

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	60,657	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