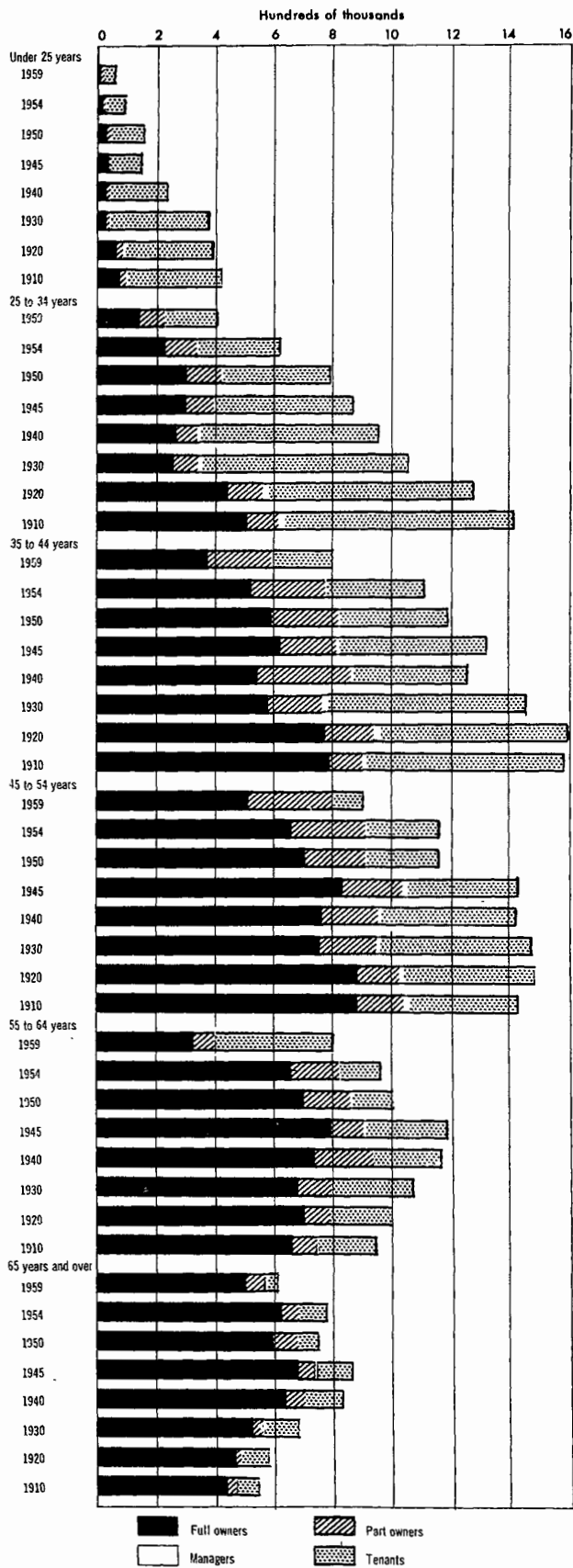


AGE OF FARM OPERATORS—NUMBER OF OPERATORS REPORTING, BY TENURE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1910 TO 1959



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.