

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)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
None <input type="checkbox"/>	1 to 49 days <input type="checkbox"/>	50 to 99 days <input type="checkbox"/>	100 to 199 days <input type="checkbox"/>	200 or more days <input type="checkbox"/>

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

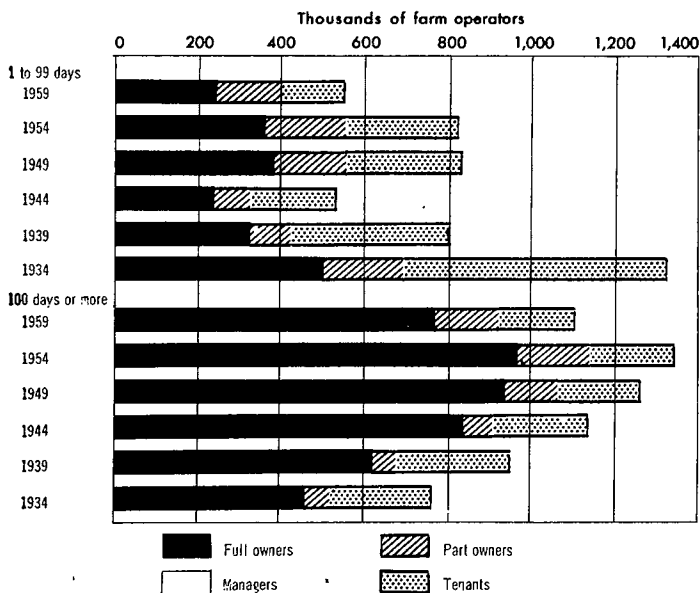
(If "None" for question 222 and "No" for both questions 223 and 224, skip to question 226.)

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-