporting other income exceeding value of agricultural products sold
Total farms.....	100.0	100.0	50.5	92.8	29.9	35.8
Total commercial farms...	65.2	96.2	48.6	92.6	14.5	12.5
Class I.....	2.8	31.5	46.5	82.1	9.5	5.7
Class II.....	5.7	18.4	46.1	90.7	9.0	5.9
Class III.....	13.0	21.9	46.3	93.5	10.4	6.9
Class IV.....	17.6	15.4	48.4	93.5	16.2	12.6
Class V.....	16.7	7.4	50.9	92.4	26.7	27.3
Class VI.....	9.4	1.5	50.3	94.3
All other farms ²	34.8	3.8	54.2	93.3	58.6	79.4
Commercial farms by type.....	100.0	100.0	48.6	92.6	14.5	12.5
Cash-grain.....	16.5	15.0	47.6	87.8	15.1	10.8
Tobacco.....	7.9	3.0	47.0	94.8	8.3	7.0
Cotton.....	10.0	8.3	47.7	92.0	9.0	6.8
Other field-crop.....	1.6	2.7	46.9	90.1	11.7	8.7
Vegetable.....	0.9	2.2	49.0	86.1	15.1	12.7
Fruit-and-nut.....	2.5	4.5	52.9	83.6	27.2	26.1
Poultry.....	4.3	6.8	49.9	96.3	28.8	29.9
Dairy.....	17.7	15.7	47.9	97.6	12.8	8.7
Livestock farms other than poultry and dairy farms and livestock ranches....	25.5	27.4	49.4	93.5	15.4	15.0
Livestock ranches.....	2.8	4.8	52.5	78.4	24.6	23.7
General.....	8.8	7.9	48.6	95.5	11.4	10.1
Miscellaneous.....	1.5	2.5	51.9	84.1	22.0	24.8

¹Part-time, part-retirement, and abnormal.

²See text and Chapters XI and XII for definitions.

³Percent calculated on the basis of farm operators reporting as to residence.

The data for commercial and other farms for 1959 and 1954 are not comparable because of differences in the classification of farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500 and the change in the definition of a farm. If the 1959 classification of farms by economic class had been used for 1954, the number of commercial farms would have been reduced by approximately 400,000 and the number of other farms increased by a corresponding amount. Approximately three-fourths of these 400,000 farms were farms with sales of farm products of \$1,200 to \$2,499.

The change in definition of a farm for 1959 also affected the comparability of data for 1959 and 1954. Of the 232,000 places not qualifying as farms in 1959 but qualifying as farms in accordance with the 1954 definition, more than 200,000 would have been classified as other farms in both 1959 and 1954, and, therefore, 200,000 or more of the change in the number of other farms from 1954 to 1959 was the result of a change in definition.

Data presented in tables 8, 11, 12, and 18 for farms classified as commercial and other farms, should not be used for making comparisons between 1959 and 1954. The data for commercial and other farms are useful only for analyzing the characteristics of all farms classified by age of operator, days of off-farm work, years on farm, residence, etc., for each census.

Croppers.—Croppers are tenants whose landlords furnished all the workpower. The landlords either furnished all of the work animals or furnished tractor power in lieu of work animals. Traditionally, a cropper provides his own labor and sometimes that of his family, shares in the risk of production, and receives a share of the crop in return for his labor. Croppers generally work under close supervision of the landowners or their agents and the land assigned to them is often a part of a larger enterprise operated as a single unit. As the cropper system is most prevalent in the South, data for croppers in this chapter relate only to the 16 Southern States.

Age of Operator.—Farm operators were distributed by age into one of six groups: Under 25, 25 to 34, 35 to 44, 45 to 54, 55 to 64, and 65 or more years. The average age of operators in 1959 was calculated by dividing the sum of the years of age for operators reporting age by the total number of operators reporting age. All data for age for 1959, except for Alaska and Hawaii, are estimates based on a sample of farms.

A distribution of farm operators by age by color and tenure has been made for each decennial census, beginning with 1910, and for the mid-decennial censuses of 1945 and 1954. No data on age of operator were obtained in the censuses of 1925 and 1935. The censuses of population for 1890 and 1900 included a classification of heads of families occupying farm homes, by age groups. Although the data for 1890 and 1900 are on a slightly different basis, the data on age distribution by tenure of operator are reasonably comparable with those for other censuses. The inquiry in 1959 was, "How old were you on your last birthday?" Although the number of farm operators in each age group has decreased since 1954, the data show important changes in the average age of operator and in the proportions of operators reporting in the different age groups.

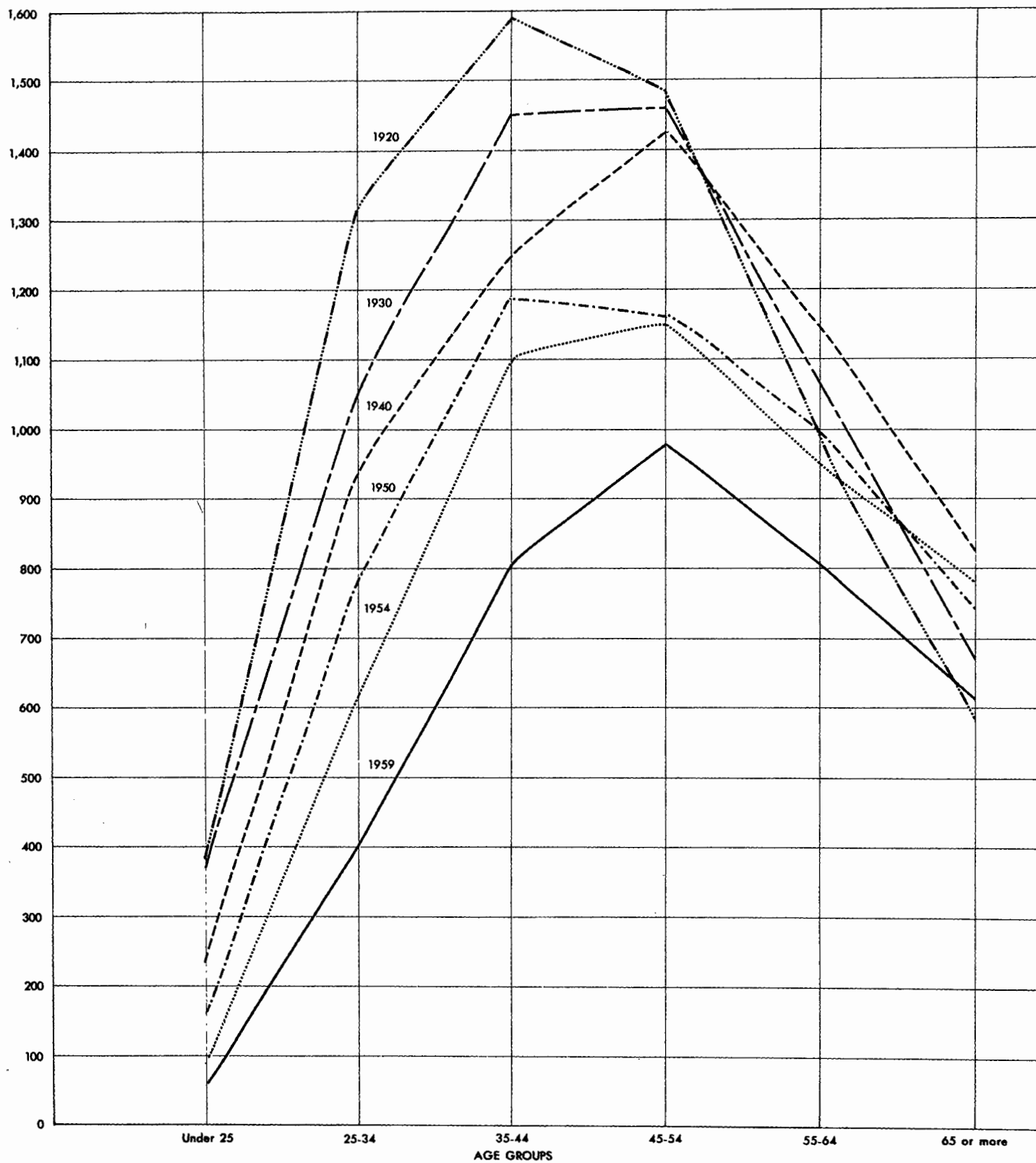
In 1959, the average age of farm operator for the States of the conterminous United States was 50.5 years as compared to 49.6 years in 1954, and 48.3 years in 1950. For the 3 regions, farm operators in the South had the highest average age, 51.5 years, in 1959.

For the United States, the proportion of farm operators in the age group 65 years or more, increased from 16.6 percent in 1954, to 16.8 percent in 1959. During the same period the proportion of farm operators under 35 years of age decreased from 15.1 percent to 12.7 percent. Two of every three farm operators are now 45 years of age or older. Changes in the definition of a farm in 1959 account for some of the changes in the distribution of farm operators by age, particularly in the older age groups, as the operators of places not counted as farms in 1959 because of the change of definition of a farm included a large proportion of older operators.

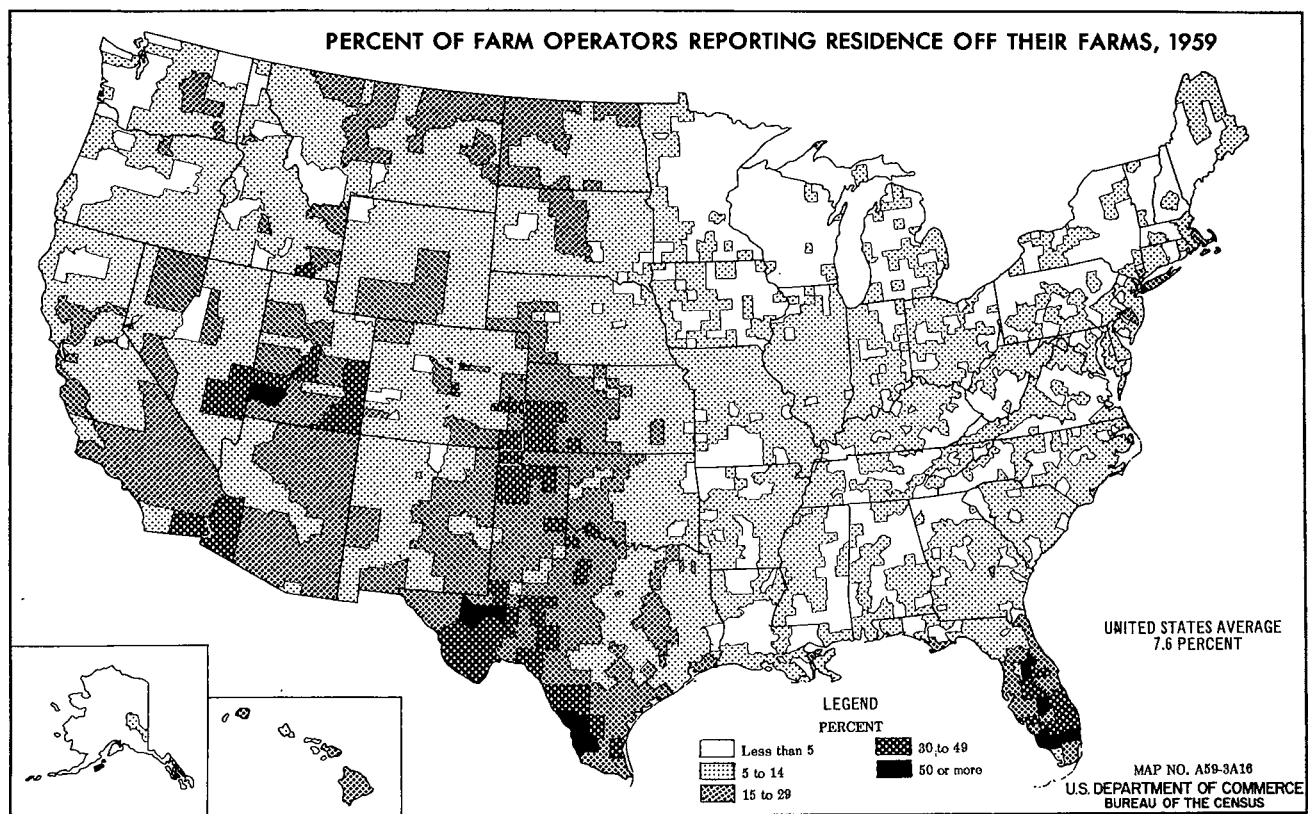
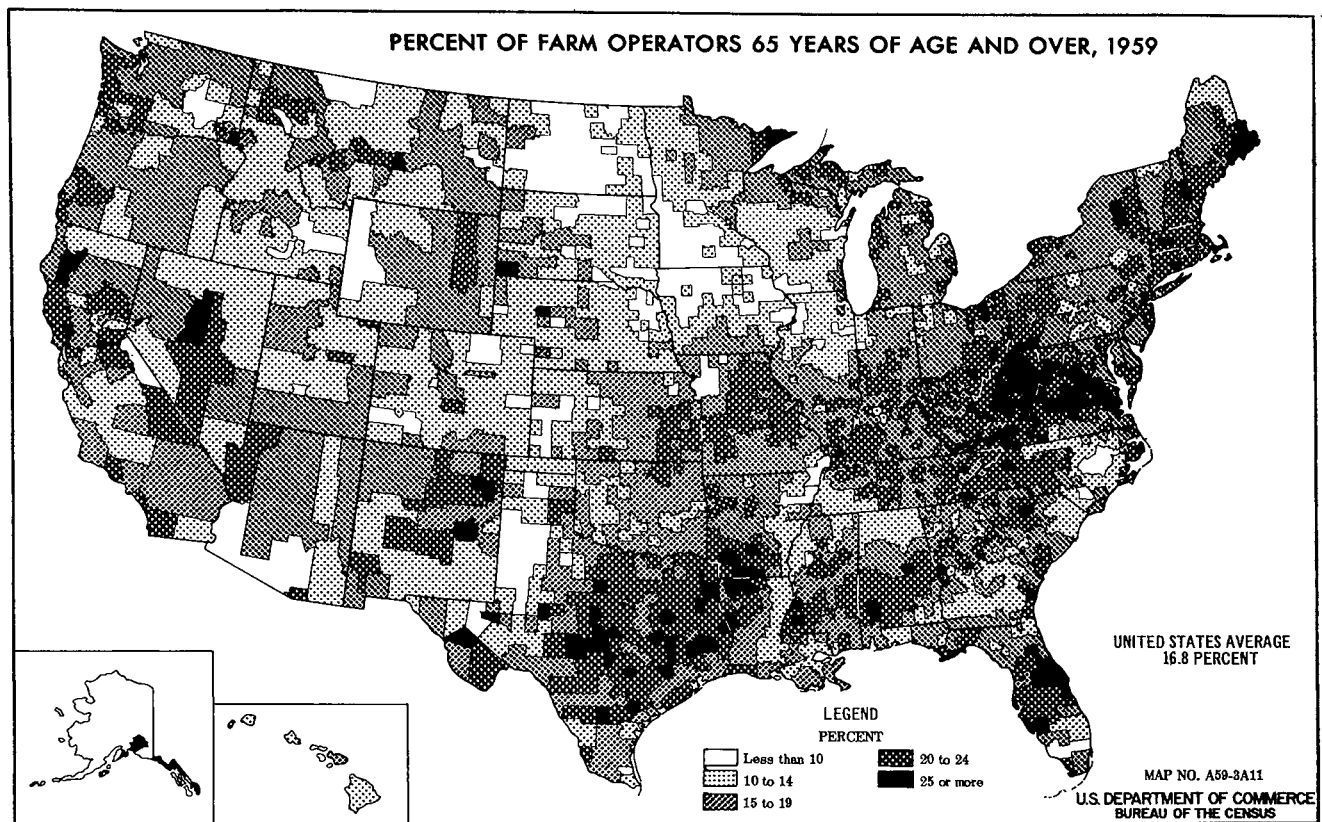
The proportion of tenants under 45 years of age and those 65 years or older has decreased since 1954. Fewer young people are moving into farming through the tenant system and it appears that many tenant operators 65 years of age or older have discontinued farming. Operators of farms with higher total sales of farm products are younger than the operators of farms in the groups having lower total value of farm products sold.

Farm operators
(000)

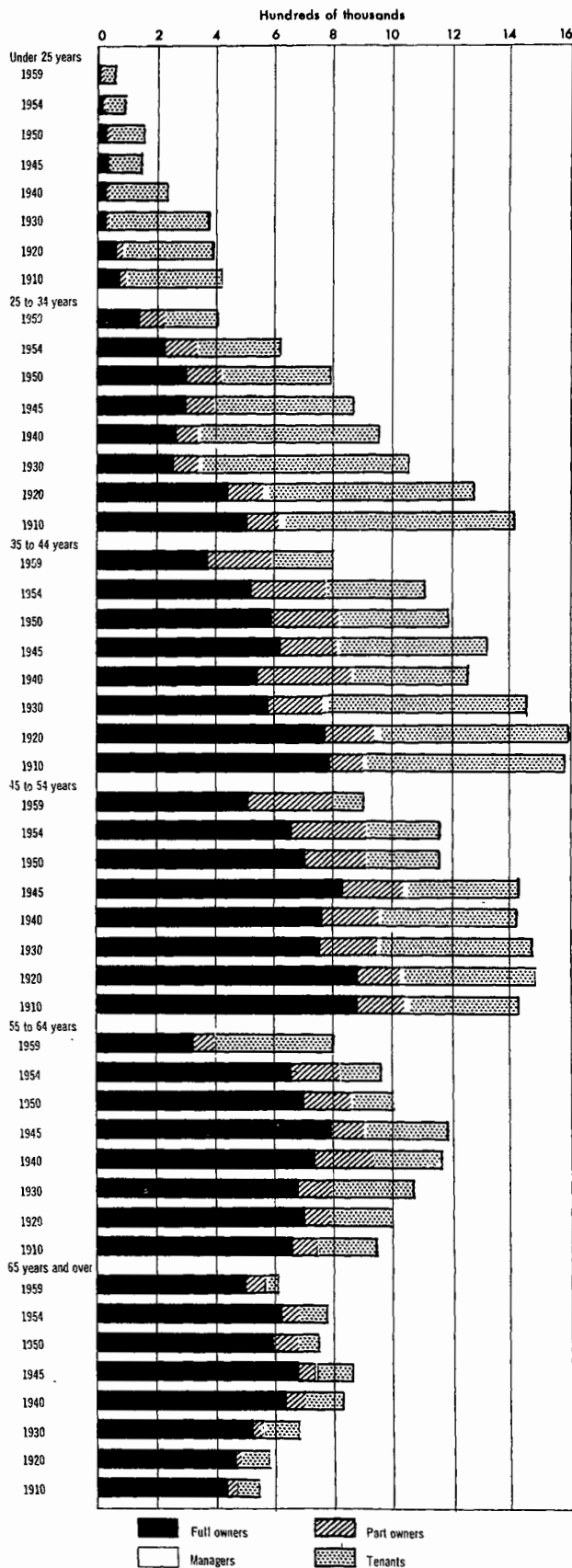
FARM OPERATORS BY AGE FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1920 TO 1959



GENERAL REPORT



AGE OF FARM OPERATORS—NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1959



Residence of Farm Operator.—Farm operators were classified by residence on the basis of whether or not they lived on the farm operated. The inquiry in 1959, 1954, and 1950 was:

220. Do you live on this place? No ☐ Yes ☐

Data as to residence of the farm operator have been obtained for the last five censuses beginning with 1940. This inquiry in 1959 was made for all farm operators and the replies were tabulated separately to provide data for residence of all farm operators. However, for some classifications of farms the data presented in this chapter represent estimates based on a sample of farms. Headnotes indicate the source of data for residence of operator in this chapter.

In a few cases operators actually not living on the farm operated were counted as living on the land comprising the farm. When a farm operator rented all land from others, or worked land on shares for others and secured the use of a dwelling as part of the rental arrangement, enumerators were instructed to consider the dwelling as a part of the farm operated. The dwelling assigned may or may not have been on a tract assigned for crops. Similarly, a farm operator who did not live on the land being cultivated or grazed, but who had some agricultural operations (other than a home garden) at his dwelling was considered as living on the farm operated. Since some operators live on their farms only a portion of the year, comparability of the figures for various censuses may be influenced slightly by the differences in the date of enumeration. Farm activities in some areas are restricted to short, but rather definite periods, especially for such crops as vegetables, fruits, nuts, wheat, and other small grains. In such cases the operator may live in nearby urban areas or at a considerable distance from the land he operates, being on his farm only during the planting and harvesting seasons.

About 93 percent of all farm operators reported that they lived on the farms they operated in 1959. By economic class, the proportion of nonresident operators is highest (about 18 percent) for farms in Economic Class I and lowest (about 6 percent) for farms in Economic Class VI. By type of farm, the proportion of nonresident operators ranges from a high of 21.6 percent for livestock ranches and 16.4 percent for fruit-and-nut farms to a low of 2.4 percent for dairy farms. The high proportion of non-residential operators for Economic Class I farms is related to type of farm as livestock ranches, vegetable farms, and fruit-and-nut farms make up one-third of all farms in Economic Class I. Agricultural operations in these types of farms are either seasonal or require less close supervision than other types of farms or the operator lives in an urban area, making it possible for operators to live off the farm all or most of the year.

Table 3 presents data for the residence of farm operators for counties with 150 or more nonresident farm operators in 1959, provided nonresident operators represented 20 percent or more of all farm operators in the county. These counties have been grouped according to the most important type or types of commercial farms in the county.

Years on Present Farm (Year Began Operation of Present Farm).—The data for years on present farm reflect the stability of operators on particular farms. It should be noted that the number of years does not refer to the total years of farm experience, but to the period during which the operator had been in continuous charge of his present farm or any part of it. For a farm operator who moved from another farm, the years on his present farm represent only part of his experience as a farmer. Likewise, a son who succeeds his father as operator of a particular farm may have had considerable previous farm experience before becoming a farm operator.

GENERAL REPORT

Table 3.—FARM OPERATORS REPORTING RESIDENCE ON OR OFF FARM FOR SELECTED COUNTIES:¹
1959 AND 1954

State, county, and type of agriculture	All farm operators (number)		Operators residing on farm operated (number)		Operators not residing on farm operated				Operators not reporting residence (number)		State, county, and type of agriculture	All farm operators (number)		Operators residing on farm operated (number)		Operators not residing on farm operated				Operators not reporting residence (number)	
					Number		Percent of operators reporting as to residence									Number		Percent of operators reporting as to residence			
	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954		1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954	1959	1954
CASH GRAIN											COTTON										
California: Colusa.....	768	746	534	590	207	148	27.9	20.1	27	8	Arizona: Pinal.....	700	1,047	432	703	166	332	27.8	32.1	102	12
Colorado: Baca.....	773	934	492	620	224	303	31.3	32.8	57	11	Yuma.....	771	569	453	423	294	125	39.4	22.8	24	21
Kansas: Finney.....	682	726	436	524	205	189	32.0	26.5	41	13	California: Kern.....	2,062	2,304	1,387	1,767	527	503	27.5	22.2	148	34
Ford.....	1,102	1,299	762	978	307	318	28.7	24.5	33	3	Texas: Caldwell.....	819	1,236	602	1,001	206	212	25.5	17.5	11	23
Gray.....	617	672	440	500	153	161	25.8	24.4	24	11	Childress.....	526	706	348	553	155	151	30.8	21.4	23	2
Hodgeman.....	568	587	398	459	153	116	27.8	20.2	17	12	Collingsworth.....	710	856	498	752	168	96	25.2	11.3	44	8
Meade.....	571	638	388	470	161	162	29.3	25.6	22	6	Crosby.....	716	779	510	652	162	117	24.1	15.2	44	10
Ness.....	834	885	558	673	209	205	27.2	23.3	67	7	Dawson.....	841	1,101	610	860	173	231	22.1	21.2	58	10
Rooks.....	835	965	552	760	168	186	23.3	19.7	115	19	Hall.....	601	747	376	592	172	150	31.4	20.2	53	5
Rush.....	871	972	591	748	213	215	26.5	22.3	67	9	Haskell.....	1,183	1,330	807	1,053	263	258	24.6	19.7	113	19
Russell.....	798	941	544	658	172	204	24.0	23.7	82	79	Hunt.....	2,245	2,737	1,681	2,222	493	458	22.7	17.1	71	57
Thomas.....	672	731	479	534	167	189	25.9	26.1	26	8	Knox.....	663	837	446	648	156	179	25.9	21.6	61	10
Montana: Hill.....	853	899	598	693	230	193	27.8	21.8	25	13	Navarro.....	1,911	2,520	1,254	2,059	496	383	28.3	15.7	161	78
Roosevelt.....	724	860	508	646	170	97	25.1	13.1	46	117	Nueces.....	1,096	1,157	844	919	247	211	22.6	18.7	5	27
Sheridan.....	807	965	580	717	200	236	25.6	24.8	27	12	Reeves.....	261	322	89	156	158	158	64.0	50.3	14	8
Nebraska: Cheyenne.....	897	953	645	762	198	181	23.5	19.2	54	10	San Patricio.....	816	888	567	683	233	191	29.1	21.9	16	14
New Mexico: Curry.....	706	957	524	753	169	157	24.4	17.3	13	47	Taylor.....	1,011	1,282	752	1,069	208	200	21.7	15.8	51	13
North Dakota: Burke.....	774	892	575	737	164	150	22.2	16.9	35	5	Terry.....	889	968	646	790	203	172	23.9	17.9	40	6
Mountrail.....	1,196	1,279	917	1,044	242	208	20.9	16.6	37	27	SUGARCANE AND COFFEE										
Pembina.....	1,373	1,519	1,016	1,223	313	267	23.6	17.9	44	29	Hawaii: Hawaii.....	3,388	2,829	2,566	1,937	806	858	23.9	30.7	16	34
Williams.....	1,243	1,536	927	1,161	272	331	22.7	22.2	44	44	VEGETABLE										
Oklahoma: Alfalfa.....	1,333	1,406	867	1,115	314	271	26.6	19.6	152	20	Florida: Palm Beach.....	527	874	271	577	211	288	43.8	33.3	45	9
Beaver.....	1,104	1,275	861	1,054	222	201	20.5	16.0	21	20	FRUIT AND NUT										
Blaine.....	1,313	1,620	1,020	1,376	267	232	20.7	14.4	26	12	California: Yolo.....	1,017	1,158	760	906	206	219	21.3	19.5	51	33
Cimarron.....	505	559	324	378	173	166	34.8	30.5	8	15	CITRUS										
Cotton.....	851	1,041	633	877	185	152	22.6	14.8	33	12	California: Orange.....	3,352	4,593	2,328	3,383	748	1,122	24.3	24.9	276	88
Grant.....	1,507	1,792	1,157	1,491	331	255	22.2	14.6	19	46	Santa Barbara.....	1,171	1,374	867	1,064	244	271	22.0	20.3	60	39
Harper.....	641	694	449	535	187	153	29.4	22.2	5	6	Ventura.....	1,863	1,856	1,379	1,434	392	383	22.1	21.1	92	39
Texas.....	1,019	1,156	696	886	270	249	28.0	21.9	53	21	Florida: Brevard.....	772	1,017	521	721	216	286	29.3	28.4	35	10
Woods.....	1,205	1,323	823	1,058	326	242	28.4	18.6	56	23	Broward.....	381	408	147	211	202	193	57.9	47.8	32	4
Texas: Castro.....	753	828	540	659	165	163	23.4	19.8	48	6	Highlands.....	481	583	218	289	242	275	52.6	48.8	21	19
Deaf Smith.....	735	674	488	488	194	173	28.4	26.2	53	13	Indian River.....	493	683	300	379	167	299	35.8	44.1	26	5
Jim Wells.....	729	720	521	574	183	138	26.0	19.4	25	8	Lake.....	2,827	2,920	1,204	1,358	1,420	1,518	54.1	52.8	203	44
Medina.....	1,206	1,546	907	1,245	261	224	22.3	15.2	38	77	Manatee.....	753	804	562	608	169	188	23.1	23.6	22	8
CASH GRAIN AND COTTON											Orange.....	2,600	2,726	1,470	1,700	946	1,001	39.2	37.1	184	25
Oklahoma: Beckham.....	1,336	1,572	1,012	1,308	280	236	21.7	15.3	44	28	Polk.....	3,128	4,020	1,992	2,277	976	1,535	32.9	40.3	160	208
Jackson.....	1,193	1,572	835	1,143	325	409	28.0	26.4	33	20	St. Lucie.....	611	735	373	358	234	358	38.6	50.0	4	19
Kiowa.....	1,308	1,642	913	1,291	279	342	23.4	20.9	116	9	Volusia.....	1,371	1,173	1,024	917	220	230	23.8	20.1	27	26
Tillman.....	1,239	1,415	779	1,022	397	384	33.8	27.3	43	9	Texas: Hidalgo.....	3,575	4,072	2,537	3,115	790	858	23.7	21.6	248	99
Texas: Matagorda.....	1,037	1,220	762	970	213	225	21.8	18.8	62	25	LIVESTOCK										
											Oklahoma: Jefferson.....	765	909	566	789	159	114	21.9	12.6	40	6
											Texas: Atascosa.....	1,210	1,481	892	1,201	251	251	22.0	17.3	67	29
											Coleman.....	1,105	1,427	803	1,155	263	243	24.7	17.4	39	29
											Duval.....	716	652	374	464	249	173	40.0	27.2	93	15
											Palo Pinto.....	732	946	563	783	160	147	22.1	15.8	9	16
											Waller.....	886	1,005	675	819	185	142	21.5	14.8	26	44
											Young.....	772	960	550	736	189	215	25.6	22.6	33	9
											Utah: Iron.....	418	465	202	212	208	235	50.7	52.6	8	18
											Millard.....	905	1,094	616	837	201	243	24.6	22.5	88	14
											Sanpete.....	999	1,363	590	971	323	372	35.4	27.7	86	20
											Sevier.....	670	923	426	759	215	137	33.5	15.3	29	27
											MIXED TYPES										
											California: Imperial.....	1,306	1,633	742	1,182	420	427	36.1	26.5	144	24

¹Includes counties with 150 or more nonresident farm operators in 1959, provided these represented 20 percent or more of all farm operators in the county.

Data relating to year on present farm were secured on the basis of the inquiry:

221. When did you begin to operate this place?
Report month if you began to operate this place since January 1, 1958.

Month	Year

The data obtained from this inquiry are presented under two headings, as follows: (a) Operators by number of years on present farm, and (b) operators by actual year began operation of present farm. When the data are presented in terms of the replies to the questionnaire inquiry, the term, "year of occupancy" or "month of occupancy" is used. For comparison with prior censuses, the data are expressed as "years on present farm." For the 1959 census, data are shown by four-month periods for those operators who began to operate their farms from January 1, 1959, through September 1959, or later.

Information for years on farm has been obtained for each census beginning with 1910. In the censuses of 1959, 1954, 1950, 1930, and 1925, the inquiry called for the month as well as the year of occupancy. For 1945, 1940, and 1935 the inquiry called for only the year of occupancy. The questionnaire for 1920 and 1910 asked for the number of years and months the operator had operated the farm occupied at the time of the census.

The data presented in this chapter on years on the present farm for 1959 are not fully comparable with those for other censuses. For each census, the data on years on farm have been summarized by groups of years-on-present-farm. The number of years or months comprising these groups of years-on-present-farm has not always been the same largely because of changes in the date of the census enumeration. Major groups of years-on-farm used for compiling the data are: Less than 5 years, 5 to 9 years, 10 to 14 years, and 15 or more years. The group "less than 5 years" has been subdivided into groups for single years in some cases. The grouping of farm operators in each years-on-farm group has generally been made on the basis of the calendar year in which the farm operator began to operate his present farm. However, the enumeration dates for the census enumerations have been January 1, April 1, April 15, and October and November for censuses taken since 1910. Thus, for the year in which the census was taken, the elapsed time from the beginning of the calendar year to the date of the census enumeration has been 0, 3, 3½, and 9 to 10 months for various censuses. Likewise, the elapsed time from the date of the census enumeration to the end of the calendar year varies from census to census. The differences in the elapsed time from the date of the census enumeration are shown in table 4 for each group of "years on farm," for each census since 1920. For each census year are shown: (a) The year of occupancy represented by each column, (b) the exact period included in the group, expressed as years and months from the census starting date, as well as an indication of how these periods relate to the calendar year; (c) the United States total for each group; and (d) the proportion of all farm operators in each group. The column in which each total is entered indicates the years-on-farm group in which this particular classification is shown in the tables.

The differences between censuses in elapsed time from the beginning of the calendar year to the date of the census enumeration affects the comparability of data much more for the years-on-farm groups under 5 years than for the years-on-farm groups of 5 to 9, 10 to 14, and 15 or more years.

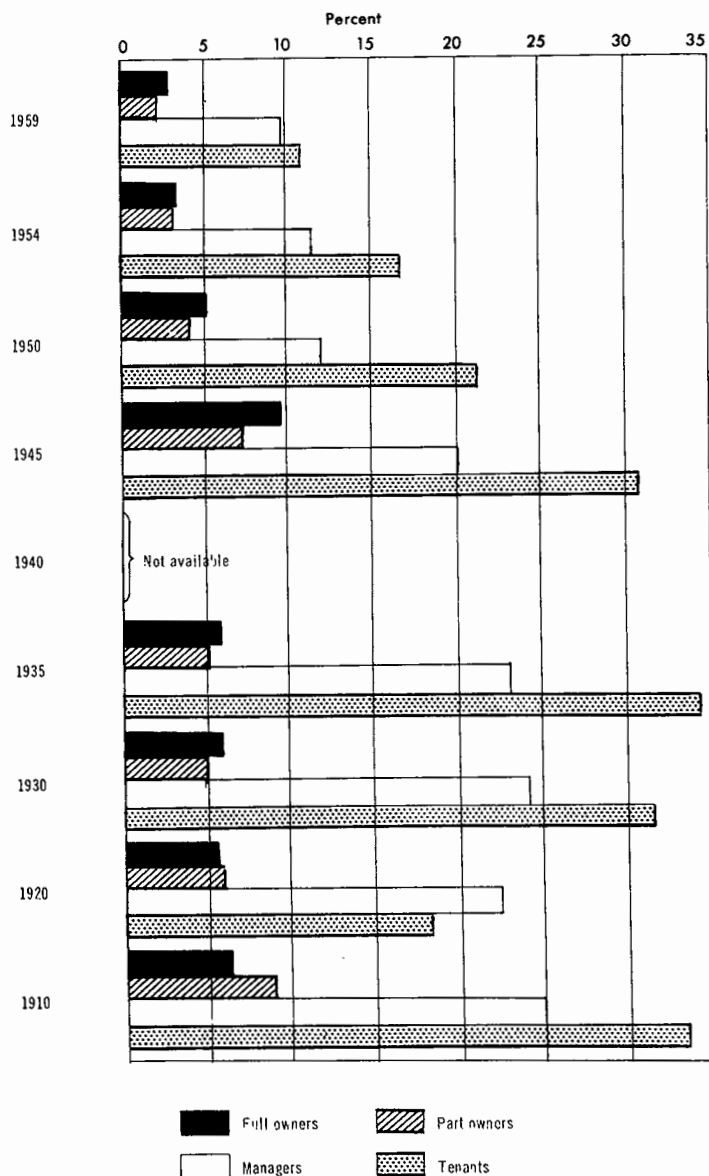
For 1959, the average number of years on present farm for the United States was 15 years, as compared with an average of 14 years for the 1954 census. This average was calculated by dividing the sum of the years of occupancy for all farms reporting by the total number of operators reporting. The resulting quotients are shown as whole numbers. For 1959, the United States average of 1944 for the year began operation of present

farm was determined from the above calculation. The average was subtracted from 1959 to establish 15 as the average number of years on present farm for the United States. The average year of occupancy and average number of years on present farm have been obtained for each census beginning with 1940.

In 1959, although the inquiry asked the farm operator to report both the month and the year of occupancy if the farmer began farm operations since January 1, 1958, counts by month were made only for operators beginning in the year 1959. For 1959, 157,612 farm operators reported 1959 as the year of occupancy, but for 13,821, or 8.8 percent, of these the month in 1959 they began operation of their present farm was not reported. These 13,821 were apportioned by month on a percentage basis and added to the farms already reporting the month of occupancy in 1959 so that totals by month would be available for all operators beginning operation of their farm in 1959. A similar procedure was used in the 1954 Census of Agriculture.

The 23 percent decrease in the number of farms from 1954 to 1959 has caused significant changes in the total number and may have affected the changes in the proportion of farm operators reporting for the different years-on-farm groups.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS ON PRESENT FARMS 1 YEAR OR LESS, BY TENURE: 1910 TO 1959



GENERAL REPORT

Table 4.—YEARS ON FARM AS CLASSIFIED FOR EACH CENSUS, WITH THE NUMBER OF OPERATORS IN EACH CLASSIFICATION: 1920 TO 1959

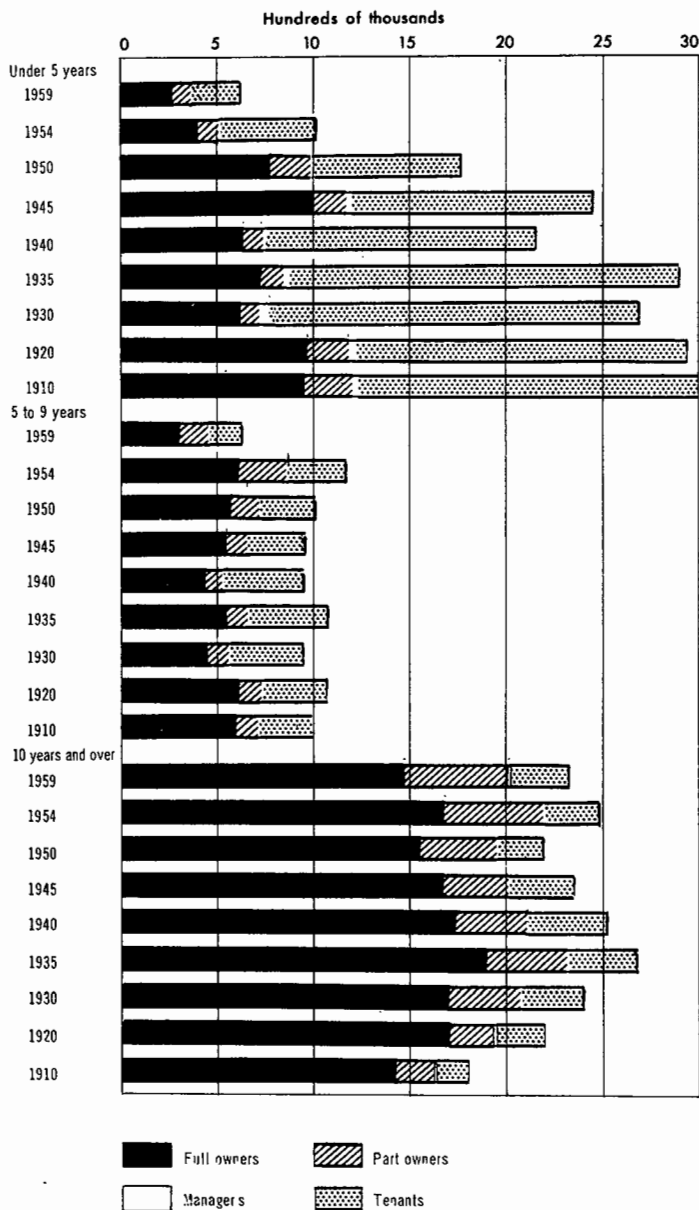
[Each period includes the entire time up to the next period following. Data for conterminous United States for 1959, 1954, and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text]

Census date	Item	Years on farm, based on calendar years from Census date																
		Less than 5 years				5 to 9 years					10 to 14 years					15 years and over		
		1 year or less ¹	2 years	3 years	4 years													
Oct.-Nov. 1959 ²	Year of occupancy.....	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945 and earlier		
	Operators reporting.....	157,612	161,237	167,286	152,464	629,773					714,314					1,625,662		
	Percent of operators reporting.....	4.4	4.5	4.6	4.2	17.5					19.8					45.1		
	Years and months from Census date.....	10 mo. or less	10 to 22 mo.	22 to 34 mo.	34 to 46 mo.	3 yr. 10 mo. to 8 yr. 10 mo.					8 yr. 10 mo. to 13 yr. 10 mo.					13 yr. 10 mo. or more		
		638,599 or 17.7%																
Oct.-Nov. 1954 ^{2 3}	Year of occupancy.....	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940 and earlier		
	Operators reporting.....	309,075	251,881	234,057	263,038	1,171,866					715,041					1,772,447		
	Percent of operators reporting.....	6.6	5.4	5.0	5.6	25.1					15.3					38.0		
	Years and months from Census date.....	12 mo. or less	10 mo. or less	10 to 22 mo.	22 to 34 mo.	3 yr. 10 mo. to 8 yr. 10 mo.					8 yr. 10 mo. to 13 yr. 10 mo.					13 yr. 10 mo. or more		
		1,010,935 or 21.6%																
Apr. 1, 1950	Year of occupancy.....	1950	1949	1948	1947 ⁴	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....	472,190	271,150	450,399	380,779	378,370	1,012,262					637,533					1,556,580	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	9.3	5.4	8.9	7.5	7.5	20.0					12.6					30.7	
	Years and months from Census date.....	12 mo. or less	3 mo. or less	3 to 15 mo.	15 to 27 mo.	27 to 39 mo.	4 yr. 3 mo. to 9 yr. 3 mo.					9 yr. 3 mo. to 14 yr. 3 mo. [Includes 141 farms in Alaska reporting 10 years or more on farm]					14 yr. 3 mo. or more	
		1,857,874 or 36.7%																
Jan. 1, 1945 ³	Year of occupancy.....	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929 and earlier
	Operators reporting.....	901,705	425,098	384,666	311,466	404,166	955,527					609,496					1,727,927	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	15.7	7.4	6.7	5.4	7.1	16.7					10.6					30.2	
	Years and months from Census date.....	1 yr. or less	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 3 yr.	3 to 4 yr.	4 to 5 yr.	5 to 10 yr.					10 to 15 yr.					15 yr. and over	
		2,427,101 or 42.4%																
Apr. 1, 1940	Year of occupancy.....	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....	441,830	556,976	449,967	381,640	318,373	944,513					687,065					1,830,230	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	7.9	9.9	8.0	6.8	5.7	16.8					12.2					32.6	
	Years and months from Census date.....	3 mo. or less	3 to 15 mo.	15 to 27 mo.	27 to 39 mo.	39 to 51 mo.	4 yr. 3 mo. to 9 yr. 3 mo.					9 yr. 3 mo. to 14 yr. 3 mo. [Includes 222 farms in Alaska reporting 10 years or more on farm]					14 yr. 3 mo. and over	
		2,148,786 or 38.3%																
Jan. 1, 1935 ³	Year of occupancy.....	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919 and earlier
	Operators reporting.....	1,197,204	521,572	445,805	348,027	396,566	1,080,447					781,973					1,905,648	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	17.9	7.8	6.7	5.2	5.9	16.2					11.7					28.5	
	Years and months from Census date.....	1 yr. or less	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 3 yr.	3 to 4 yr.	4 to 5 yr.	5 to 10 yr.					10 to 15 yr.					15 yr. and over	
		2,909,174 or 43.6%																
Apr. 1, 1930	Year of occupancy.....	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....	706,893	299,607	1,014,956			939,418					797,491					1,596,159	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	11.7	5.0	16.8			15.5					13.2					26.4	
	Years and months from Census date.....	1 yr. or less	1 to 2 yr.	2 yr. to 4 yr. 3 mo.			4 yr. 3 mo. to 9 yr. 3 mo.					9 yr. 3 mo. to 14 yr. 3 mo. [Includes 138 farms in Alaska and 1,852 farms in Hawaii reporting over 10 years on farm]					14 yr. 3 mo. and over	
		2,710,092 or 44.8%																
Jan. 1, 1925 ³	Year of occupancy.....	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909 and earlier
	Operators reporting.....	1,150,056	539,034	443,571	366,859	485,040	539,342	342,462	333,487	529,741			1,488,887			23.9		
	Percent of operators reporting.....	18.5	8.7	7.1	5.9	7.8	8.7	5.5	5.4	8.5			23.9					
	Years and months from Census date.....	1 yr. or less	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 3 yr.	3 to 4 yr.	4 to 5 yr.	5 to 7 yr.	7 to 9 yr.	9 to 11 yr.	11 to 15 yr.			15 yr. and over					
		2,984,560 or 48.0%									1,215,291 or 19.5%							
Jan. 1, 1920 ³	Year of occupancy ⁵	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904 and earlier	
	Operators reporting.....	660,713	898,019	1,397,958			1,086,458					2,184,391					35.1	
	Percent of operators reporting.....	10.6	14.4	22.4			17.4					35.1						
	Years and months from Census date.....	1 yr. or less	1 to 2 yr.	2 to 5 yr.			5 to 10 yr.					10 yr. and over						
		2,956,690 or 47.5%																

¹Includes some farm operators moving after the Census date. The 1950 Census figure includes 15,025 operators reporting April 1950 or later; and the 1945 Census figure includes 238,210 operators reporting in 1945. See text. ²Starting dates for the 1959 and 1954 Census enumeration varied by States and areas. November 1, 1959, was used as the Census date in determining years on farm. See text. See map in Introduction for actual starting dates in each State and area. ³Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included. ⁴Includes 52 farms in Alaska reporting 3 to 4 years on farm. ⁵Based on number of years and months on farm as operator.

The proportion of operators reporting less than 5 years on present farm declined from 21.6 percent in 1954 to 17.7 percent in 1959, while operators reporting 10 or more years on their farm increased from 53.3 percent in 1954 to 64.9 percent in 1959. The large proportional decline in the number of farms operated by tenants representing about two-fifths of the decline in all farms since 1954, and the fact that the proportion of tenants in the years-on-farm group "under 10 years" is much higher than the other tenure groups of farm operators are mainly responsible for changes between 1954 and 1959 in the proportion of farm operators in the years-on-farm groups.

YEARS ON FARM—NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1959



Most of the change in the proportionate distribution of farm operators by years on farms has taken place in the South where there have been extensive changes in the number of farm operators together with some significant changes in the tenure system in recent years. For croppers there has been a 55 percent decrease in number since 1954, but the average years on the farm for croppers has increased from 6 years in 1954, to 7 years in

1959. The proportion of croppers on their farms less than 5 years has decreased from 55 percent in 1954, to 49 percent in 1959, and the proportion of croppers on their farms 10 years or more has increased from 20 percent in 1954, to 29 percent in 1959.

Table 5.—MONTH OF OCCUPANCY FOR FARM OPERATORS WHO BEGAN OPERATION OF THEIR PRESENT FARM SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CENSUS YEAR, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES, THE NORTH, THE SOUTH, AND THE WEST: 1959 AND 1954

[Data for conterminous United States are based on reports of only a sample of farms. See text. Figures for 1959 for divisions and States in Table 25]

Month	Operators reporting		Percent distribution	
	1959	1954 ¹	1959	1954 ¹
United States:				
January to date of enumeration, total.....	157,313	251,881	100.0	100.0
January through April.....	108,297	183,420	68.8	72.8
May through August.....	30,687	40,581	19.5	16.1
September or later.....	18,329	27,880	11.7	11.1
North:				
January to date of enumeration, total.....	62,780	85,788	100.0	100.0
January through April.....	43,381	59,252	69.1	69.1
May through August.....	13,511	16,994	21.5	19.8
September or later.....	5,888	9,542	9.4	11.1
South:				
January to date of enumeration, total.....	77,201	142,768	100.0	100.0
January through April.....	55,675	112,018	72.1	78.5
May through August.....	11,680	16,295	15.1	11.4
September or later.....	9,846	14,455	12.8	10.1
West:				
January to date of enumeration, total.....	17,332	23,325	100.0	100.0
January through April.....	9,241	12,150	53.3	52.1
May through August.....	5,496	7,292	31.7	31.3
September or later.....	2,595	3,883	15.0	16.6

¹Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Since most tenants begin farming operations or move to new farms during the first few months of a year, the large decrease in the number of farms operated by tenants has also had an effect on the number and the proportion of farm operators occupying new farms during different time periods during the year. Data in table 5 shows that the proportion of farm operators beginning new farm operations in the January through April period has decreased from 72.8 percent in 1954, to 68.8 percent in 1959. Again the decrease in the number of farms operated by tenants in the South accounted for most of the change in proportions.

Off-Farm Work.—Farm operators reporting off-farm work vary from those who supplement their farm incomes with odd or spare-time jobs to those operators who have regular nonfarm jobs and use the farm to either supplement their regular income or as a rural residence. The operators with odd or spare-time jobs usually consider their nonfarm employment to be of secondary importance, and they may work part-time on someone else's farm, or work at seasonal nonfarm jobs.

Many persons who may be employed in cities or have other regular nonfarm jobs, are living in rural areas, but have sufficient agricultural activities to qualify their places as farms. Some of these operators may be producing agricultural products largely for home use, while others are using the farm to supplement their regular nonfarm income. Some of the farm operators working off their farms are using their nonfarm income as a source of capital for expanding their farming operations.

Since the 1950 census, the questionnaire has carried essentially the same following four inquiries to determine the extent to which farm operators were dependent upon off-farm work and income from sources other than the farm operated.

OFF-FARM WORK AND OTHER INCOME:

222. How many days *this year* did you work off your farm? Include work at a nonfarm job, business, profession, or on someone else's farm. Include days you expect to work off your farm between *now* and *December 31, 1959*. (Do not include exchange work.)

(Mark one.) (1) None ☐ (2) 1 to 49 days ☐ (3) 50 to 99 days ☐ (4) 100 to 199 days ☐ (5) 200 or more days ☐

223. Did any other member of your family living with you have a nonfarm job, business, profession, or work on someone else's farm *this year*? No ☐ Yes ☐

224. Have you any income *this year* from any of the following sources: Sale of products from land rented out? Cash rent? Boarders? Social Security? Old-age assistance? Pensions? Veterans' allowances? Unemployment compensation? Interest? Dividends? Profits from nonfarm business? Financial help from members of your family? No ☐ Yes ☐

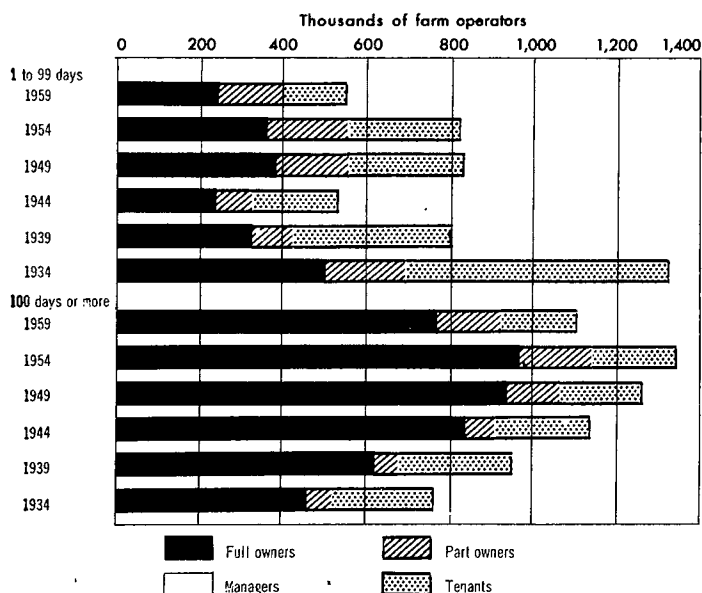
(If "None" for question 222 and "No" for both questions 223 and 224, skip to question 226.)

225. Will the income which you and your family receive from work off the farm and from other sources (listed in questions 223 and 224) be greater than the total value of all agricultural products sold or to be sold from your place *this year*? No ☐ Yes ☐

Information on work off the farm by farm operators has been obtained for each census beginning with 1930. The wording of the inquiry has varied somewhat for the different censuses. In 1940 the inquiry covered the total number of days the operator worked off the farm for pay or income, with supplemental inquiries for (a) the number of days spent at farm work not connected with the farm operated and (b) the number of days spent at nonfarm jobs, businesses, or professions. The 1935 census inquiry specified "work for pay or income not connected with the farm you operate." The 1930 inquiry specified "work for pay at jobs not connected with the farm you operate." The enumerator was specifically instructed to omit exchange labor for each census except 1940, when no instructions were given.

Farm operators reporting "none" for days of work off farm and those not reporting as to off-farm work were not tabulated separately in the 1959 Census of Agriculture. For 1935, 1940, 1950, and 1954 censuses, data are shown separately for farm operators reporting "none" for days of work off farm in Volume II: General Report, 1954 Census of Agriculture. The proportion of the farm operators for whom the inquiry regarding off-farm work was not reported, varied from 1.4 percent in 1954, to 7.8 percent in 1939.

NUMBER OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING WORK OFF THEIR FARMS, BY NUMBER OF DAYS, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1934 TO 1959



The proportion of farm operators who work off their farms increased significantly during the last 15 years. Prior to 1949,

approximately 3 out of 10 farm operators reported some work off the farm operated. During the last two censuses about 5 out of every 11 farm operators reported some work off their farms. The change during the last 15 years in the proportion of the farm operators working off their farms 100 or more days or 200 or more days has been much greater than the change in the proportion of farm operators working off their farms. From 1949 to 1959, the proportion of farm operators working off their farms 100 days or more, increased from 23.3 to 29.9 percent and the proportion of farm operators working off their farms 200 days or more, from 17.5 to 23.7 percent.

The increase during the last 15 years in the proportion of farm operators working off their farms is the result largely of the increase in proportion of farm operators of commercial farms working off their farms. Also, there has been a very significant increase during the last decade in the percentage of the farm operators 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

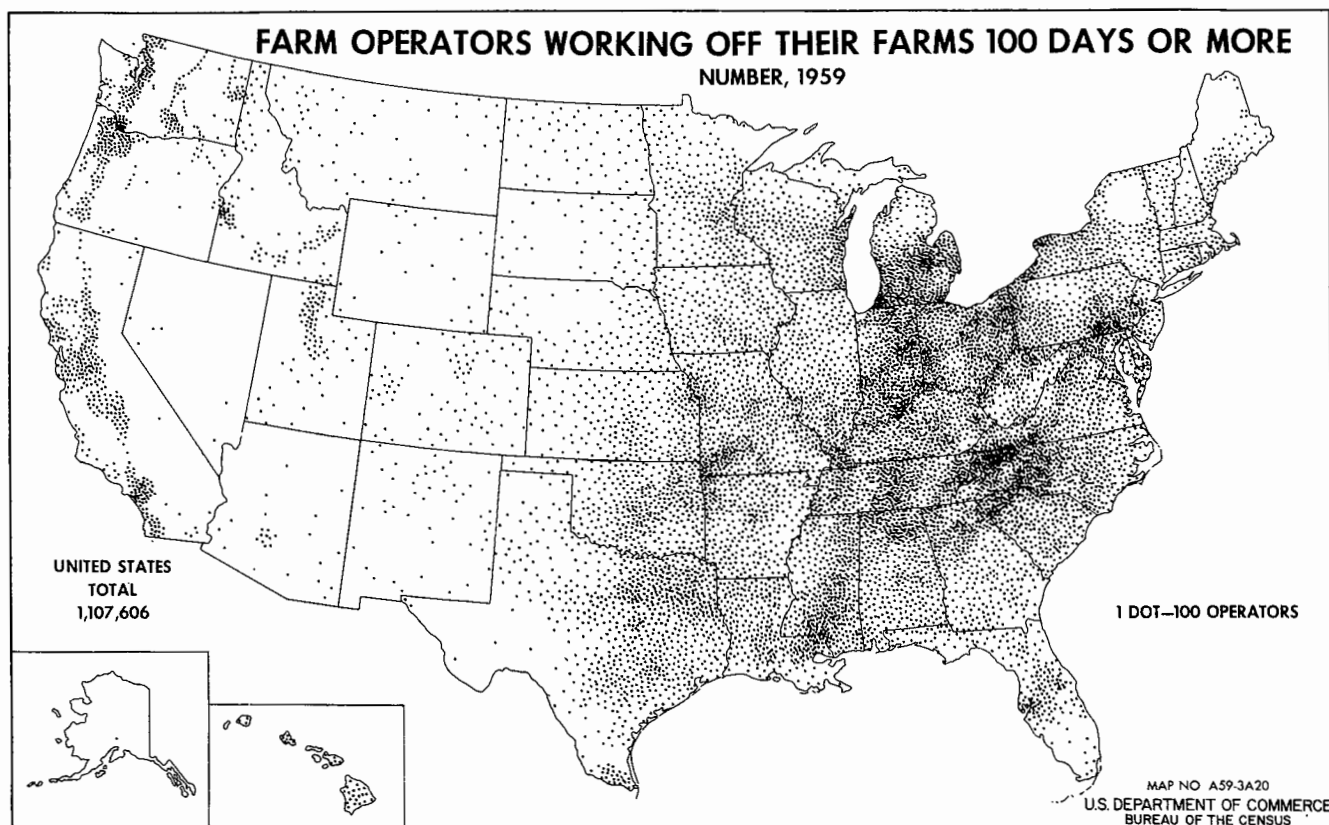
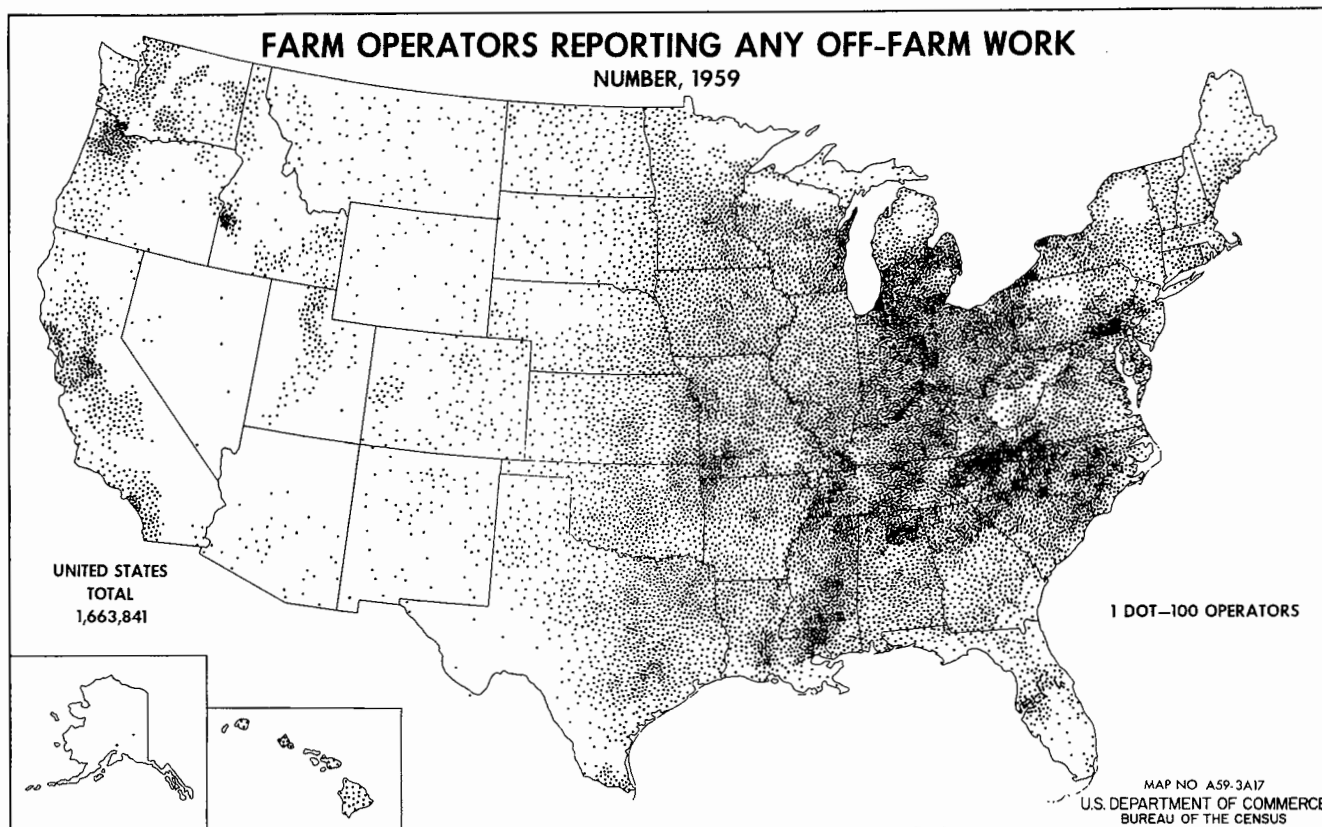
Value of farm products sold per farm	Percent of farm operators reporting—					
	Work off farm			100 or more days of work off farm		
	1959	1954	1949	1959	1954	1949
All farm operators..	44.8	45.0	38.8	29.8	27.9	23.3
Under \$2,500.....	58.1	55.5	47.6	46.1	40.5	32.6
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	43.4	36.3	28.3	26.7	16.2	11.0
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	35.1	31.2	24.0	16.2	10.2	7.0
\$10,000 and over.....	26.6	25.6	21.0	9.9	7.5	6.7

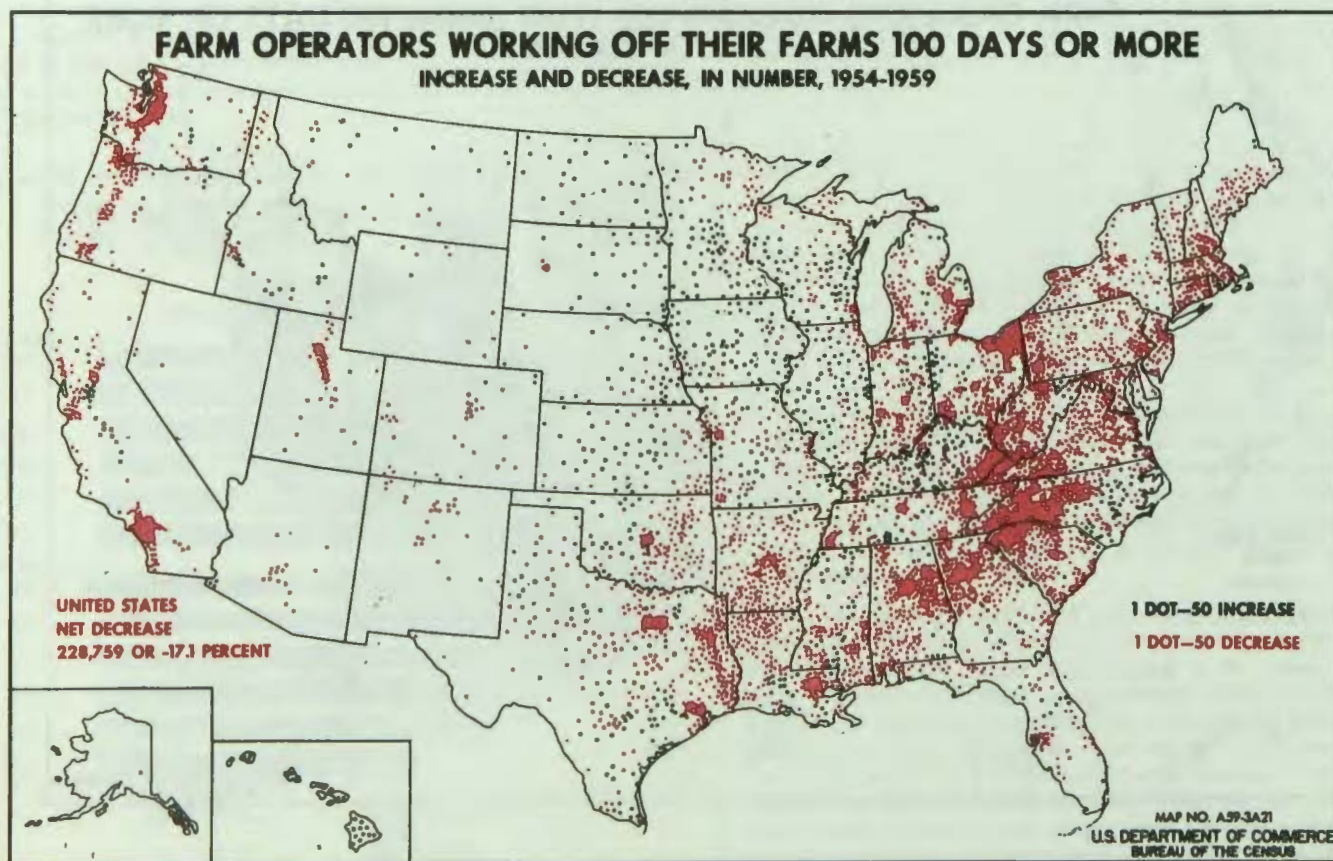
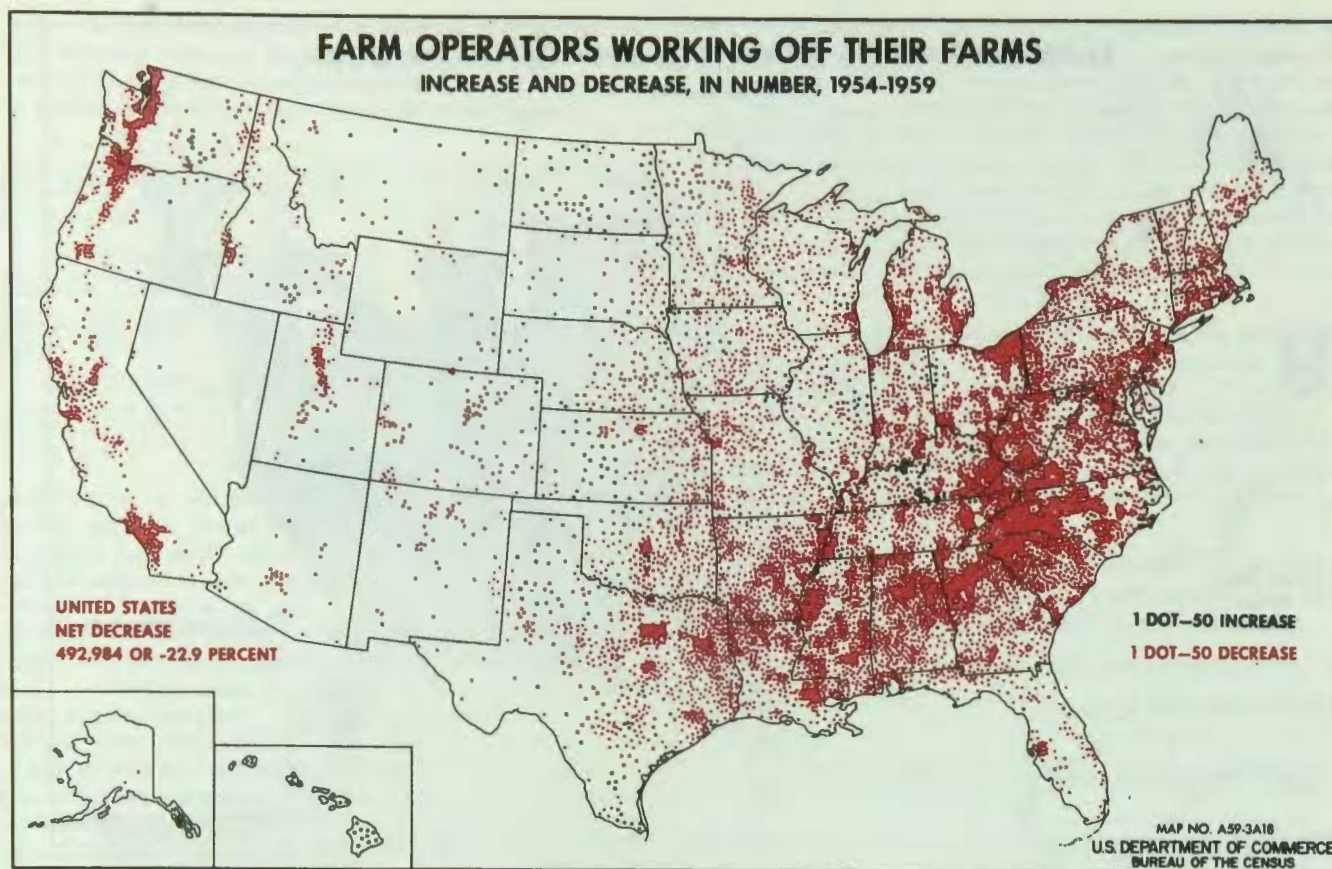
The most significant change in off-farm work since 1954 has been in the increased proportion of farm operators working 100 or more days off the farm. Of the farm operators working off the farm in 1959, 66.5 percent reported 100 or more days of off-farm work. This compares to 61.9 percent in 1954. The 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 (46.1 percent, see table 1).

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 non-white 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.

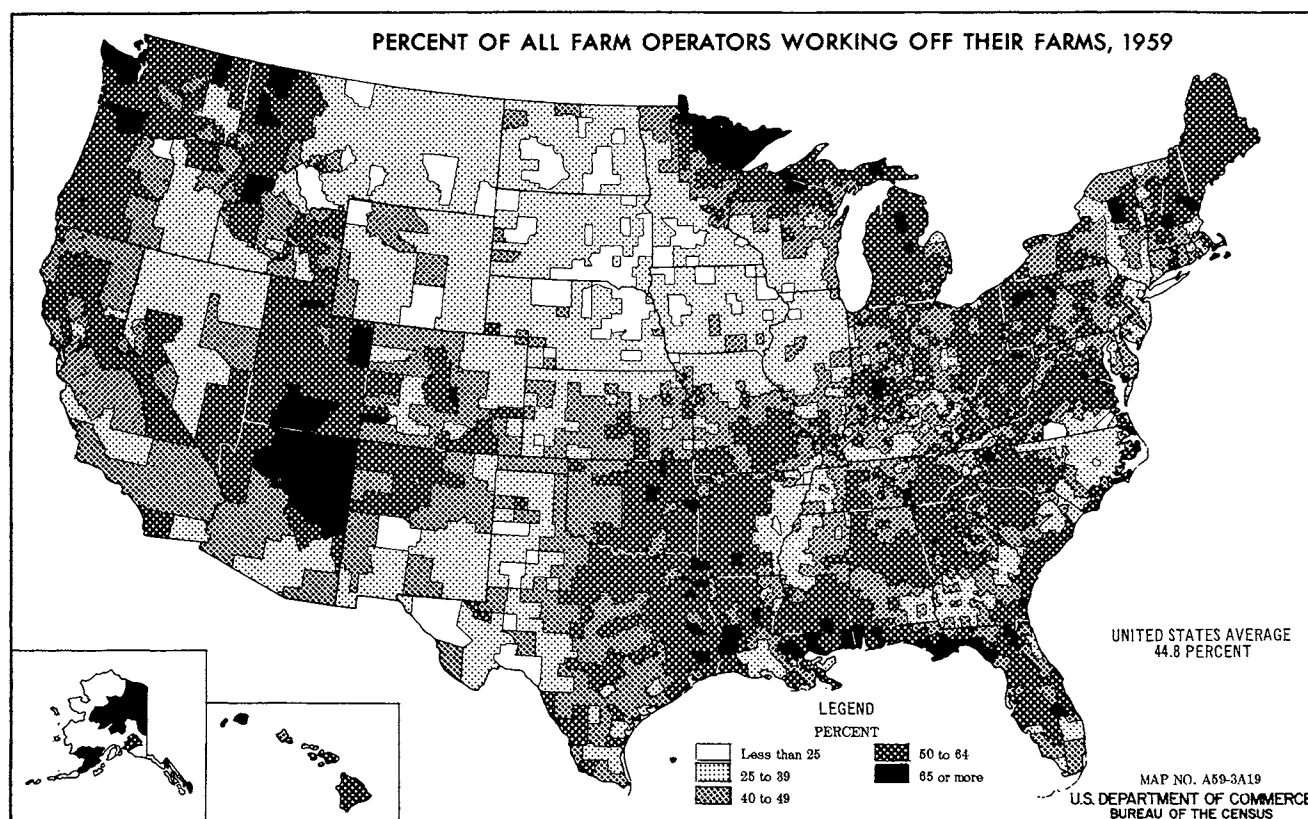
Table 2 presents data for operators working 100 or more days off the farm by economic class and type of farm. A higher pro-





portion of operators in the lower economic classes work off the farm 100 or more days. The proportion also varies by type of farm, for example, approximately one-fourth of the fruit-and-nut and poultry farm operators reported 100 or more days worked off the farm compared to less than 10 percent of the tobacco and cotton farms. The data indicate that the proportion of farm

operators working off the farm is influenced by the type of farming and by the availability of off-farm jobs. Such economic factors as increased mechanization and specialization in farming, better transportation, and expansion and decentralization of industries throughout rural areas have given farm operators more time and greater opportunity for off-farm employment.



Off-Farm Work by Other Members of Farm Operator's Family.—Statistics on off-farm work by other members of the farm operator's family are available only for 1959 and 1954. For 1959, 21.6 percent of all farm operators reported other members of their family performed work off the farm, compared to 15.9 percent for 1954.

The proportion of farm operators reporting members of their family 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. However, the differences among tenure groups in the proportion of farm operators reporting members of the family working off the farm are not large.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING OFF-FARM WORK BY OTHER MEMBERS OF OPERATOR'S FAMILY, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959

Tenure of operator	All farms (percent)	Farms with operator reporting off-farm work (percent)	Farms with operator not reporting off-farm work (percent)
Total.....	21.6	28.9	15.6
Full owners.....	22.3	29.3	15.8
Part owners.....	22.3	29.9	17.0
Managers.....	15.1	22.7	13.0
All tenants.....	19.1	26.6	13.7
Cash.....	21.5	26.9	15.5
Share-cash.....	17.2	24.0	13.5
Crop-share.....	18.7	25.8	13.6
Livestock-share.....	17.9	25.3	14.5
Croppers (South only).....	19.3	31.2	11.8
Other and unspecified.....	20.6	26.6	14.1

There was a significant increase from 1954 to 1959 in the proportion of farm operators reporting off-farm work by members of the operator's family for each tenure group.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING OFF-FARM WORK BY OTHER MEMBERS OF OPERATOR'S FAMILY, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959 AND 1954

Tenure of operator	Percent of operators reporting off-farm work by other members of operator's family	
	1959	1954
Total.....	21.6	15.9
Full owners.....	22.2	17.3
Part owners.....	22.2	16.2
Managers.....	15.1	10.4
All tenants.....	19.0	12.4
Cash.....	21.2	16.4
Share-cash.....	17.2	11.1
Crop-share.....	18.7	12.0
Livestock-share.....	17.9	11.1
Croppers (South only).....	19.3	10.8
Other and unspecified.....	20.5	15.1

Income of Farm Operator From Sources Other Than Farm Operated.—For 1959, 39.3 percent of all farm operators reported income from sources other than the farm operated (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 his family) as compared to 27.9 percent in 1954. Since 1954, the proportion of farm operators reporting income from sources other than the farm operated has increased in every geographic division and for each tenure group.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING INCOME FROM OFF-THE-FARM SOURCES, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959 AND 1954

Tenure of operator	Percent of operators reporting income from off-the-farm sources	
	1959	1954
Total.....	39.3	27.9
Full owners.....	47.1	33.1
Part owners.....	33.4	25.6
Managers.....	27.0	18.8
All tenants.....	23.9	17.3
Cash.....	34.2	27.5
Share-cash.....	24.0	17.3
Crop-share.....	22.6	15.4
Livestock-share.....	21.6	15.3
Croppers (South only).....	13.7	10.1
Other and unspecified.....	30.4	26.6

Relationship of Income From Off-Farm Sources to Value of Agricultural Products Sold.—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 since 1954, as the increase in the proportion of farm operators reporting 100 or more days of work off the farm and reporting off-farm work by other members of the operator's family, in the South, was more than that for any other area.

The proportion of farm operators with income from off-the-farm sources exceeding the value of farm products sold was greater in 1959 than in 1954 for each tenure group.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING INCOME FROM OFF-THE-FARM SOURCES EXCEEDING THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959 AND 1954

Tenure of operator	Percent of farms reporting—	
	1959	1954
Total.....	35.8	29.8
Full owners.....	47.2	39.0
Part owners.....	20.9	18.0
Managers.....	16.0	11.2
All tenants.....	20.5	16.9
Cash.....	39.4	37.8
Share-cash.....	8.0	6.1
Crop-share.....	17.3	12.9
Livestock-share.....	8.0	4.9
Croppers (South only).....	16.1	11.2
Other and unspecified.....	42.1	38.9

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 were significant differences among the various tenure groups.

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. For this group, the proportion of farm operators reporting income from off-farm sources varied by tenure.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING INCOME FROM OFF-THE-FARM SOURCES EXCEEDING THE VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959

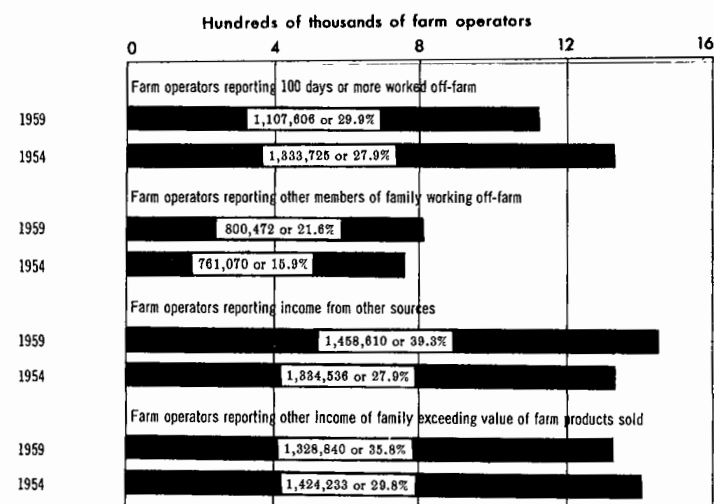
Tenure of operator	Farms with operator reporting off-farm work (percent)	Farms with operator not reporting off-farm work (percent)
Total.....	58.8	17.2
Full owners.....	70.4	26.0
Part owners.....	41.2	6.8
Managers.....	50.0	6.6
All tenants.....	40.0	6.7
Cash.....	62.3	15.0
Share-cash.....	19.3	1.8
Crop-share.....	24.1	5.3
Livestock-share.....	21.2	2.0
Croppers (South only).....	31.9	6.2
Other and unspecified.....	64.4	18.3

The proportion of farms with the income from off-the-farm sources exceeding the value of farm products sold increased significantly from 1950 to 1959, not only for farms with sales of farm products of \$2,500 and over but also for farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500.

PERCENT OF FARM OPERATORS REPORTING INCOME FROM OFF-THE-FARM SOURCES EXCEEDING VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1950

Value of farm products sold	1959 (percent)	1954 (percent)	1950 (percent)
Farms with sales of farm products of—			
Total.....	35.8	29.8	29.1
Under \$2,500.....	62.5	46.6	43.0
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	27.2	12.6	10.2
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	12.6	6.4	5.3
\$10,000 and over.....	6.5	4.5	4.3

OFF-FARM WORK AND OTHER INCOME OF FARM OPERATOR AND HIS FAMILY—NUMBER AND PERCENT OF OPERATORS REPORTING, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959 AND 1954



In 1959, the Pacific Division had the highest proportion, 46.8 percent, of farm operators reporting income from off-farm sources exceeding the value of agricultural products sold, compared to the West North Central Division with the lowest, 19.7 percent. West Virginia had the highest among the States with 64.7 percent; North Dakota had the lowest with 8.0 percent. This is consistent with the data for farm operators reporting off-farm work, as West Virginia had one of the highest proportions of operators reporting 100 or more days of off-farm work while North Dakota had the lowest. The relationship between the proportion of farm operators working 100 or more days off the farm and the proportion of operators reporting income from off-the-farm sources exceeding the value of agricultural sales would indicate that off-farm work constitutes a main source of income from off-the-farm sources.

In 1959, only 12.5 percent of the operators of commercial farms reported income from off-the-farm sources exceeding the value of agricultural products sold, whereas 79.4 percent of the other farms did. The economic classes of farms with the larger values of farm products sold have a lower proportion of operators re-

porting off-the-farm income exceeding the value of agricultural products sold. Other farms account for two-thirds of all farm operators 65 years of age and older, over two-thirds of all operators working 100 or more days off farm, and over three-fourths of all operators reporting off-the-farm income exceeding the value of agricultural products sold.

In 1959, over one-fourth of the operators of commercial poultry and fruit-and-nut farms report off-the-farm income exceeding the value of farm sales, whereas, less than one-tenth of the operators of tobacco, cotton, and dairy farms so report. Again the close relationship between off-farm work and income from off-the-farm source is evident by type of farm. Certain types of farms, such as dairy farms, which have high labor requirements throughout the year, have low proportions of operators working off farms and, therefore, low proportions of operators reporting income from off-the-farm sources exceeding value of farm products sold. Lack of off-the-farm-work opportunities in certain areas in the South are related to the low proportion of operators reporting off-the-farm income exceeding the value of agricultural products sold.

