

**CHAPTER X**

**COLOR, RACE, AND TENURE OF  
FARM OPERATOR**

(997)

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## Chapter X.—COLOR, RACE, AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR

**Introduction.**—This chapter presents statistics for farms classified by color or race of the farm operator and by the tenure under which he holds the land he operates. This presentation indicates some of the relationships between tenure arrangements and the utilization of land and other resources in agricultural production and in the division of farm income. Comparative data from prior censuses reflect changes in the tenure structure that have accompanied changes in agriculture.

Color-tenure is one of four major classifications of farms for which data are presented in the 1959 Census of Agriculture.

**Source of Data.**—The data are from the 1959 Census of Agriculture with comparative data from earlier censuses. Most of the data for 1959 and 1954 represent estimates based on reports for only a sample of farms. All tables which include estimates based on a sample of farms carry a headnote indicating which of the figures represent estimates. Such estimates are subject to sampling errors and will not agree exactly with totals representing a tabulation of data for all farms. Tables giving the reliability of estimates, based on the sample, are given in the Introduction to this volume.

**Presentation of the Statistics.**—The statistics are presented as totals for the United States, for 3 major regions, 9 geographic divisions, and for each of the 50 States. The term "conterminous" used in reference to the United States, regions, or divisions, designates the 48-State area, or portion thereof, as it existed before Alaska and Hawaii became States. An outline map showing the States, regions, and geographic divisions for which totals are shown appears in the Introduction to this volume.

Color-tenure data are presented for all farms, for commercial farms, and for farms other than commercial. A series of tables presenting statistics at the United States level, supplemented in some cases with totals for the South, are followed by tables presenting data for regions, divisions, and States. Many of the items were tabulated by color or race for the Southern States only since nonwhite operators are relatively few in most of the northern and western States. Separate tables for the South provide for the presentation of summary data by color of operator.

The tables for the United States and the separate tables for the South present most of the items for which tenure and/or color data are available for 1959 and, in general, include historic data for earlier censuses.

In presenting the 1959 census data by regions, divisions, and States selected items only have been included. For most items shown for the United States, or for the South, but omitted from the region, division, and State tables, data for the individual States are available in volume I of the reports of the 1959 Census of Agriculture. Similarly, most of the comparative data for earlier censuses, presented here for the United States only, or for the South, are available by States in the reports for prior censuses.

Data for all farms classified by tenure are restricted to the number of farms, land in farms, owned and rented land, land use, and value of land and buildings. These items are presented for the United States, regions, divisions, and States. Data for additional items may be obtained by combining the data presented by tenure for commercial farms and for other farms.

Data presented for commercial farms by tenure provide a more complete description of the farms in each tenure group. The data give more detailed information on land use and include sta-

tistics on farm-operator characteristics, farm equipment and facilities, use of commercial fertilizer and lime, farm expenditures, farm products sold, principal livestock, and selected crops. The data are presented in considerable detail for the United States and for the South. Data for only selected items are presented by regions, divisions, and States.

Similar data are presented for other farms (other than commercial) for the United States and for the South. Data for other farms by tenure are not presented at the State level, in this volume or in volume I, except for a count of farms. This chapter includes division and State tables presenting the number of part-time and part-retirement farms, respectively, by tenure. Data for other farms, by divisions and States, may be obtained for a few items by subtracting from the totals for all farms by tenure the corresponding totals shown for commercial farms by tenure.

Data by color or race of operator are presented by tenure for the United States, for the South, and for each of the 16 Southern States. For the South, tenure data are shown for all farms and for nonwhite operators only. Data for white operators by tenure can be obtained for the southern divisions and States by subtraction. For the North and the West, data by color of operator are restricted to nonwhite operators with no tenure breakdown. In nearly all the States in the North and the West the number of nonwhite operators is small. Volume I provides a cross-classification of color of operator by tenure for each State except Alaska and Hawaii.

When presenting data for earlier censuses, headnotes, footnotes, or the wording of the stub or column headings indicate any significant lack of comparability with earlier census years.

Averages, percentages, and other derived data are provided as aids in using and analyzing the statistics. The tables are supplemented by charts and maps which show graphically some of the more significant facts included in the tables.

**Other Published Data.**—Considerable data by color and/or tenure of farm operator available in volume I are presented in this chapter only as totals for the United States or as totals for the South. Volume I provides data on farms and farm acreage classified by color and tenure of the farm operator for each State in the conterminous United States. (See State table 3 in volume I.) For Alaska, since only one nonwhite operator was reported for the 1959 census, volume I provides no cross-classification of tenure by color or race. For Hawaii, volume I provides data for six race groups but no color or race data by tenure. Corresponding data by counties are restricted to tenure for States in the North and the West but color by tenure are shown by counties for each of the 16 Southern States. Farms and farm characteristics of commercial farms classified by tenure are available only for States, while color by tenure is shown for the South only. A count of commercial farms by tenure is presented at the county level.

Tenure data on age, residence, off-farm work, other income, and years on farm are presented in chapter II; data on cash rent, in chapter IV; tenure of farm operator by size of farm, in chapter V; economic class of farm in chapter XI; and type of farm in chapter XII.

The accompanying table provides a description of published data, by tenure and color or race of farm operator, available elsewhere in the 1959 Census of Agriculture reports.

## OTHER PUBLISHED DATA BY COLOR, RACE, AND TENURE OF FARM OPERATOR: CENSUS OF 1959

Where found	Geographic area for which available	Period	Classification	Subjects covered	Basis of tabulation of 1959 data
Volume I:					
State Table 3.....	State.....	1920 to 1959...	Color-tenure (Alaska, tenure only; Hawaii, no tenure by color)	Farms, land in farms, and cropland harvested..	Sample.
State Table 4.....	State.....	1920 to 1959...	Race.....	Farm operators.....	Complete count.
State Table 10.....	State.....	1959.....	Tenure and color for places not counted as farms because of change in definition.	Operators.....	Complete count.
State Table 17.....	State.....	1959.....	Economic class of farm by color-tenure..	Farms.....	Sample.
State Table 18.....	State.....	1959.....	Specified types of farm by economic class by color-tenure.	Farms.....	Sample.
State Table 19.....	State.....	1959.....	Commercial farms by type by color-tenure	Farms.....	Sample.
State Table 20.....	State.....	1959.....	Size of farm by color-tenure.....	Farms.....	Sample.
State Table 21.....	State.....	1959.....	Commercial farms by tenure.....	Farms and farm characteristics (land in farms, land use, value of land and buildings, specified operator characteristics, specified facilities and equipment, hired labor, specified farm expenditures, principal livestock, and specified crops).	Sample.
State Table 21a.....	State (South only).....	1959.....	Commercial farms of white operators by tenure.	Farms and farm characteristics.....	Sample.
State Table 21b.....	State (South only).....	1959.....	Commercial farms of nonwhite operators by tenure.	Farms and farm characteristics.....	Sample.
State Table 22.....	State (except Alaska).....	1959.....	Cash tenants by commercial and other farms. Share-cash tenants by commercial and other farms.	Cash rent paid; also farms, owned and rented land, land in farms, cropland harvested, and value of land and buildings.	Sample.
County Table 3.....	County and State.....	1959 and 1954..	Tenure (color-tenure for the South).....	Farms, land in farms, and cropland harvested..	Complete count.
County Table 4.....	County and State.....	1959.....	Commercial farms, by tenure.....	Farms.....	Sample.
County Table 5.....	County and State.....	1959 and 1954..	Tenure.....	Farms.....	Sample.
Volume II, Introduction Table 9.....	United States, the North, the South, and the West.	1959.....	Tenure and color for places not counted as farms because of change in definition.	Operators.....	Complete count.
Volume II, Chapter II: Table 6.....	United States.....	1910 to 1959...	Tenure.....	Age of operator.....	Sample.
Table 7.....	The South.....	1920 to 1959...	Color-tenure.....	Age of operator.....	Sample.
Table 8.....	United States, the North, the South, and the West.	1959 and 1954..	Commercial and other farms by tenure (color-tenure for the South).	Age of operator.....	Sample.
Table 9.....	United States.....	1945 to 1959...	Tenure.....	Residence of operator.....	Sample.
Table 10.....	The South.....	1945 to 1959...	Color-tenure.....	Residence of operator.....	Sample.
Table 11.....	United States, the North, the South, and the West.	1959 and 1954..	Commercial and other farms by tenure (color-tenure for the South).	Residence of operator.....	Sample.
Table 12.....	United States, the North, the South, and the West.	1959 and 1954..	Commercial and other farms by tenure (color-tenure for the South).	Years on present farm.....	Sample.
Table 13.....	United States.....	1910 to 1959...	Tenure.....	Years on present farm.....	Sample.
Table 14.....	The South.....	1910 to 1959...	Color-tenure.....	Years on present farm.....	Sample.
Table 16.....	United States.....	1934 to 1959...	Tenure.....	Off-farm work.....	Sample.
Table 17.....	The South.....	1934 to 1959...	Color-tenure.....	Off-farm work.....	Sample.
Table 18.....	United States, the North, the South, and the West.	1959 and 1954..	Commercial and other farms by tenure (color-tenure for the South).	Off-farm work and other income.....	Sample.
Table 20.....	Divisions and States.....	1959.....	Tenure (color-tenure for the South).....	Age of operator.....	Sample.
Table 22.....	Divisions and States.....	1959.....	Tenure (color-tenure for the South).....	Residence of operator.....	Sample.
Table 24.....	Divisions and States.....	1959.....	Tenure (color-tenure for the South).....	Years on present farm.....	Sample.
Table 27.....	Divisions and States.....	1959.....	Tenure.....	Off-farm work and other income.....	Sample.
Volume II, Chapter IV: Table 28.....	United States.....	1930 to 1959... 1959.....	Cash tenants by commercial and other farms. Share-cash tenants by commercial and other.	Cash rent paid, also farms owned and rented land, land in farms, cropland harvested, and value of land and buildings.	Sample.
Table 29.....	Divisions and States.....	1930 to 1959... 1959.....	Cash tenants..... Cash tenants.....	Cash rent paid and number of farms..... Farms, rented land, land in farms, value of land and buildings.	Sample. Sample.
Volume II, Chapter V: Table 6.....	United States.....	1959.....	Size of farm by color-tenure.....	Farms.....	Sample.
Volume II, Chapter XI: Table 5.....	United States.....	1959.....	Economic class of farm by color-tenure..	Farms.....	Sample.
Volume II, Chapter XII: Table 53.....	United States.....	1959.....	Type of farm by color-tenure.....	Farms.....	Sample.
Tables 70 to 81.....	United States.....	1959.....	Each type of farm by economic class by color-tenure.	Farms.....	Sample.
Volume V, Part 2: State Table 9.....	State (30 humid States only)	1960.....	Tenure.....	Irrigation—farms, acres irrigated, type of power, constructed reservoirs.	Survey in 1960 of all farms reporting irrigation in 1959 census.

**History of Census Classifications by Color, Race, and Tenure of Farm Operator.**—Census data were first classified by tenure of the farm operator in the 1880 census. For the censuses of 1880 and 1890, only the number of farms is available by tenure. The classifications by tenure and the items available for the tenure classifications have varied considerably from census to census. The particular tenure classes used for each census and their relation to the 1959 classification are shown in table 1. The classifications for Alaska and Hawaii, however, have been somewhat more restricted with no tenure classification for Alaska for 1910. Alaska and Hawaii have been included only decennially in prior censuses.

Classifications by color and race of the farm operator and cross-classifications by color and tenure were first made in the census of 1900. For all years the color or race classification has consisted of two groups, white and nonwhite, with a further breakdown by race for the decennial censuses. In 1954, a breakdown of nonwhite provided for a separate count of Negro and other nonwhite operators. This three-way color or race classification was continued for 1959 in lieu of the more detailed race classifications shown for prior decennial censuses.

## DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

**Definitions.**—Definitions and explanations of general application are included in the Introduction to this volume and those for any specific item, in the chapter dealing with that subject. Definitions and explanations given here are limited to those having particular significance in respect to the color or race and tenure classifications or in the presentation of statistics classified by color or race and/or tenure. The descriptive terms and explanations refer principally to the 1959 Census of Agriculture, although for comparable items they will also apply, in general, to earlier years. The more significant changes in definitions or procedures that affect comparability are given separately following the presentation of the 1959 definitions.

The definitions consist primarily of a résumé of the questionnaire wording supplemented by any pertinent instructions or procedures for enumerating or processing the agricultural questionnaires. For the exact phrasing of the question, reference should be made to the facsimile of the 1959 Census of Agriculture questionnaire shown in the appendix of this report.

**Basis of the Tenure Classification.**—Farm tenure deals with the respective rights of individuals in the use of land and other resources required in agricultural production. The tenure classifications used in the 1959 and earlier censuses of agriculture are restricted to the farm operator and his rights in the land operated. The tenure arrangements under which farmland is operated may affect the way the land is used, and the quantities of capital and labor used in conjunction with the land. Thus, the tenure arrangement under which farmland is operated affects the total agricultural production and the farm income and status of farm families.

The census classification of tenure of farm operators was based on replies to inquiries on land owned, land rented from others, land managed for others, and land rented to others by farm operators, and on the basis of the rental arrangements for land rented from others. For operators renting land to others, the tenure of the farm operator was determined on the basis of the tenure of the land retained.

The classifications of tenure, as used for the 1959 census, were as follows:

**Full owners operate only land they own.**

**Part owners operate land they own and also land rented from others.** No subclassification of part owners was made on the basis of rental arrangements for the land rented, but table 26 presents a count of part owners reporting specified kinds of rental arrangements.

**Managers operate land for others and are paid a wage or salary for their services.** Persons acting merely as caretakers or hired as laborers were not classified as managers. If a farm operator managed land for others and also operated land on his own account, the land operated on his own account was considered as one farm and the land managed for others as a second farm. If, however, he managed land for two or more employers, all the managed land was considered to be one farm. See "Land managed for others" for a description of the office processing in determining land managed for others.

**Tenants rent from others, or work on shares for others, all the land they operate.**

Tenants, for all States except Alaska, were further classified on the basis of rental arrangements. Inquiries asked for only a sample of farms, determined whether the arrangement for the use of the land called for payment of cash rent, a share of the crops, a share of the livestock or livestock products, or some other arrangement. An additional inquiry on whether the landlord furnished all workpower was asked for the 16 Southern States and for Missouri.

The subclasses of tenants were determined as follows:

**Cash tenants** pay cash rent either on a per acre basis or for the farm as a whole.

**Share-cash tenants** pay part of the rent in cash and part in a share of the crops and/or of the livestock and livestock products.

**Crop-share tenants** pay a share of the crops but not of the livestock or livestock products.

**Livestock-share tenants** pay a share of the livestock or livestock products. They may or may not also pay a share of the crops.

**Croppers** are tenants whose landlords furnish all the work animals or tractor power. They usually work under the close supervision of a landlord or his agent. The land assigned to a cropper is often a part of a multiple-unit operation. Croppers pay a share of the crops but, under the definition, may pay cash rent or a share of the livestock or livestock products instead of, or in addition to, a share of the crops.

In this volume, data for croppers are restricted to the 16 Southern States. Croppers were identified for Missouri and data for croppers are shown separately in some of the tables in volume I, part 17. Data for croppers in Missouri have been included with crop-share tenants in the presentation of the data shown in this chapter and in the tenure data shown elsewhere in this volume. A special table (table 3) presents selected data for croppers in Missouri.

**Other and unspecified tenants** include the following two subclasses for which separate data are not available for 1959:

**Other tenants** are those who do not qualify for inclusion in any of the foregoing subclassifications. They may have had use of land rent free or in return for a fixed quantity of products, payment of taxes, maintenance of buildings, etc.

**Unspecified tenants** are those for whom the rental arrangement was not reported. For Alaska, the questionnaire provided no basis for the subclassification of tenants. Hence all tenants for Alaska have been included in unspecified tenants.

**Land Owned, Rented, and Managed.**—Definition of land owned, rented, and managed provides a further description of the tenure classification. The inquiries on land owned, land rented from others, land managed for others, and land rented to others were used to determine—

1. **Land in the farm.** The acres in the farm were obtained by adding the acres owned and the acres rented from others and subtracting the acres rented to others. In the case of a managed farm, any acreage rented to others was subtracted from the total managed acres.

### 2. The tenure under which land in the farm was operated.

An inquiry on how many acres of the land rented to others represented land owned by the operator made possible a determination of the tenure of the land retained.

### 3. The tenure of the farm operator.

The definitions of the major tenures indicate how the replies to these inquiries were used to determine the tenure of the farm operator.

**Land Owned.**—All land that the operator and/or his wife held at the time of enumeration under title, purchase contract, homestead law, or as heir or trustee of an undivided estate was considered as owned. Land owned included not only land owned and operated but also any land owned by the farm operator and rented to others. If a farmowner rented to others all the land owned, retaining and operating only land rented from others, he was classed as a tenant, *not* an owner.

For farms operated as a partnership, the report was to be made in the name of the partner who was mainly in charge of the agricultural operations and was to include all land used for the partnership operation. Land used for the partnership operation that was owned by any of the partners was to be considered as land owned.

**Land Rented From Others.**—This item includes not only land that the operator rented or leased from others but also land he worked on shares for others and any land he occupied rent free. Grazing land used under government permit or license was not to be included as land rented from others. Land rented from others included, in addition to land leased and operated, any leased lands the farm operator may have subrented to others.

**Land Operated Under Lease.**—This item may be defined as land in tenant farms plus the rented portion of part-owner-operated farms. Land operated under lease can be only approximated for the censuses of 1959, 1954, and 1950. It is roughly equivalent to land rented from others by farm operators. This figure, however, overstates the area of land leased by the extent that lands leased by farm operators were subleased to others. Land subleased to others by farm operators in 1959 included 950,165 acres of rented lands subleased to others by full owners; 1,207,649 acres subleased to others by tenants; and an undetermined portion of the 15,528,326 acres of land rented to others by part owners. Thus, the 399,550,885 acres rented from others by farm operators in 1959 represent an overstatement of land operated under lease of not more than 2.5 percent. Although in 1959, the farm operator was asked how many acres rented to others represented land owned by him, this information was not tabulated. The information was used solely for the determination of the tenure of the farm operator.

**Land Rented to Others.**—This item includes all land rented or leased to others except land leased to the government under the Soil Bank, and all land worked by others on shares or on a rent-free basis. For the most part, the land rented to others represents agricultural lands but it may include land rented for residential or other nonfarm purposes. A tenant or sharecropper is considered as the operator of land leased, rented, or worked on shares even though his landlord may supervise his operations. The landlord is considered as the operator of only that portion of the land not assigned to tenants or croppers.

In counties where sharecropping operations are a common practice, a supplemental form, the Landlord-Tenant Questionnaire (A3), was used to bring together, on one form, basic information about all the land in one operating unit under the control of one landlord. The areas in which this supplemental form was used is shown in the Introduction to this volume. This supplemental form was used to assure the enumeration of the landlord and each of his tenants, renters, or sharecroppers. It assisted in obtaining complete coverage of all sharecropping operations by insuring that operations were not duplicated in the separate questionnaires filled for the landlord and his tenants.

For Alaska, lands rented to others by farm operators were not considered to be sufficiently significant to justify the inclusion of an inquiry on the questionnaire.

**Land Managed for Others.**—This item includes all tracts of land managed for one or more employers by a person hired on a salary basis. A hired manager was considered to be the operator of the land he managed since he was responsible for the agricultural operations on that land and frequently supervised others in performing those operations. If the manager operated a farm for himself, in addition to managing one for his employer, such a place was considered to be a separate farm and was to be enumerated separately.

All lands operated for corporations, institutions, Indian reservations, or grazing associations were considered as managed.

For other farms, the processing instructions distinguished a hired manager from a caretaker or hired laborer who merely carried out his employer's instructions, by requiring that the farm to be classed as manager-operated had to meet at least one of the following conditions:

- 1,000 or more acres reported as managed.
- 10 acres or more in vegetables, berries, or in fruit orchards.
- Nursery or greenhouse operations with sales of \$5,000 or more.
- Cropland harvested plus land rented to others equal to 200 or more acres.
- 50 or more cattle and calves on hand.
- 25 or more milk cows on hand.
- 1,000 or more poultry on hand, sold, or raised.

**Permit Lands Excluded.**—Grazing lands used under a government permit were not to be included as land in farms. Thus, a landowner who rented no land from others but used additional land under a government grazing permit was classed as a full owner and not a part owner. Grazing land not in farms amounted to approximately 328 million acres in 1959. Figures by divisions and States are shown in chapter I of this volume.

**Farms by Color or Race of Operator.**—Enumerators were instructed to report the race of the farm operator on the basis of their own observation whenever possible rather than asking the respondent. The questionnaires for 49 States provided for indicating whether the operator was white, Negro, or other race with a write-in of the race if "other" was checked. In the processing, farm operators were classed as "white" and "nonwhite" with the "nonwhite" further classified as "Negro" and "other nonwhite."

Table 1.—NUMBER OF NEGRO AND OTHER NONWHITE FARM OPERATORS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1900 TO 1959

[Figures for divisions and States in Table 31]

Year	All nonwhite operators	Negroes <sup>1</sup>	Other nonwhite <sup>1</sup>
1959.....	290,831	272,541	18,290
1954 <sup>2</sup> .....	483,650	467,656	15,994
1950.....	585,917	559,980	25,937
1945 <sup>2</sup> .....	689,215	NA	NA
1940.....	723,504	681,790	41,714
1935 <sup>2</sup> .....	855,555	NA	NA
1930.....	921,400	882,852	38,548
1925 <sup>2</sup> .....	(3)	NA	NA
1920.....	954,284	925,710	28,574
1910 <sup>2</sup> .....	924,450	893,377	31,073
1900.....	769,528	746,717	22,811

NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>For Hawaii for 1959, 1950, and 1940, Negroes were not separately identified; for these years "other nonwhite" include "all other" races reported for Hawaii.

<sup>2</sup>Continous United States only; Alaska and Hawaii were not included in censuses of 1954, 1945, 1935, and 1925.

<sup>3</sup>Available for South only.

<sup>4</sup>Forty-nine States; no classification by color for Alaska for 1910.

In the processing of the questionnaires, all reports representing lands operated for Indian reservations were coded as though Indian-operated. For Hawaii, the questionnaire provided for indicating whether the operator was Caucasian, Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, or "other." If "other" was checked a write-in of the race was required. In the processing, no further classification was made for those checked as "other" races. Data for six race groups are shown in the 1959 report for Hawaii (volume I, part 50) but for this chapter all races other than Caucasian were combined and shown as nonwhite.

Most of the tabulations by color of operator for 1959 were restricted to the 16 States comprising the South with totals for "white" and "nonwhite" only. Land in farms and cropland harvested were tabulated for these two groups for all States. Only a count of farms is available separately for Negro and other nonwhite operators.

**Commercial Farms.**—Many of the data, presented by tenure, in this volume and in volume I are restricted to commercial farms. In general, for 1959, all farms with a value of sales amounting to \$2,500 or more were classified as commercial. Farms with less than \$2,500 of sales were classified as commercial only if the farm operator were under 65 years of age, and if he reported less than 100 days of work off his farm during the year, and family income from nonfarm sources was less than the value of all farm products sold.

The remaining farms were classed as "other farms" and comprised part-time farms, part-retirement farms, and abnormal farms. The latter were predominantly institutional farms, Indian reservations, and grazing associations. For a further description of commercial and "other farms" see chapter XI.

## COMPARABILITY OF DATA

**Tenure Classifications for Earlier Censuses.**—Corresponding tenure classes were defined essentially the same for all censuses. Variations in the questionnaire, in the methods used for the determination of tenure, in the tenure groups recognized in the classifications, and in the definition of farms may have affected the comparability of the data.

Beginning with 1920, the tenure classifications have been made in the office processing on the basis of replies to inquiries relating to the tenure arrangement. Major variations in these inquiries and in the office processing are given in the discussions of comparability of specific tenure groups. For 1910 and 1900 the enumerator determined the tenure on the basis of definitions provided in his instructions. For 1890 and 1880 the enumerator was required to indicate whether the farm operator was an owner, or whether he rented for a fixed money rental, or rented for a share of the products. The questionnaires for 1890 and 1880 did not include, and were not accompanied by, any instructions as to what farms were to be included under each of these three designated tenures.

**Comparability of Full Owners, Part Owners, and Tenants.**—For 1954, as in 1959, the tenure was determined on the basis of the tenure of the land retained by the operator. In 1950, however, the questionnaire did not provide for determining whether land rented to others by the farm operator was owned by him. If an operator with land rented to others reported both owned land and land rented from others it was not possible to determine the tenure of the land retained. Consequently, for that census the tenure was determined on the basis of whether the operator owned any land or rented any land from others. Full owners reporting land rented from others and tenants reporting land owned, as determined in the 1959 and 1954 censuses, provide an

indication of the effects of the 1950 procedures on comparability of the tenure classifications. The 3,791 full owners in 1959 and the 10,544 full owners in 1954 who reported land rented from others and the 12,133 tenants in 1959 and the 15,440 tenants in 1954 who reported land owned would have been classed as part owners under the 1950 procedures. These full owners represented 0.2 percent of all full owners in 1959 and 0.4 percent in 1954, and these tenants represented 1.6 percent of all tenants in 1959 and 1.3 percent of all tenants in 1954. If these operators had been classed as part owners in 1959 and in 1954 they would have increased the number of part owners by 1.9 percent in 1959 and by 3.0 percent in 1954.

Prior to 1950, enumerators were provided with the definition of a farm. Inquiries on tenure were restricted to this predetermined farm. From 1925 through 1945, owners, part owners, and tenants were determined on the basis of inquiries as to the acres in the farm owned by the operator and the acres rented from others. For 1920, the inquiries were whether the operator owned all the farm, rented from others part but not all the farm, or rented all the farm from others. Under these procedures two places operated by the same person, occasionally, may have been counted as separate farms despite processing instructions to combine such reports. Thus, the data for 1945 and earlier may include some understatement of the number of part owners.

For 1945, the understatement of the number of part owners in the South may have been greater than for other censuses because of a special instruction regarding the enumeration of multiple-unit operations. For that census, a book-type questionnaire was used, each farm being enumerated on a separate line. For multiple-unit operations, all subunits were to be enumerated on consecutive lines with the multiple unit as a whole enumerated on a separately designated line. If a cropper or tenant in a multiple unit operated additional land this additional land was to be enumerated separately. For 1945, fewer part owners were reported in the South than in 1940. Substantial increases in the number of part owners were shown for the North and the West.

For 1900, the instructions to enumerators provided for an "owner and tenant" tenure class defined as a farm cultivated jointly by its owner and by one or more other persons working for a share of the farm products. In the 1910 report the 53,299 "owner and tenant" farms reported for 1900 were combined with owners owning entire farm.

Prior to 1900, there was no separation of full owners and part owners and managers were not recognized as a tenure class.

For Alaska, the 1930 and 1920 reports show only totals for "owners" with no differentiation between full owners and part owners. The 1910 report for Alaska provides no classification by tenure.

**Comparability of Managers.**—There has been very little change in the definition of managers since this tenure class was first shown in 1900. Differences in enumeration and office processing, however, may have affected somewhat the comparability of the data for this tenure group. Prior to 1950, managers were determined on the basis of the reply to a direct inquiry as to whether the operator operated the farm as a hired manager. The word "manage," or "manager," has been interpreted variously by farm operators and census enumerators. Caretakers, hired workers, and relatives of the farmowner have often considered themselves to be managers. On the other hand, land operated for institutions, or for corporations, has often been incorrectly reported as owner-operated. The processing instructions have varied in respect to the application of procedures to assume the inclusion of all farms operated for institutions, corporations, or cooperative groups, and the exclusion of farms in-

## GENERAL REPORT

Table 2.—TENURE CLASSES INCLUDED IN THE REPORTS FOR EACH CENSUS, WITH THE NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS: 1880 TO 1959

[Data in italics are based on reports for only a sample of farms]

1959	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1950	1945 <sup>1</sup>	1940	1935 <sup>1</sup>	1930	1925 <sup>1</sup>	1920	1910 <sup>2</sup>	1900	1890 <sup>1</sup>	1880 <sup>1</sup>
Full owners  2,118,783 <i>2,116,594</i>	Full owners  2,736,951 <i>2,744,708</i>	Full owners  3,091,666	Full owners  3,301,361	Full owners  3,085,491	Full owners  3,210,224	Full owners  3,213,052	Full owners  3,313,490	Owners owning entire farm  3,368,146	Owners owning entire farm <sup>3</sup>  3,355,731	Owners  3,149,344  Owners and tenants <sup>4</sup> 53,299	Cultivated by owners 3,269,728	Cultivated by owners 2,984,306
Part owners  811,079 <i>834,470</i>	Part owners  856,933 <i>868,180</i>	Part owners  825,670	Part owners  660,502	Part owners  615,502	Part owners  688,867	Part owners  657,109	Part owners  554,842	Owners renting additional land  558,708	Owners renting additional land  593,954	Part owners  451,515		
Managers  20,668 <i>21,060</i>	Managers  20,647 <i>20,894</i>	Managers  23,646	Managers  38,885	Managers  36,501	Managers  48,104	Managers  56,131	Managers  40,700	Managers  68,583	Managers  58,353	Managers  59,213		
All tenants  759,973 <i>736,849</i>	All tenants  1,167,885 <i>1,149,239</i>	All tenants  1,447,455	All tenants  1,858,421	All tenants  2,364,923	All tenants  2,865,155	All tenants  2,668,811	All tenants  2,462,608	All tenants  2,458,554	All tenants  2,357,784	Tenants  2,026,286	Rented 1,294,913	Rented 1,024,601
Cash   <i>107,217</i>	Cash  162,144 <i>160,131</i>	Cash  215,392	Cash  402,175	Cash  514,438	( <sup>5</sup> )	Cash  489,210	Cash  393,452	Cash  483,577 (Includes standing renters for North and West)	Cash  715,188 (Includes standing renters)	Cash  752,920 (Includes standing renters and unspecified tenants)	Rented for fixed money value 454,659	Rented for fixed money value 322,357
Share-cash  <i>132,584</i>	Share-cash  165,566 <i>166,241</i>	Share-cash  193,141	Share-cash  137,858	Share-cash  278,605	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	Share-cash  127,822	Share-cash  128,466	Share  1,273,366 (Includes share-cash tenants)  Share 1,400,137	Rented for share of products 840,254	Rented for share of products 702,244
Share  <i>287,476</i>	Share  442,748 <i>438,416</i>	Share  535,332	Share  694,928	Share  815,799	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	Share  1,117,892				
Crop-share  <i>201,046</i>	Crop-share  333,254 <i>327,261</i>	Crop-share  420,049										
Livestock-share  <i>86,429</i>	Livestock-share  109,494 <i>111,164</i>	Livestock-share  115,283										
Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  <i>121,037</i>	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  272,572 <i>267,662</i>	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  346,765	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  446,556	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  541,291	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  716,256	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  776,278	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  623,058	Croppers (South only) <sup>6</sup>  561,091				
Other and unspecified <sup>7</sup>  <i>87,696</i>	Other and unspecified  124,855 <i>117,790</i>  Other 51,581 <i>68,669</i>  Unspecified 73,274 <i>66,121</i>	Other and unspecified  7156,825  Other 48,333  Unspecified 7108,472	Other and unspecified  176,904	Other and unspecified  7214,790	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	Standing renters (South only)  104,996  Unspecified 763,176	(Standing renters included with cash tenants)  Unspecified 113,993	(Included with cash tenants)	(Included in above tenant classes)	(Included in above tenant classes)

<sup>1</sup>Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included. <sup>2</sup>Forty-nine States; no classification by tenure for Alaska for 1910. <sup>3</sup>Full owners for 1930 include 330 "owners" and for 1920 include 345 "owners" for Alaska where no differentiation was made between full owners and part owners. <sup>4</sup>Owner and tenant farms were operated jointly by the owner and a tenant working for a share of the products. This tenure class was recognized in the instructions to enumerators for both the 1910 and 1900 censuses. Inasmuch as the number of such cases was very limited and the owner was often a parent and the tenant a son, this class was consolidated in the 1910 reports with farms operated by their owners. <sup>5</sup>For 1935, all tenants other than croppers were published as "Other tenants"; for 1930 and 1925, all tenants other than cash tenants and croppers were published as "Other tenants." <sup>6</sup>Croppers for Missouri (shown separately in Table 3) are included with crop-share and share tenants. <sup>7</sup>Includes for Alaska, 17 "tenants" for 1959, 20 for 1950, and 11 for 1920 and 3,652 "tenants" for Alaska and Hawaii for 1940; the questionnaires not providing for subclassification as to kind of tenants.

correctly reported as managed. For 1954 and 1950, specific criteria, similar to those for 1959, were used to distinguish bona fide managers from mere caretakers, hired workers, or relatives. Prior to 1950, the processing instructions generally called for the exclusion of such places but provided no specific criteria for their determination.

**Comparability of Tenant Subclasses.**—The subclassification of tenants in 1954 and in 1950 was the same as in 1959 and the determination was made on the same basis. The subclassification of tenants for earlier censuses differed from that of 1959 primarily in the number of subclasses.

For 1945, no inquiries relating to rental arrangements, other than for workpower furnished, were included. Instead, enumerators were asked to specify the kind of rent as cash, share, share-cash, or other. This procedure may have resulted in an understatement in the number of share-cash tenants and an overstatement in the numbers of cash and share tenants.

From 1920 to 1940, the kinds of tenants were determined in the office processing on the basis of a description of the rental arrangement. For 1940 and 1930, rental payments closely akin to cash payments, such as payment of taxes, repairs, and upkeep of farms, were considered as representing cash rentals. Tenants paying a fixed quantity of farm products as rent, however, have been excluded from cash tenants beginning with 1930. For 1920, tenants paying a fixed quantity of farm products as rent (standing renters) were classified separately for the South but with cash tenants for the northern and western States. In subsequent censuses, standing renters have been classed as other tenants, hence the 1920 figures for standing renters in the South have been combined with other and unspecified tenants. Prior to 1920, tenants paying a fixed quantity of farm products as rent were classed as cash tenants.

The most important difference between croppers and tenants other than croppers lies in the greater degree of supervision by the landlord. Traditionally, a copper (*a*) provides labor (his own and that of his family); (*b*) works under close supervision of his landlord who provides land, management, workpower, equipment, and makes advances of food and other items; (*c*) shares with his landlord the risk of production; and (*d*) receives a share of the crop in return for his labor and risk.

For 1920, the first census for which croppers were separately identified, the census report states "as a convenient means of classification, however, croppers were defined as share tenants to whom the landlord furnished the necessary work stock." The furnishing of workpower has continued as the basis for the determination of croppers at each census. In 1920, 1925, and 1930, tenants paying, or receiving, a share of the crops were classed as croppers if the landlord furnished the work animals. In 1935, no information was secured as to method of rental, hence all tenants whose work animals were furnished by the landlord were classed as croppers. The furnishing of tractor power was first taken into account in the 1940 census. In that year and in 1945, the classification took into account that some croppers pay cash rent for items other than the cash crop while continuing to pay or receive a share of the crop. Beginning with 1950 only the single criterion, all workpower furnished by the landlord, has been used for the classification of croppers.

Croppers, as traditionally defined, represent an outgrowth of the changeover of the plantation system following the Civil War. The landowner continued to provide direction and subsistence for his workers and the workers were paid a share of the crops. This type of tenancy was particularly suited to the production of cotton and tobacco, both of which crops required large amounts

of hand labor. Since for census purposes each tenant operation has always been considered a separate farm, the land worked by each cropper was considered a farm in the census enumeration.

The relationship of croppers to the larger operational units represented by the lands supervised by their landlords has been recognized in the census reports covering "multiple-unit" or plantation operations. In order to indicate more fully the organization of southern agriculture, statistics for multiple units or plantations were published for the 1954, 1950, 1945, 1940, and 1910 censuses supplementing the basic reports of the census of agriculture. Because of their declining importance, no similar report for multiple units was made for 1959.

Croppers are not of importance outside of the 16 Southern States except for the adjoining cotton-growing counties of southeastern Missouri. Beginning with the 1940 census, data for croppers have also been published for Missouri. In publishing the data for Missouri, comparative figures compiled for 1935 and 1930, but not previously published, were included in the 1940 report. These data for Missouri, however, have not been included in the presentation of summary data for the United States, regions, divisions, and States in the general reports for agriculture. At each of the censuses, the summary data for croppers have been restricted to the 16 Southern States. Table 3, however, presents the number, total acres, cropland harvested, and value of land and buildings for cropper farms in Missouri, 1930 to 1959. In volume I, part 17, Missouri, croppers are shown for the State as a whole. In prior censuses croppers for Missouri were restricted to the 7 southeastern counties. Table 3 shows 1959 totals for the State and for the 7 counties. Croppers in the 7 counties are similar to croppers elsewhere in the South averaging 39 acres with 34 acres of cropland harvested as compared with 42 acres with 24 acres of cropland harvested for the South. Those in Missouri outside the 7 southeastern counties averaged 219 acres with 91 acres of cropland harvested.

Table 3.—FARMS AND FARM ACREAGE OF CROPPER FARMS, FOR MISSOURI:<sup>1</sup> 1930 TO 1959

[Croppers for Missouri are not included, in this chapter, in the totals for croppers for the United States or the South, but are counted with crop-share tenants. Data in italics are based on only a sample of farms.]

Census year	Number of cropper farms	All land in farms (acres)	Cropland harvested		Value of land and buildings	
			Farms re- porting	Acres	Average per farm (dol- lars)	Average per acre (dol- lars)
All cropper farms:						
1959, State.....	2,533	206,077	2,533	119,486	12,917	152.92
1959, 7 counties.....	1,938	76,032	1,938	66,179	9,134	262.47
1954.....	3,457	120,625	3,449	110,771	6,061	177.98
1950.....	5,226	179,463	5,179	160,648	5,004	112.90
1945.....	5,569	216,167	5,554	188,088	3,578	92.46
1940.....	4,369	149,712	NA	114,983	1,762	51.42
1935.....	6,065	186,829	NA	154,572	1,212	39.34
1930.....	7,181	238,639	NA	185,165	2,159	64.96
Commercial farms:						
1959, State.....	2,258	196,752	2,258	115,386	14,007	154.41
1959, 7 counties.....	1,793	75,702	1,793	63,674	9,592	264.20
1954.....	3,473	132,081	3,478	117,843	6,159	178.32
1950.....	4,851	169,694	4,846	151,825	5,286	144.45

<sup>1</sup>Data for 1930 to 1954 are for 7 southeastern counties.

The use of workpower furnished as a criterion for the determination of croppers tends to include some tenants not typical of the traditional cropper.

**Comparability of Land Owned, Rented, and Managed.**—For 1959, 1954, and 1950, information was obtained for the total land owned by the farm operator, the total land rented from others, and the total land managed. The acres of owned land in farms and the acres of rented land in farms can be only approximated for these years.

For 1954 and for 1950, estimates for part owners of the operated land represented by owned and rented lands, respectively, were made in connection with the tabulation of data on farm mortgage debt. These estimates are included in the totals published in part 5 of volume III of the 1954 Census of Agriculture reports and in part 8 of volume V of the 1950 reports. Similar estimates for 1959 will be included in part 4 of volume V of the 1959 Census of Agriculture reports.

For the censuses of 1925 to 1945, and for 1900, data on owned and rented lands are restricted to the land operated. Table 16 presents owned and rented lands, by tenure of the operator, for the United States, 1925 to 1959. Inquiries for acres owned and rented were not included in the 1920 census, and no separate tabulation of the owned and rented portions of part-owner farms is available for 1910.

**Comparability of Color-Tenure Data for Alaska and Hawaii.**—Alaska and Hawaii were not included in the mid-decennial censuses of 1954, 1945, 1935, and 1925. For Alaska, the report for 1910 provides no color or tenure classifications for the 222 farms reported. The 1950 agriculture report does not provide a color or race breakdown for the 525 farm operators reported for that year. For 1920 and 1930, there was no separate classification of farms of white and nonwhite operators by tenure. No separation of full owners and part owners was made until 1940 and at no time has there been a subclassification of tenants.

For Hawaii, the two-way classification of tenants, which for the conterminous United States had given way in 1910 to a more detailed classification was continued through 1920. No subclassification of tenants was made for Hawaii for 1930 or 1940. For 1930, in presenting tenure data by color of operator, full owners

and part owners were shown only as a combined total. In the race tabulations, beginning with 1940, Negro farm operators were not separately identified.

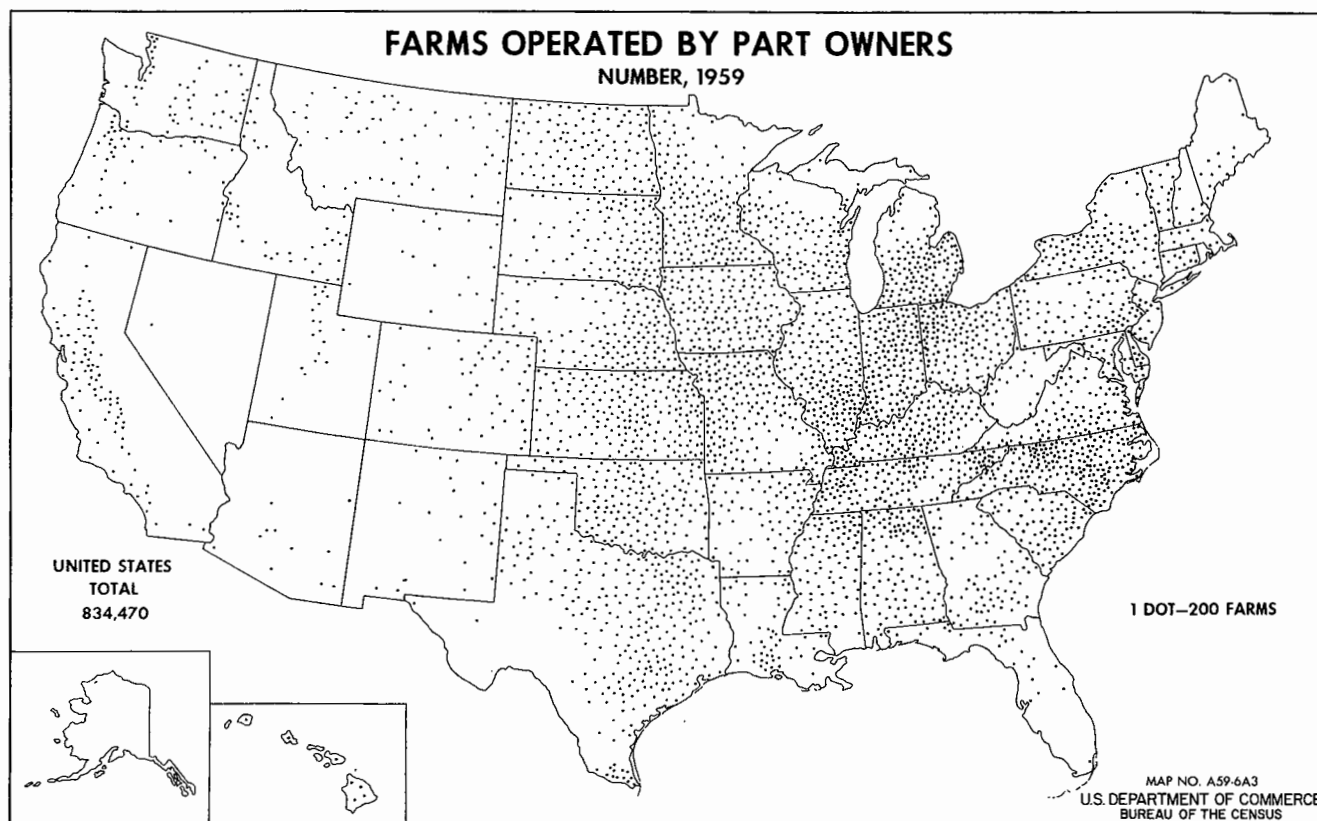
**Comparability Affected by Changes in Definition of a Farm.**—The tenure distributions have been affected to a minor extent by changes in the definition of a farm in the various censuses. The 1959 definition was more restrictive than that for 1954 and 1950, which in turn was more restrictive than the definition for prior censuses. A count of the places eliminated by the 1959 census, that would have been included under the 1954 and 1950 definition, and their distribution by tenure are presented in the Introduction to this volume.

The places eliminated by both the 1959 and 1950 changes in definition were marginal places with rather meager agricultural activities. The 1959 data indicate that such places are predominantly owner-operated with tenure distribution similar to farms other than commercial.

## FARM TENURE, 1959

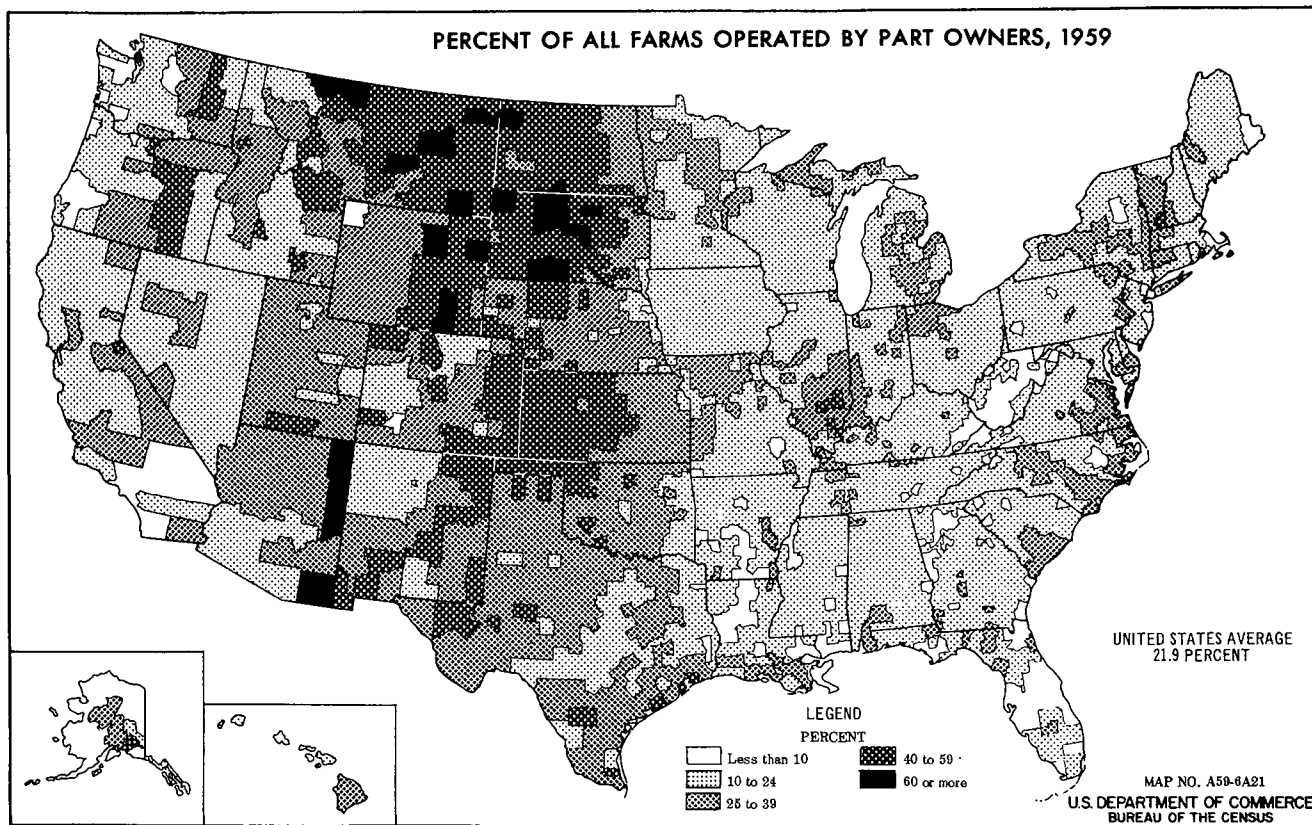
Full owners operated 57 percent of all farms in 1959.

**Increasing Importance of Part-Owner-Operated Farms.**—Part owners have become the dominant tenure group in the United States. The importance of this group is much greater than indicated by the number of farms operated, as part-owner-operated farms are larger than those operated by full owners and tenants. In 1959, part owners operated 22.5 percent of the farms, 44.8 percent of all land in farms, and 42.4 percent of all cropland.



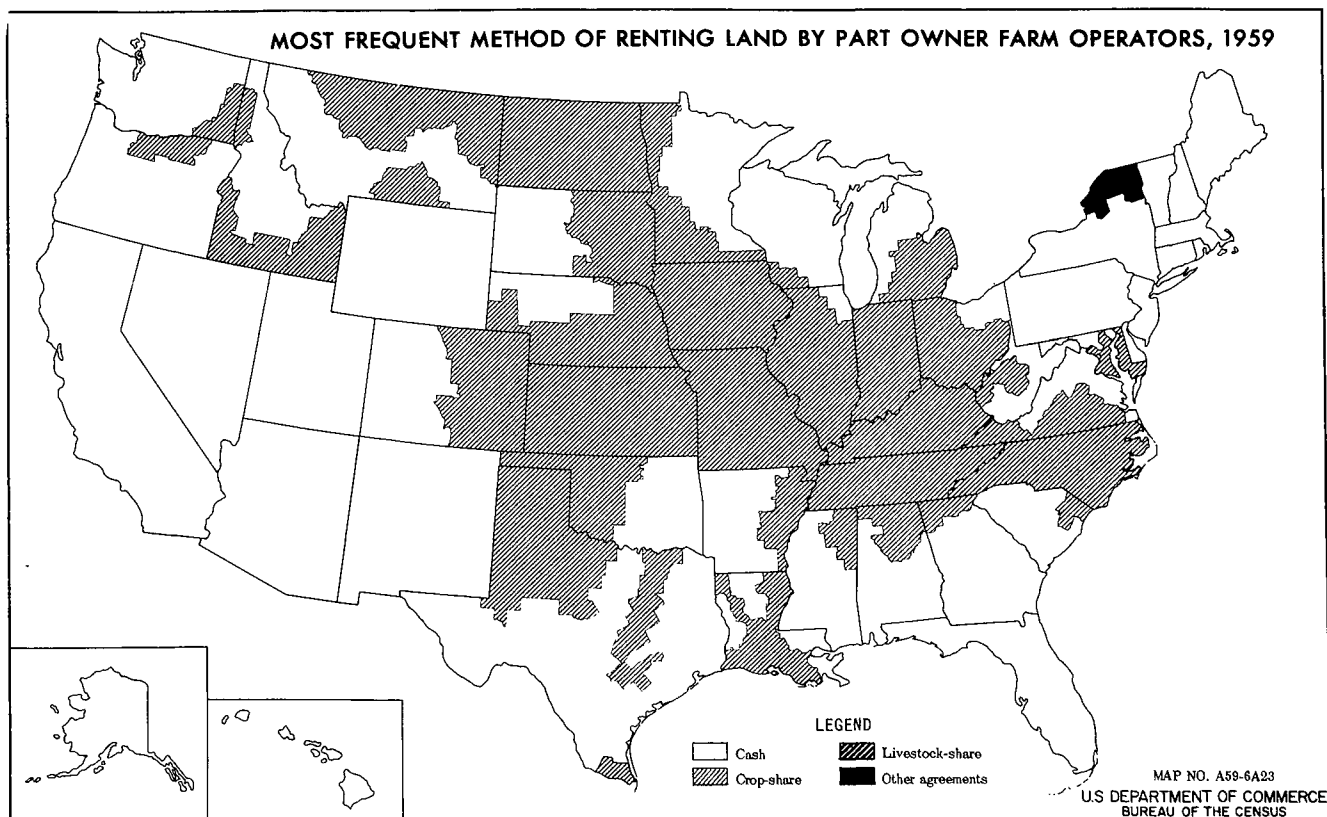
The rapid developments in mechanization and technology have enabled many farm operators to expand their agricultural opera-

tions and this has been accomplished, in part, by the renting of additional land.



In 1959, the paying of a share of crops was the most common rental arrangement made by part owners for the leasing of rented land. Crop-share renting arrangements were most frequently

used in the areas in the South and the North Central geographic division, where the production of crops for sale is important.



In 1959 the amount of land operated by part owners (504 million) nearly equaled the combined total (510 million) of that operated by full owners and by tenants. Land in part-owner-operated farms accounted for 54.0 percent of the total land in farms in the West, 43.8 percent in the North Central States, 38.3 percent in the South, and 32.8 percent in the northeast.

In 1954 part-owner farm operators had more land under lease than tenants and in 1959 their number exceeded the number of tenants. In 1959 more than one-fourth (28.3 percent) of all owner-operators were also operating leased lands. Fifteen years earlier only one owner-operator in six (16.7 percent) was renting additional land.

Tenants operated one farm in five in 1959.

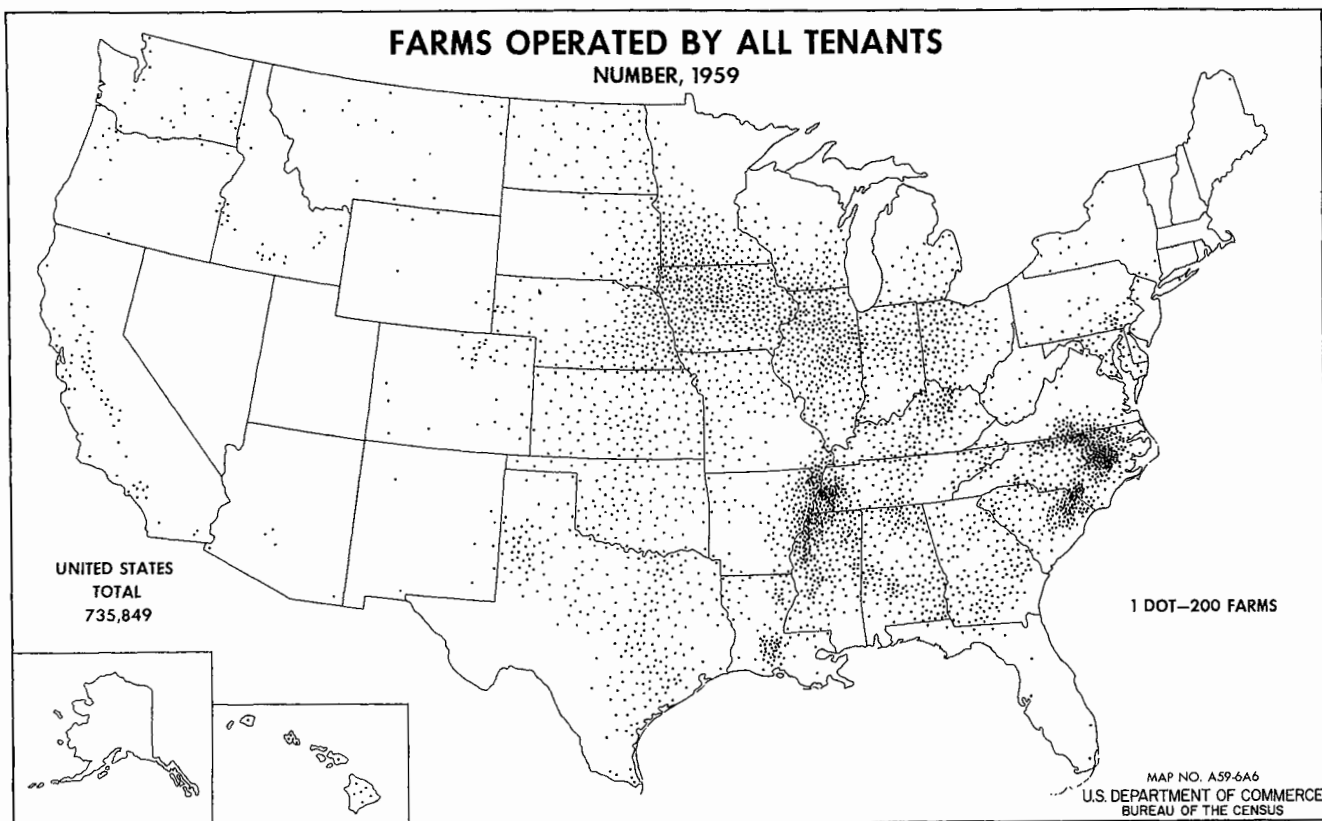
Nearly 50 percent of all farms operated by tenants were in the

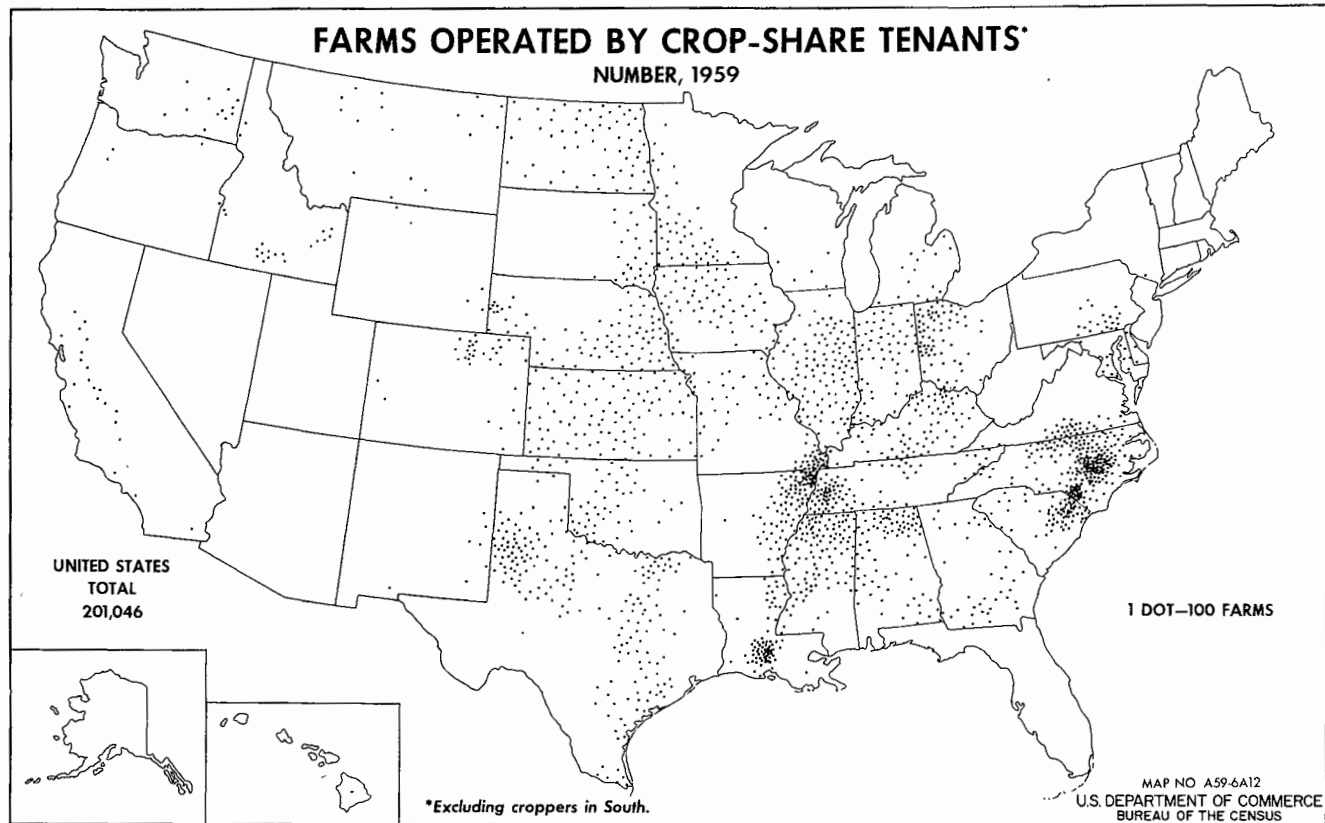
South. The tenant-operated farms are concentrated in the tobacco- and cotton-producing areas.

Approximately 42 percent of all tenant-operated farms are in the two North Central geographic divisions.

**Class of Tenants.**—The following data indicate the relative importance of the several classes of tenants:

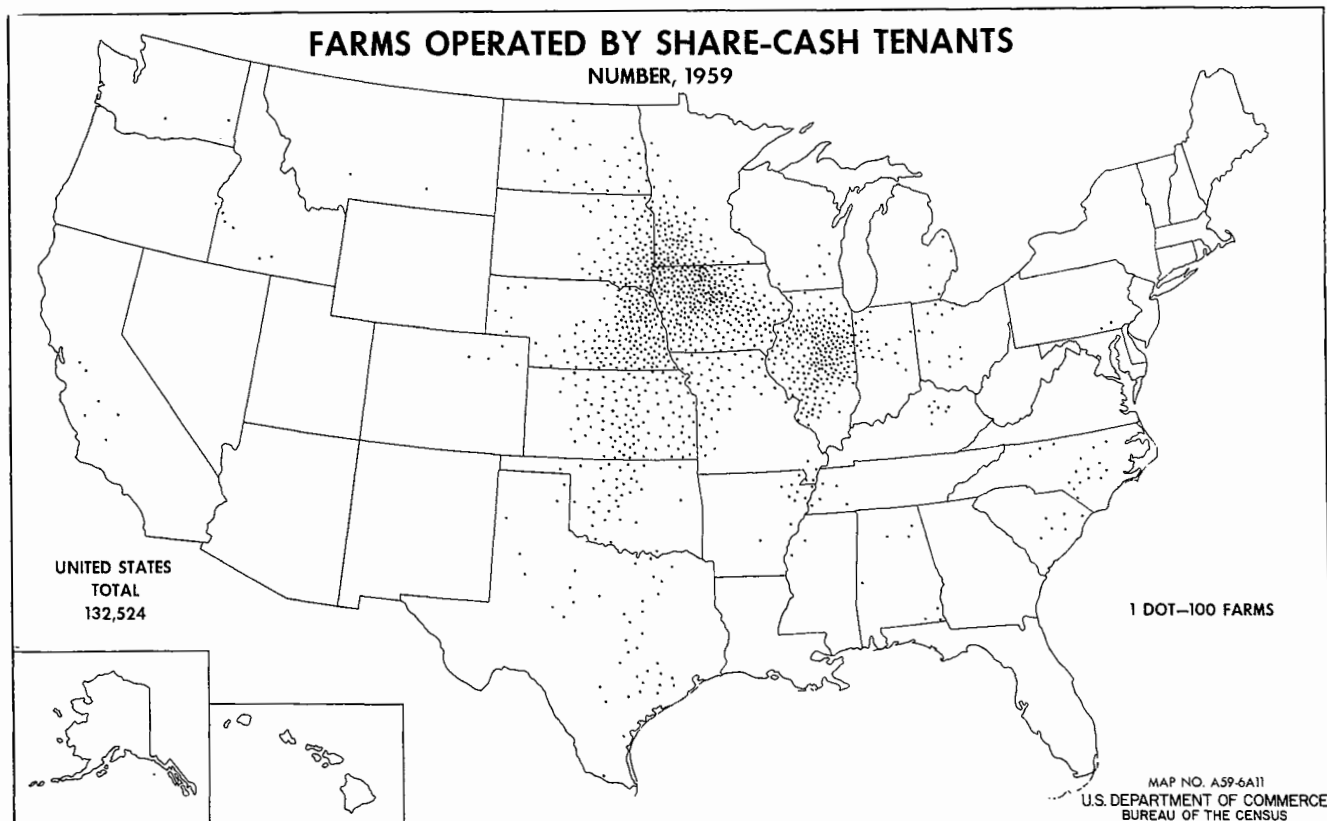
<i>Class of tenants</i>	<i>Number of tenants</i>	<i>Percent distribution</i>
Total.....	735,849	100.0
Crop-share.....	201,046	27.3
Share-cash.....	132,524	18.0
Croppers (South only).....	121,037	16.4
Cash tenants.....	107,217	14.6
Livestock-share.....	86,429	11.7
Other and unspecified.....	87,596	11.9





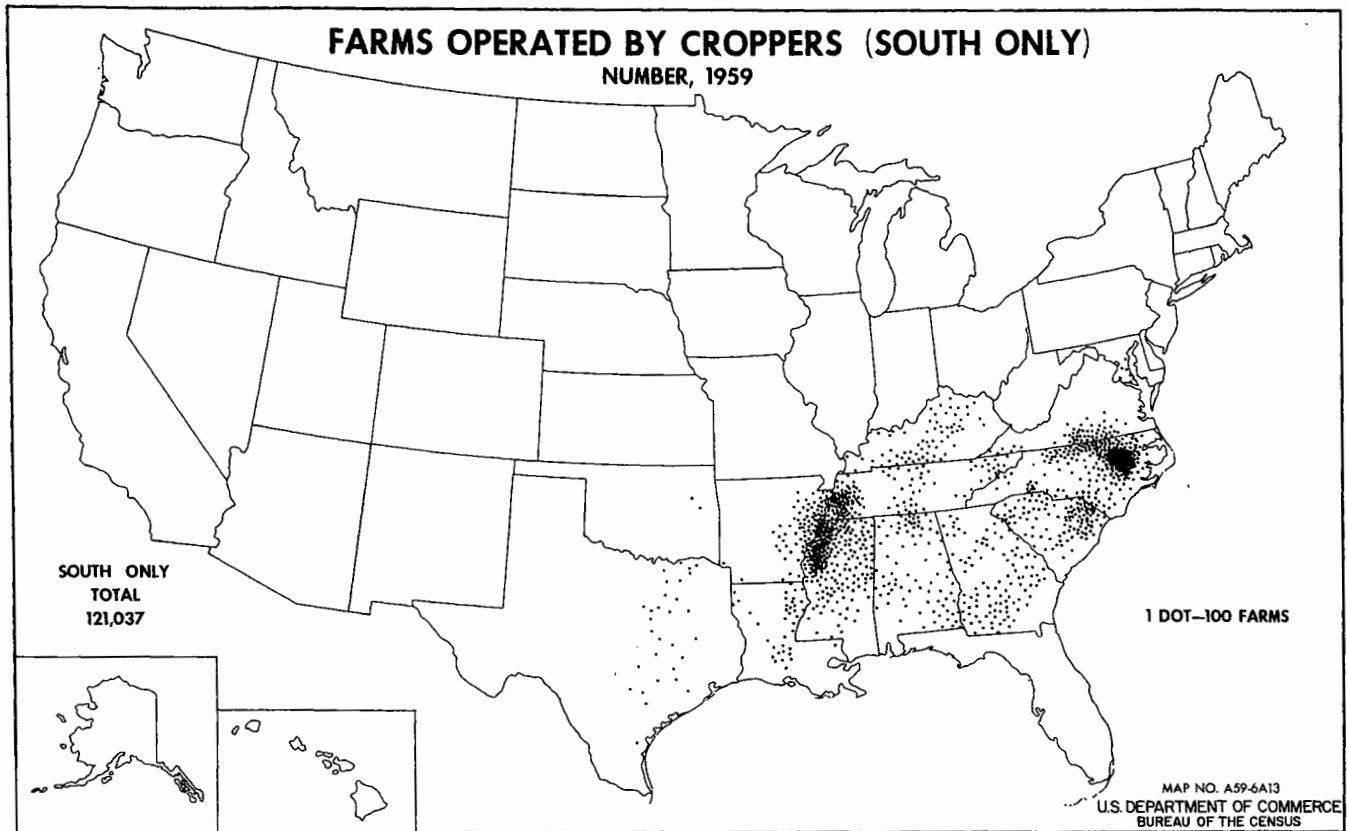
Crop-share method of rental of farms is most frequent in the areas where wheat and other grains, cotton, and tobacco are grown. This class of tenant farm predominates in areas through-

out the southeast, in the East North Central Division, in the Great Plains, and in parts of the West.

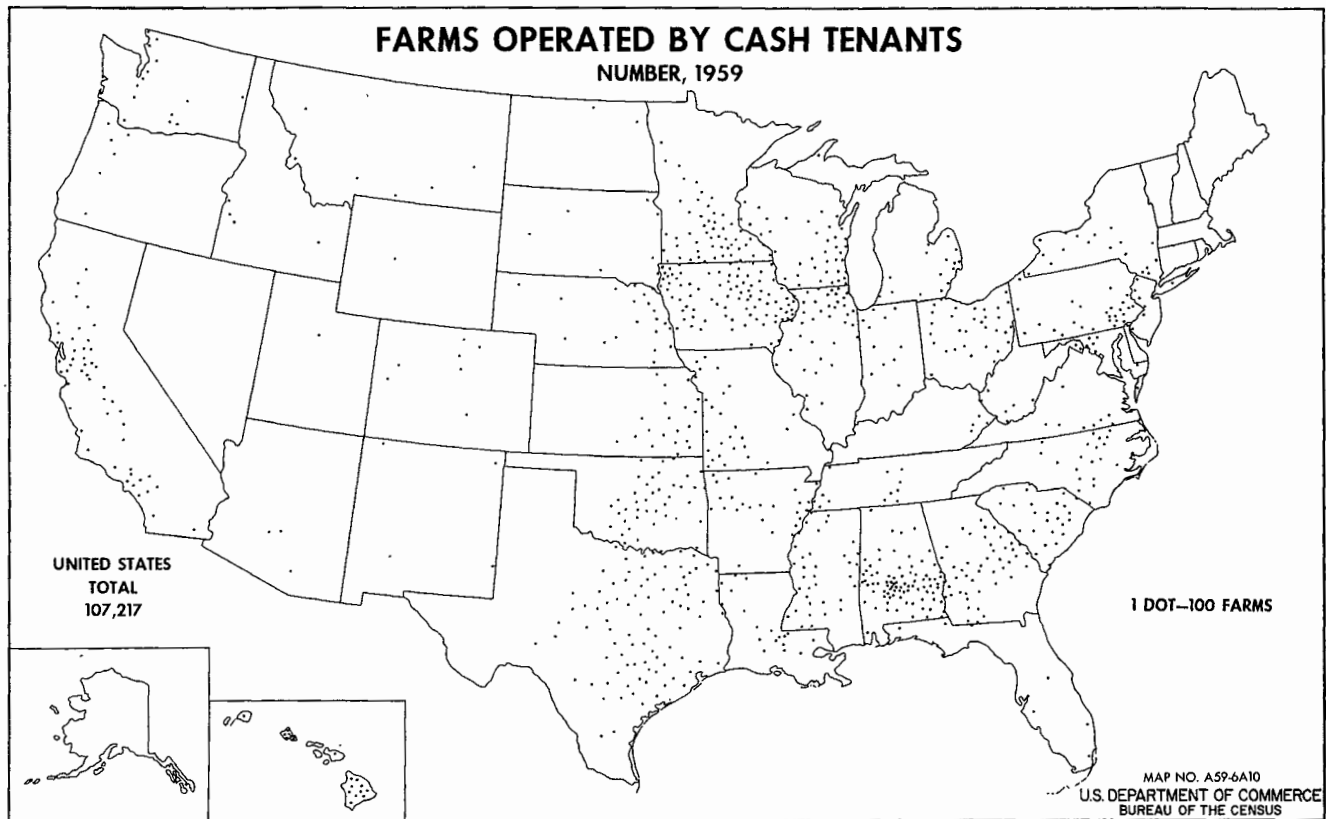


Farms operated by share-cash tenants are concentrated in the North Central States. Share-cash tenants usually paid a share

of their grain crops and a cash rent for buildings and pasture-land, frequently used for livestock production.

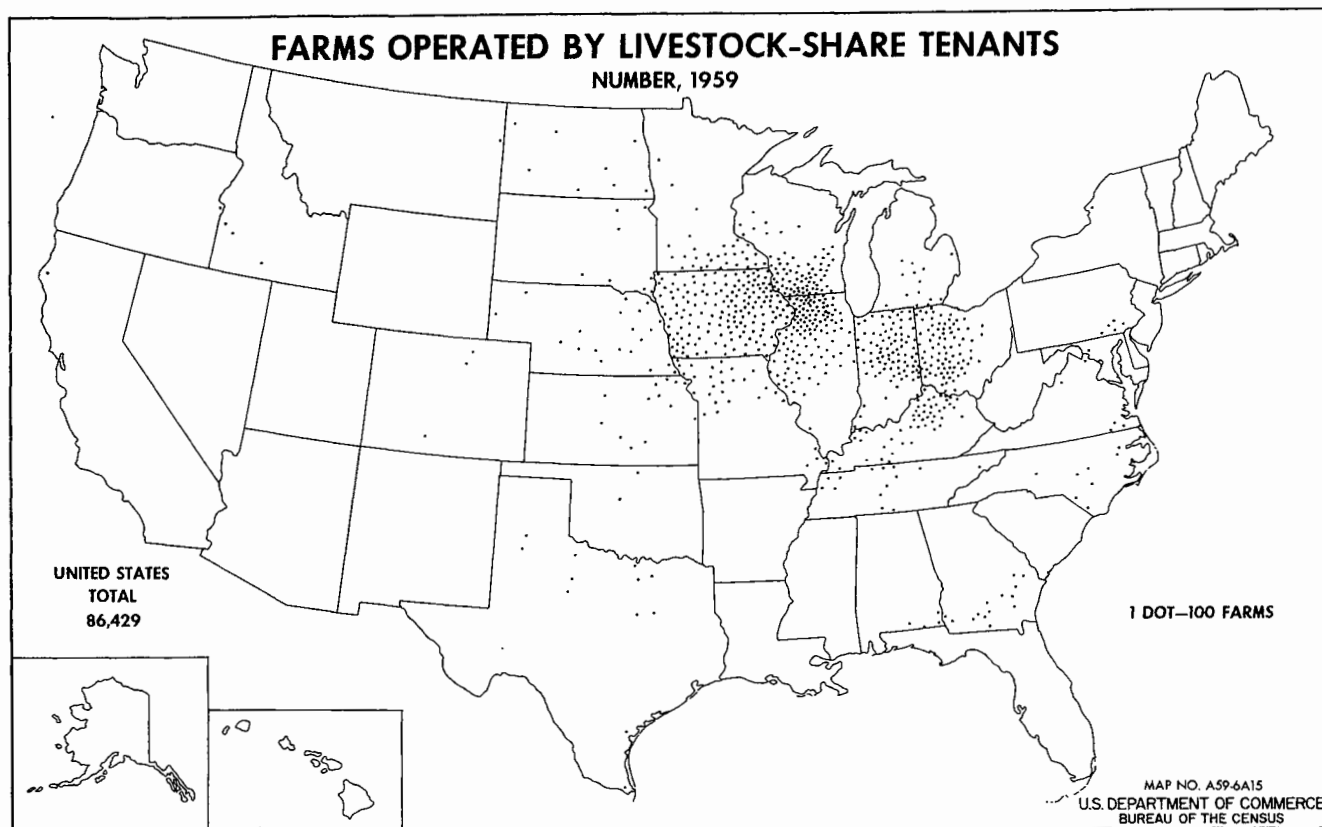


Farms operated by croppers are the dominant class of tenant | farms in tobacco- and cotton-producing areas of the South.



Farms operated by cash tenants are concentrated in areas near urban and industrial centers and in some of the relatively less productive areas. Cash renting is the predominant method of

renting farms in most of the northeastern and Middle Atlantic States, in West Virginia, Ohio, and in the area extending from northeastern Texas through the Ozark area in Missouri.



Livestock-share class of tenants predominate in areas where feed grain and livestock production are concentrated. This is the predominating type of tenancy in parts of the North Central States.

Other and unspecified tenants include those paying a fixed quantity for farm products, those using the land rent free or for maintenance costs, as well as those tenants for whom the rental arrangement was not reported. They represented 11.9 percent of all tenants and operated 8.9 percent of the land operated by all classes of tenants.

### CHANGES IN TENURE

**Decrease in Tenancy.**—Adjustments in operational arrangements to a changing agricultural situation have been bringing about substantial reductions in farm tenancy. The trend in farm tenancy has been downward for the past quarter century with rather large decreases within recent years. In 1959, farm tenancy was at the lowest level ever recorded in the 80-year period for which farm-tenure data have been collected by the census. In 1959, only one farm in five (19.8 percent) was tenant-operated. The proportion of farms operated by tenants was materially lower than 5 years earlier (24.0 percent in 1954) and less than half that of the peak reached about 1930 (42.4 percent). The 735,849 farms operated by tenants in 1959 was the smallest number reported by any census since farms operated by tenants were first counted in 1880 and over 2.1 million less than the number of farms operated by tenants in 1935.

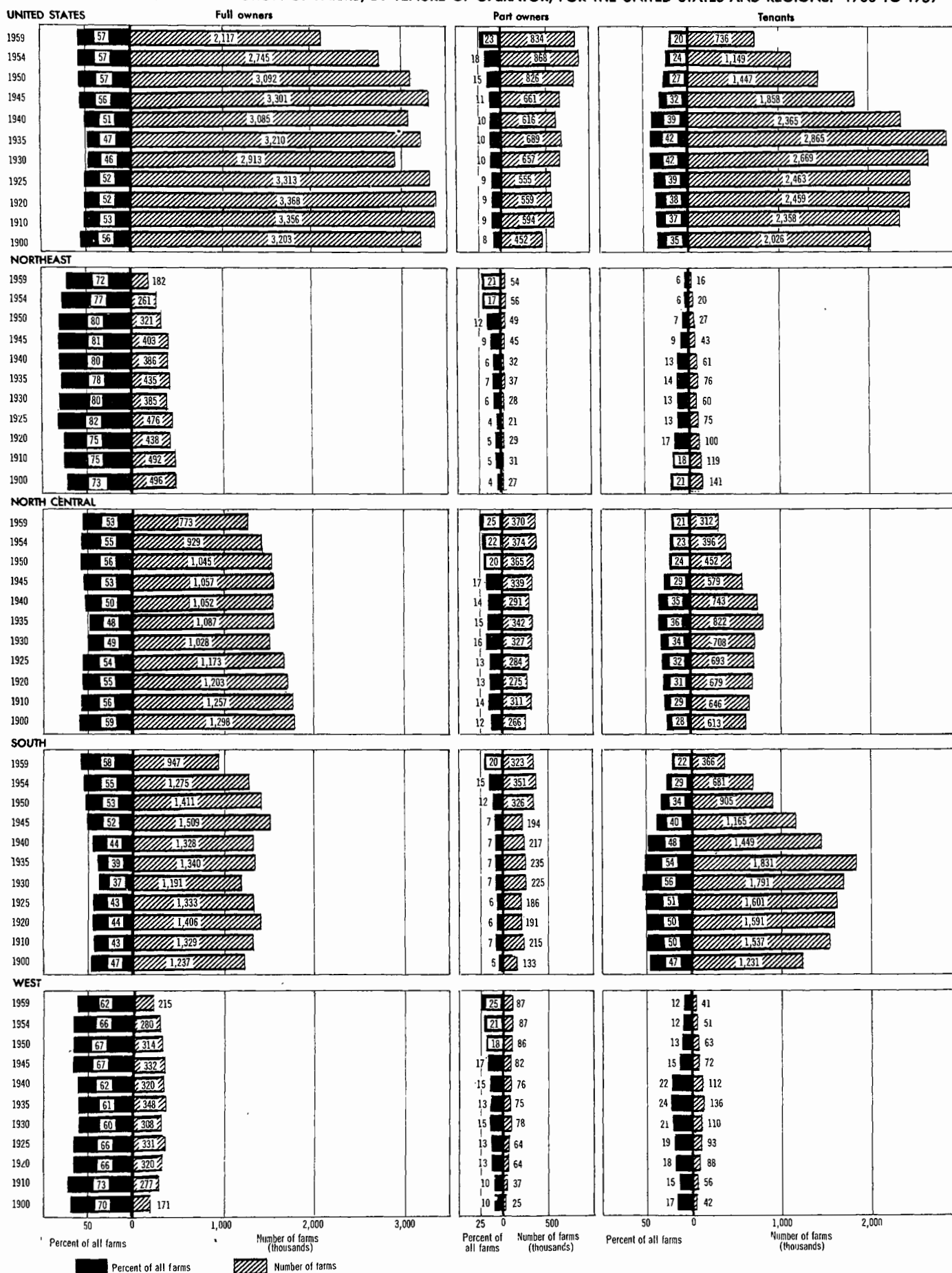
Both relative and absolute losses in tenant-operated farms were especially large in the South. Accompanying a drop between 1954 and 1959 of nearly 29.0 percent in the total number

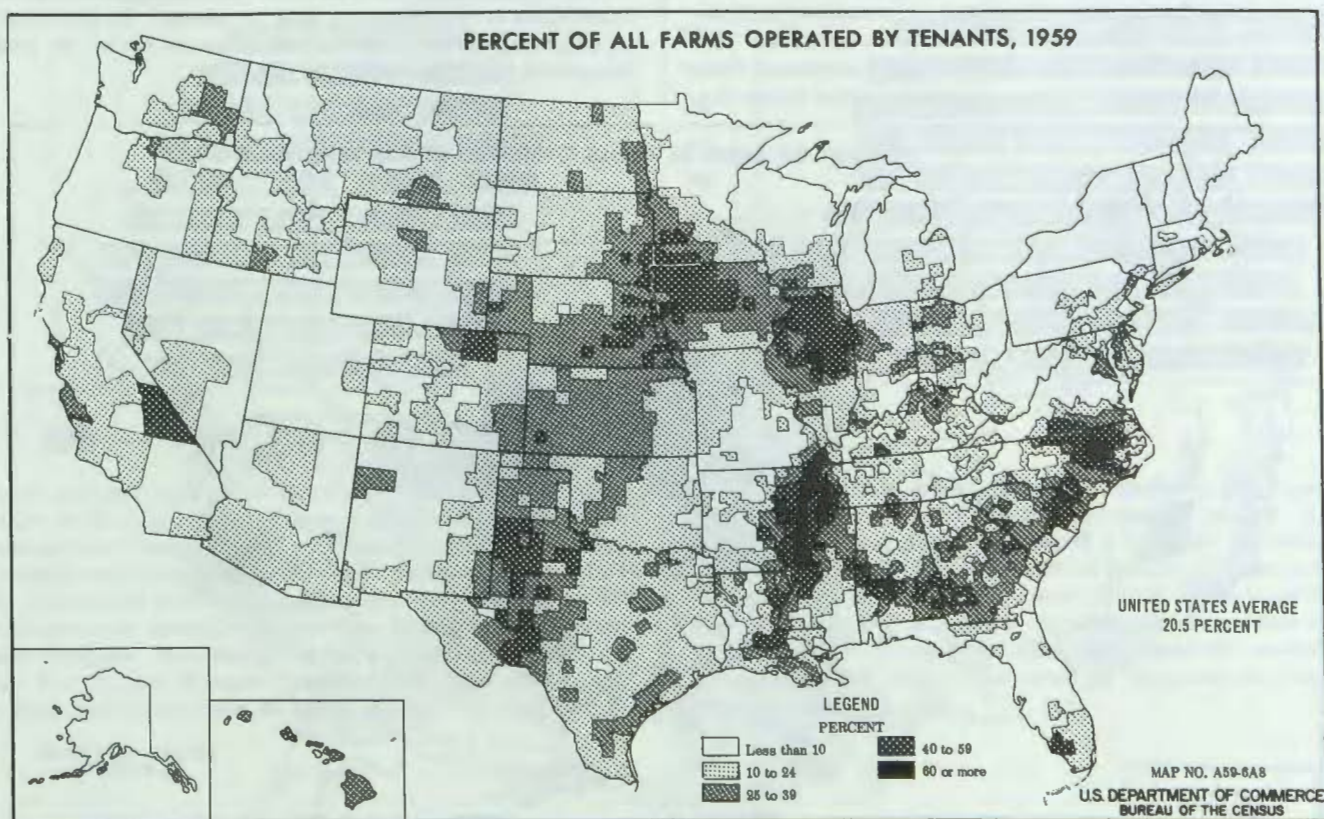
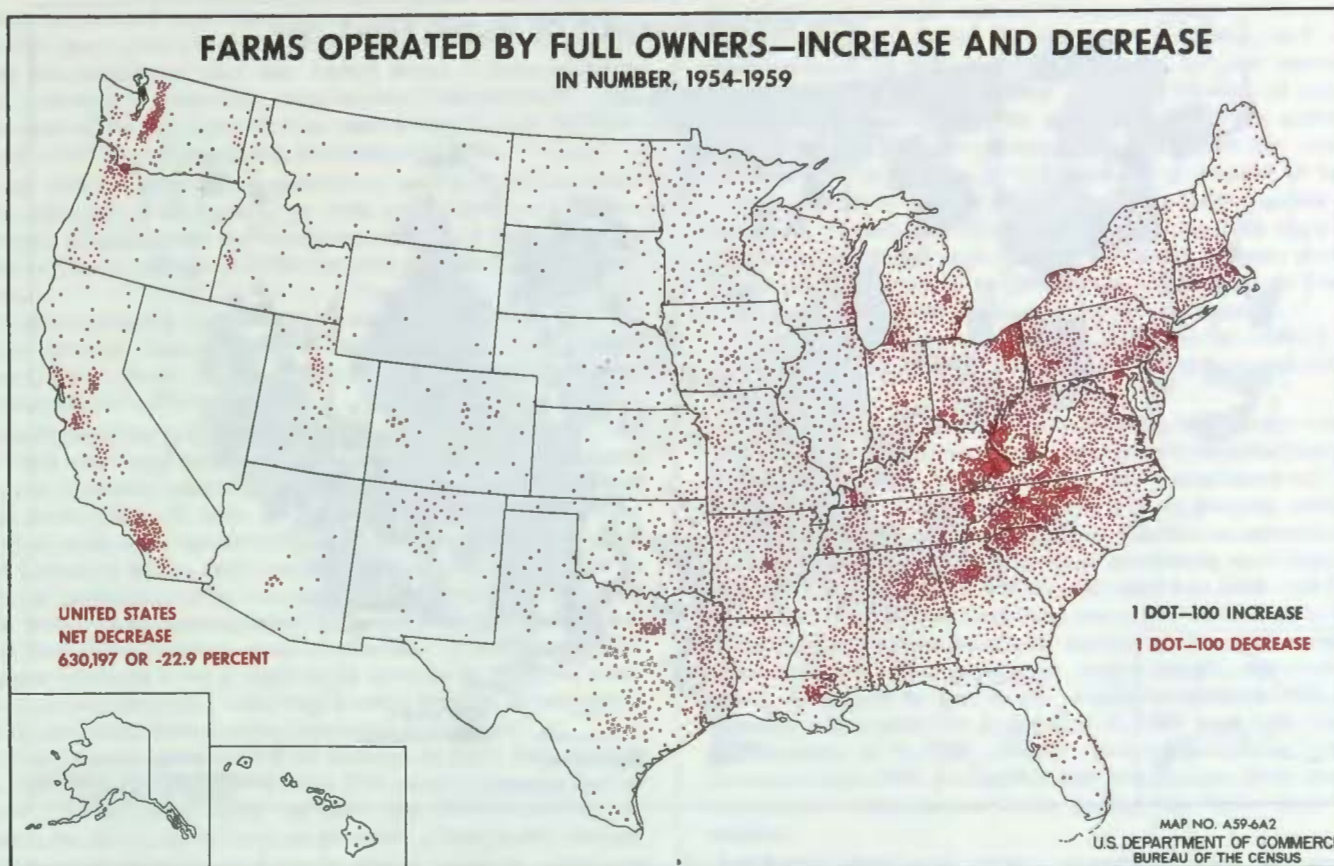
of all farms in the South, the decline in number of tenants was substantially larger amounting to 46.3 percent. The decrease in the number of croppers was even greater, amounting to 54.8 percent. The reduction in tenants, especially croppers and crop-share tenants, was very large in the older cotton-growing areas. In these areas, extending from South Carolina and Georgia westward to east Texas, croppers were only one-third as numerous in 1959 as at the beginning of the decade. The number of white croppers decreased by 70 percent. The major part of this reduction in number of tenants in the South occurred between 1954 and 1959.

Tenancy in the South has been traditionally very high among nonwhite farm operators. Large numbers of both white and nonwhite farm operators have left the farm but the exodus of nonwhite operators was proportionately greater than that of white operators. The South lost half of its nonwhite farm operators within less than a decade. The loss from 1954 to 1959 was especially large amounting to twice the loss during the first half of the decade. For every seven nonwhite farm operators in the South in 1920 there were two in 1959.

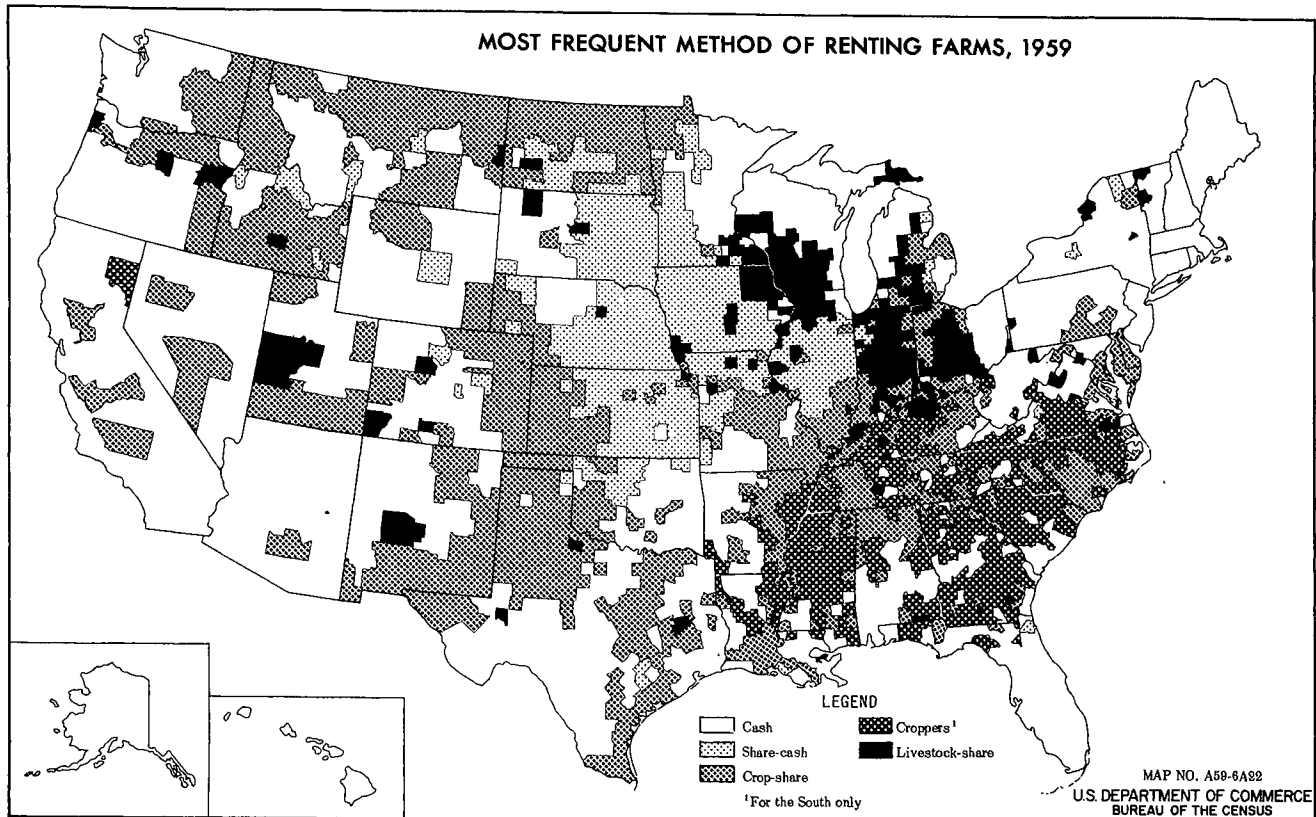
The proportion of farms operated by tenants has not changed as much since 1930 in the North Central States as in the South. The percentage of farms operated by tenants in these States was 22.2 in 1959 as compared with 47.1 percent in 1930. In other parts of the Nation outside of the South and the North Central States, tenancy has been lower and the changes have not been as large as in the South and the North Central States. In the New England and Middle Atlantic divisions only 1 out of 16 farms was tenant-operated in 1959. In the West, only 1 farm out of 8 was operated by a tenant in 1959.

## UNITED STATES





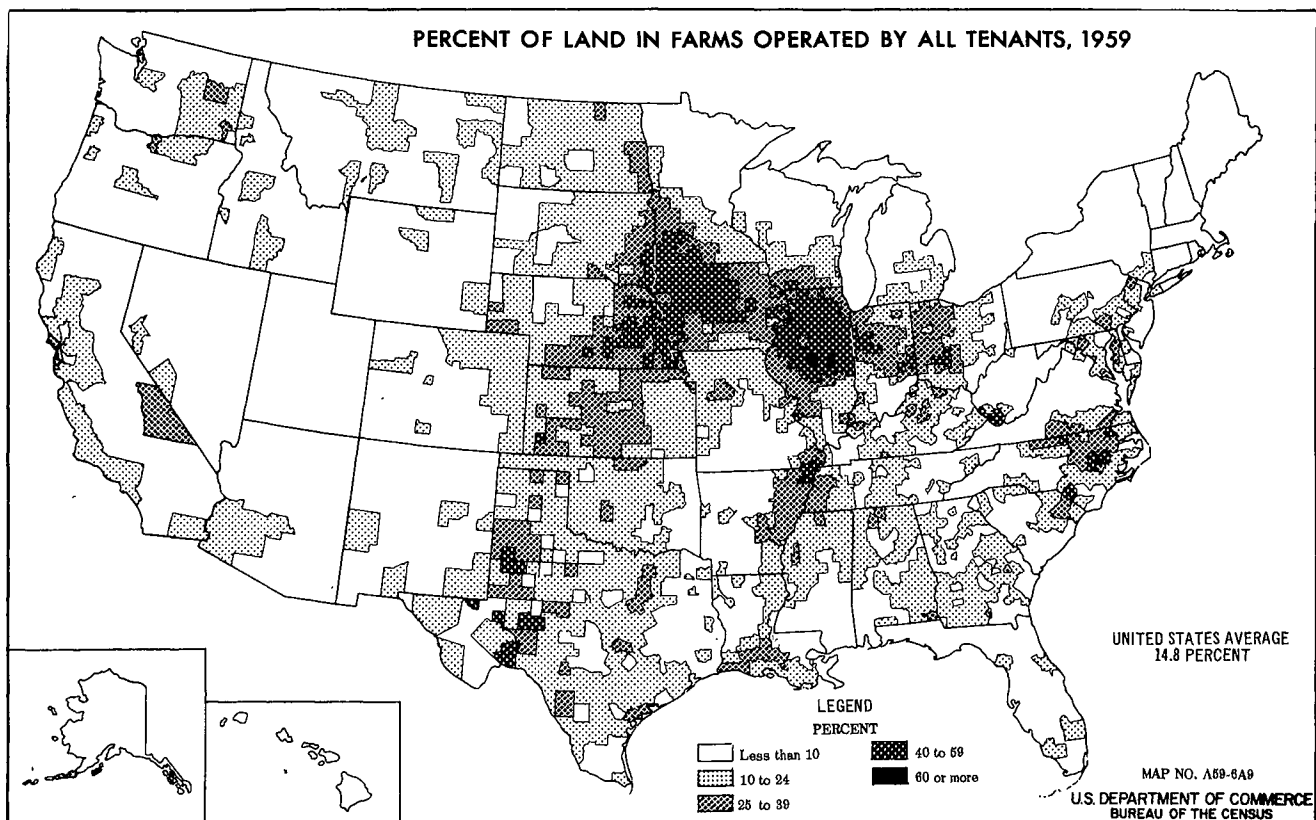
## GENERAL REPORT



**Changes by Class of Tenant.**—There have been significant changes occurring in the relative importance of the various classes of tenants. In the 10-year period, 1950-1959, the proportion of tenants operating farms under a crop-share arrangement and the proportion of tenants paying cash rent changed very little. The proportion of tenant farms operated by croppers decreased from 24.0 percent in 1950 to 16.4 percent in 1959. In the South the

proportion of tenant farms operated by croppers declined from 38.3 percent in 1950 to 33.0 percent in 1959.

The relative importance of tenant farms operated under a livestock-share arrangement has been increasing. In 1950, this class of tenant operated 8.0 percent of all tenant farms; by 1959, the proportion had increased to 11.7 percent.



Tenants operated approximately one-seventh of all the land in farms in the United States in 1959. Approximately 70 percent of the tenant-operated land was rented under a share arrangement—crop-share, share-cash, cropper, and livestock-share. The proportion of tenant-operated land rented under share arrangements in 1959 was approximately the same as in 1950.

From 1900 to 1940, farms operated by part owners comprised about one-tenth of all farms. By 1959, the proportion of farms operated by part owners had increased to 22.5 percent. The proportion of farms operated by part owners is highest in the Great Plains.

Croppers operated only 5 million acres in 1959, and land in cropper-operated farms comprised only 3 percent of all land in tenant farms. Land in cropper farms declined more than 9 million acres from 1950 to 1959.

Notwithstanding the decrease in tenancy throughout the Nation there was relatively little change in the proportion of farm operators operating leased lands or in the acres of land operated under some form of lease arrangement. Increases in owner-operators who also operated land rented from others largely offset decreases in the land operated by tenants. From 1945 to 1959, the proportion of farm operators operating some leased lands remained at approximately 42 percent, and the proportion of all land under lease at about 35 percent. These percentages represent declines from a high of 53 percent in 1930 for farm operators operating land under lease and a high of 45 percent in 1935 for the proportion of all land operated under lease.

**Tenure Changes Associated With Changes in Farm Definition.**—The 232,059 places omitted from the 1959 census that would have qualified for inclusion under the 1954 and 1950 definition, accounted for about one-fifth of the decrease (4.9 of a 22.5 percent

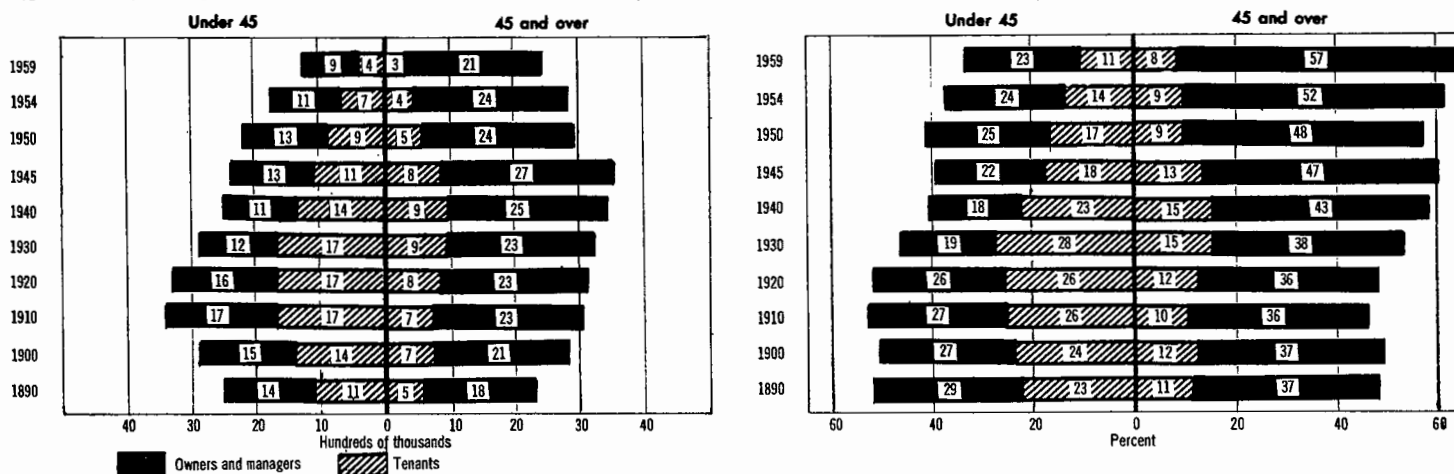
decrease) in the total number of farms between 1954 and 1959. Of the places eliminated by change in definition, 83.1 percent were occupied by full owners, 3.7 percent by part owners and managers, and 13.2 percent by tenants. Change in definition accounted for nearly one-third (30.7 percent) of the decrease in number of full owners between 1954 and 1959 but only one-fourteenth (7.4 percent) of the decrease in number of tenants.

The change in definition for 1954 and 1950 resulted in an estimated 150,000 to 170,000 fewer farms in 1950 than would have been included had the 1945 definition been continued. These places eliminated by the change in definition in 1950 likewise would have been predominantly owner-operated.

Thus, somewhat greater relative decreases in tenancy would have been expected had there been no changes in definition for 1950 or for 1959.

**Tenure Changes Associated With Off-Farm Migration.**—New and improved farm machines and equipment and improved techniques in agriculture have made possible the maintenance of a high level of agricultural production with a decreasing number of farm workers. With fewer persons needed in agriculture the number of farm operators has been decreasing at a rapid rate. For every 11 farms in 1935 there were only 6 in 1959. Of the five farms that disappeared, less than one can be attributed to change in definition. Persons have been leaving the farm in increasingly large numbers. The population census shows, that for many areas, especially in the South, employed persons with major industry represented by agriculture in 1960 were less than half as numerous as in 1950. Nearly three of the loss of five farm operators since 1935 was within this 10-year span with the major part of the decrease occurring during the latter half of the decade.

NUMBER AND PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FARM OPERATORS, BY AGE AND TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1890 TO 1959



Tenure changes reflect the decreasing proportions of farm operators in the younger age groups. Comparisons from census to census of farm operators born within specified periods indicate that persons who become farm operators generally do so before age 45. Up to and including the age group 35 to 44, the number of farm operators increases in each age classification. Beyond this age grouping, the number of farm operators tends to decrease. For the past 50 years each census has shown fewer and fewer farm operators under 45 years of age. The decrease in

the number of farm operators under 45 has been very rapid since 1945. Approximately half of the decrease in number of farms between 1954 and 1959 represented a decrease in farms with operators under 45 years. In 1959 the number of farm operators under 45 was 40.7 percent less than in 1950, while those over 45 decreased by only 17.4 percent. In the South the number of farm operators under 45 were less than half (down 52.1 percent) the number in 1950 while those over 45 decreased by less than one-fifth.

In the past most farm operators began farm-operator careers as tenants. In 1959 nearly two-thirds (65.9 percent) of the farm operators under 25 were tenants. Through the years many tenants succeed to ownership through purchase, gift, or inheritance of farmlands. With increases in age the proportion of tenancy decreases. Thus, decreases in the proportions of farm operators in the younger age groups have been accompanied by decreases in percent of tenancy.

An increasing proportion of younger persons who entered the ranks of farm operators did so as owner-operators. In 1959 one-third (33.3 percent) of the farm operators under 25 were owners and two-thirds (66.6 percent) of those under 45 were owners. Ten years earlier the proportions were 27.8 percent and 59.7 percent, respectively. Among established farm operators, more tenants than owners left the farm. Increases in attrition in the number of operators over 45 were largely among tenants. For every age group, the proportion of owner-operators has been increasing.

**Tenure Changes Associated With Off-Farm Work and Other Income.**—Not all persons turning from farming to nonfarm pursuits leave the farm. Combining farm operations and nonfarm work has become common practice. With less time required for farm work, more farmers are turning to nonfarm employment. Some use their off-farm employment to augment their farm incomes. Others use off-farm employment to help get a start as farm operators or to build up their equity in the farm business. Many, though turning to nonagricultural pursuits for their principal source of livelihood, retain a foothold on the land and continue with at least some of their agricultural activities. Also, some persons with full-time nonfarm jobs, living in rural areas, may have sufficient agricultural activities to qualify their places as farms under the census definition. Both farm and nonfarm persons may semiretire on the land and supplement their retirement incomes with limited agricultural production.

Most of the farm operators who combine farm and nonfarm interests are owner-operators. Tenants are more likely than owners to give up their agricultural activities entirely when turning to nonfarm pursuits. Also, with advancing age, tenants generally either succeed to ownership or discontinue operation of farms. Owners are more likely to continue as farm operators but with advancing years they may curtail their farm operations and depend more upon rent from land rented out, from income from nonfarm investments, from annuities, pensions, or the like.

In 1959, two farm operators in five were either working off their farms 100 or more days or their families had other income exceeding the value of farm products sold. The proportion of owners reporting 100 or more days of off-farm work was more than one and one-half times as great as for tenants. For owners reporting that income from sources other than the farm operated exceeded the value of farm products sold, the ratio was nearly twice that of tenants. The proportion for full owners was much higher than for part owners, and for cash tenants the ratio was higher than for tenants renting on a share basis.

Most of the farms of operators reporting other income were small with value of sales of agricultural products under \$2,500. These low-income farms were classed as "part-time" farms if the operator was under 65 years of age. Nearly one-fourth (23.9 percent) of all farms in 1959 were classed as part-time farms. Seven of every 8 (87.4 percent) of these part-time farms were owner-operated.

Farms with less than \$2,500 sales of farm products and with the operator 65 years old or over were classed as part-retirement farms and accounted for a little more than one-tenth (10.9 percent) of all farms. Of these part-retirement farms, 82.8 percent reported income from sources other than the farm products with 57.8 percent reporting income of family from sources other

than the farm operated exceeded sale of agricultural products. More than 9 of every 10 of these part-retirement farms were owner-operated.

**Tenure Changes Associated With Increase in Size of Farm.**—Full and efficient utilization of the labor of the farm family and of the modern farm machinery and equipment necessary for the operation of the farm contributes to larger farm units. In 1959 there were a million fewer farm operators than 5 years earlier but the total land in farms decreased very little. During this period, the number of farms decreased by 22.5 percent but the average size of farm increased by 24.9 percent. The average farm in 1959 was nearly twice the size of the average farm 25 years earlier.

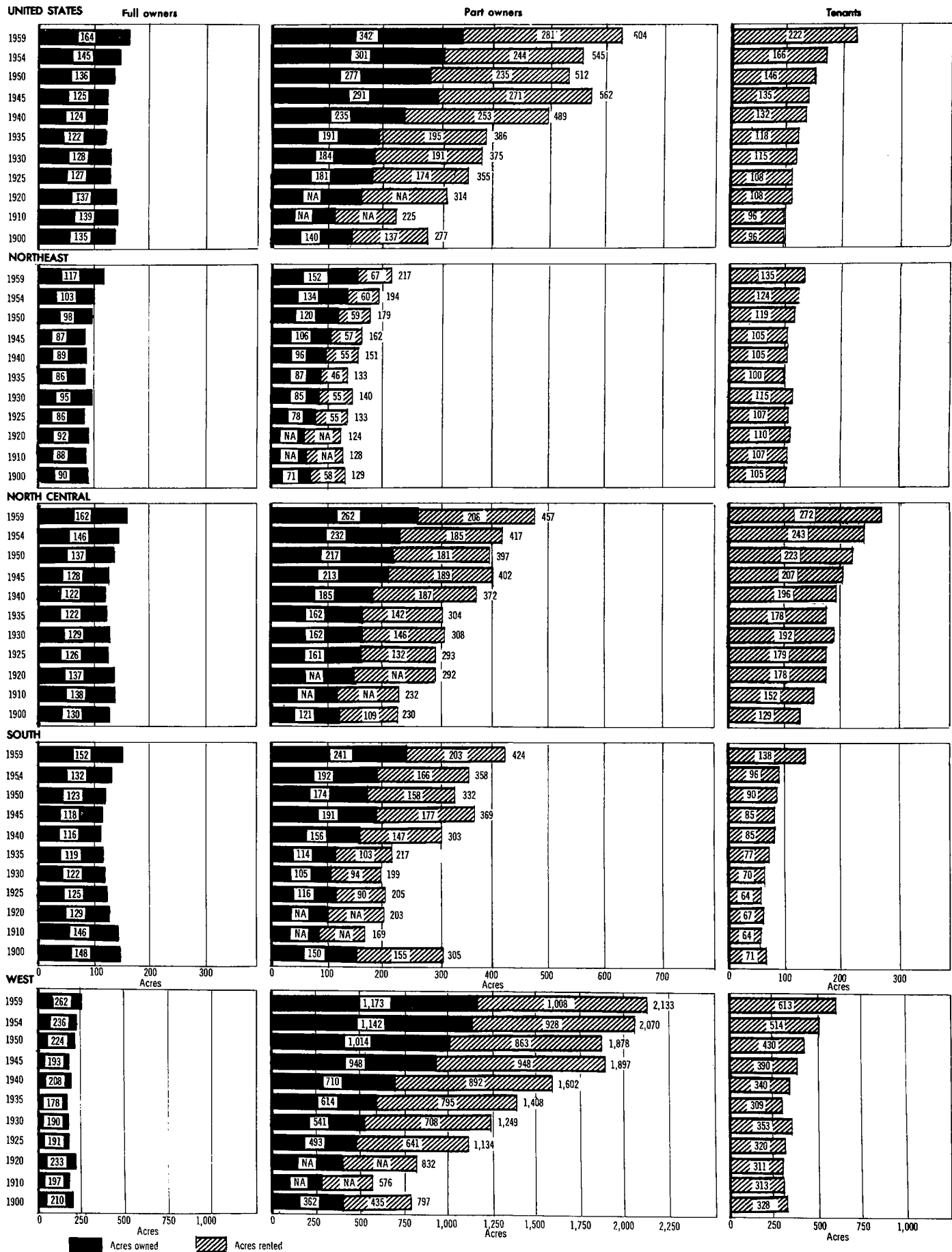
An operator desirous of enlarging his farming operations may do so either through purchase of additional assets or through rental of additional land. Buying additional land requires a greater amount of capital or credit and entails a greater risk. With limited capital or credit, renting permits the greater expansion. Moreover, properties for sale at a given time may be few in number, they may not be of the desired size, and, if the farmer already owns some land, they may not be conveniently located in respect to the land already owned. Suitable lands for rental are generally more readily available. Also, minor inconveniences in respect to location or other factors are more likely to be less important since leasing is a more temporary arrangement.

The enlargement of farm units through leasing has been indicated for several censuses by the generally larger size of tenant farms as compared with full-owner farms, except in the South. In the South tenancy has been associated with the production of cotton and tobacco. Labor requirements for the production of these crops have tended to restrict the size of tenant farms in the South. Between 1954 and 1959, the average size of tenant farms in the United States increased by one-third with 221.8 acres in 1959 as compared with 165.6 acres in 1954. In 1935, the average tenant farm comprised 117.6 acres.

Rental as an important method of increasing the size of the farm business has been even more evident in the increase in the proportion of farms operated by part owners. Prior to 1945, part-owner farms represented about one-sixth of all owners and comprised about one-tenth of all farms. From 1945 to 1959 the proportion of owners renting and operating additional land increased from 16.7 percent to 28.3 percent. In 1945, part-owner-operated farms accounted for 32.5 percent of all land in farms. By 1950 the land operated by part owners exceeded that operated by full owners and by 1959 comprised 44.8 percent of all land in farms.

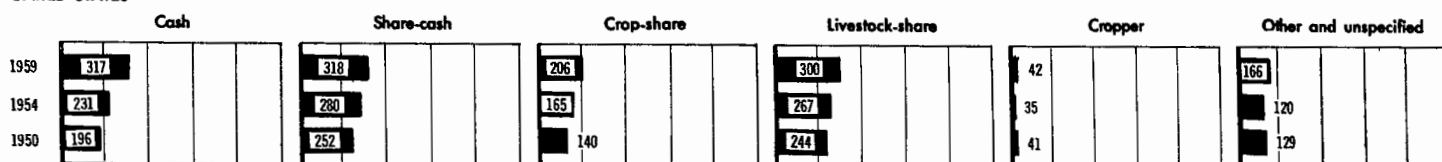
Increases in size of full-owner farms were more moderate than for other tenures. Between 1954 and 1959 the average full-owner farm increased by 19.0 acres as compared with an increase of 59.4 acres for part owners and 56.2 acres for tenants. Owners who expanded the size of their operations through rental of additional land moved from the ranks of full owners to part owners. Many of those left in the full-owner category were older operators, or operators with off-farm employment, or with income from sources other than the farm operated. Few of these operators were interested in expanding the farm business. Approximately half of all full owners are 55 years old or over. Nearly half (47.1 percent) reported income from sources other than the farm operated with 47.2 percent reporting that the income of their families from sources other than the farm operated exceeded the sales of farm products. More than one-third (36.4 percent) worked off their farms 100 or more days. Nearly half (48.3 percent) were classed as operators of non-commercial farms and these comprised about four-fifths (79.1 percent) of all noncommercial farms.

AVERAGE SIZE OF FARM, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1900 TO 1959

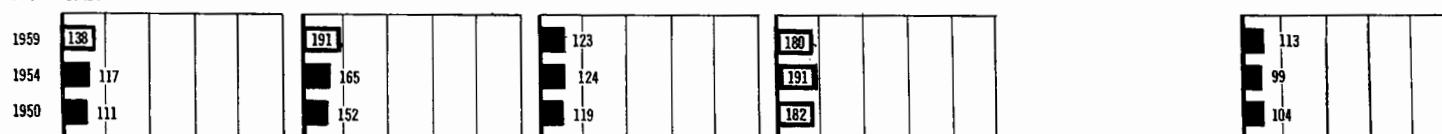


## AVERAGE SIZE OF TENANT FARMS, BY CLASS OF TENANT, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959, 1954, AND 1950

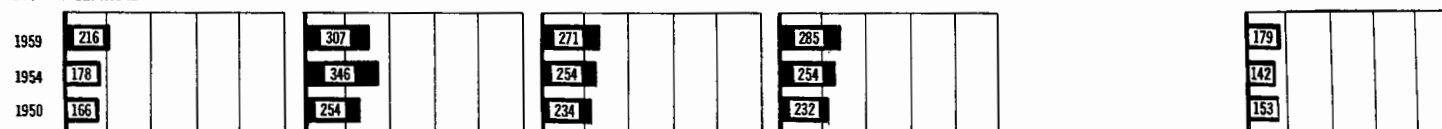
## UNITED STATES



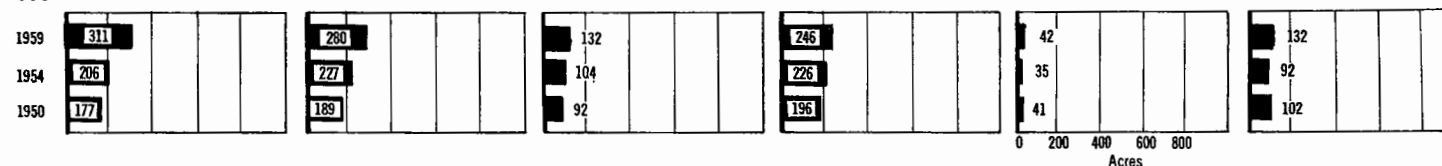
## NORTHEAST



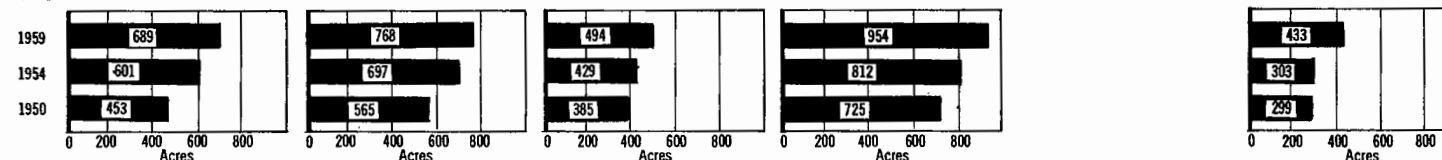
## NORTH CENTRAL



## SOUTH



## WEST



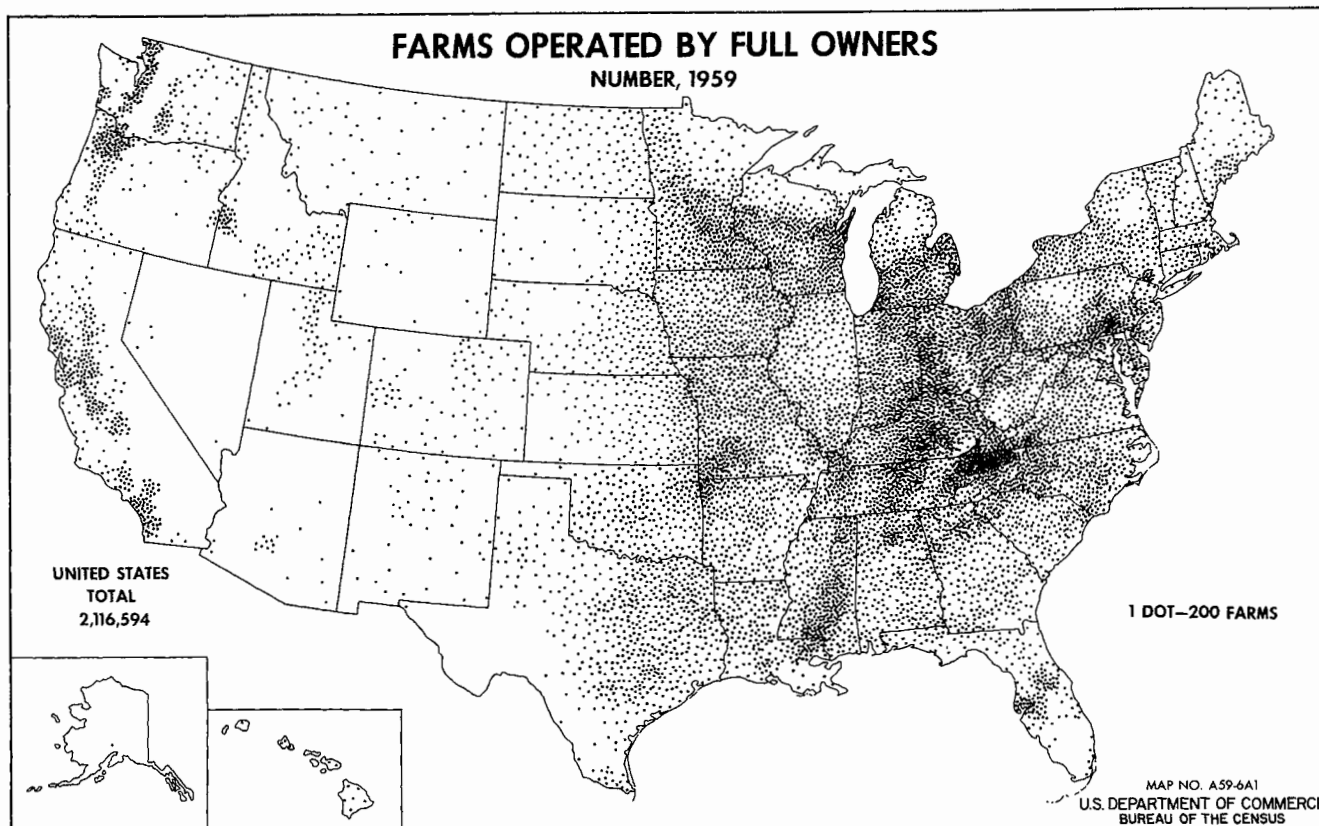
Generally, the proportion of farms operated by full owners decreases as the size of farm increases. In 1959, two-thirds of the farms of less than 100 acres were operated by full owners; only one-fourth of the farms of 1,000 acres and over were operated by full owners. This relationship of the proportion of farms operated by full owners to size of farm reflects the effect of age of operator upon size of farm, the concentration of part-time farms in the smaller size groups, and the enlargement of farm size through rental rather than purchase of additional land.

The percentage of all farms operated by part owners increases as size of farm increases. In 1959, part owners operated 11.2 percent of all farms under 100 acres in size and 24.7 percent of all farms 1,000 acres and over. More than 45 percent of all farms operated by managers are 500 acres or over in size. Nearly one-fourth of the farms of less than 50 acres were operated by tenants in 1959. This proportion is affected by cropper farms in the South as 82 percent of all the farms operated by croppers

are less than 50 acres in size. The proportion of the farms operated by tenants was higher in 1959 for the size group 260 to 499 acres than for any size group.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF COMMERCIAL FARMS BY TENURE OF OPERATOR

**Geographic Distribution of Tenure Groups.**—In comparing commercial farms by tenure, consideration must be given to differences in their geographic distribution. Seventy-five percent of the commercial farms in 1959 were owner-operated. About three-fifths of these owner-operators were full owners and two-fifths, part owners. The geographic distribution of both full-owner and part-owner farms was very similar to that for all farms. The highest proportion of commercial farms operated by full owners was in the northeast. Four out of five of all full-owner commercial farms were in the North Central States and in the South.



The distribution of part-owner commercial farms was similar to that of full owners but with a greater concentration in the northern Great Plains and in the West. Nearly half of the part-owner commercial farms were in the North Central States. Part owners operated 30.5 percent of the commercial farms in the North Central States and 33.1 percent in the West.

Managers operated only 0.7 percent of the commercial farms in 1959, but with their larger size of operations accounted for a much larger part of the total agricultural output. A high proportion of the manager-operated commercial farms was in the South (45.9 percent) and in the West (23.7 percent). Although 21.5 percent of all manager-operated commercial farms was in the North Central States, the proportion of farms operated by managers was less than one-half of one percent.

Tenant-operated commercial farms were most numerous in the North Central States and in the South. These two areas accounted for 92.5 percent of all tenant-operated commercial farms. The heaviest concentrations were in the cotton- and tobacco-growing areas of the South, in the Corn Belt, in the eastern portion of the Great Plains, and in Hawaii. The highest proportions of tenancy were in Mississippi with 43.6 percent of the commercial farms tenant-operated, South Carolina with 41.3 percent, North Carolina with 41.2 percent, Illinois with 39.4 percent, Hawaii with 39.3 percent, and Iowa with 38.1 percent. There were relatively few tenants in the northeast and in the West.

Croppers by definition were limited to the South and were the dominant class of tenant in most of the cotton- and tobacco-growing areas. Crop-share tenants accounted for most of the tenants other than croppers in the cotton and tobacco areas of the South and were also numerous in the Corn Belt; the Great Plains; and in the rice-producing areas of Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Most of the livestock-share tenants were in the Corn Belt with the North Central States accounting for 79.9 percent of

the commercial farms in this tenure group. Share-cash tenants were the most numerous class of tenants in the North Central States with this region accounting for 83.6 percent of this class of tenants. Share-cash tenants were of importance in the Corn Belt and in the eastern Great Plains. Cash tenants were the dominant class of tenants in the Pacific States and in the northeast. The North Central States and the South, however, accounted for more than three-fourths of the cash-rented commercial farms. Few cash tenants were found in the high risk areas of the western Great Plains and in the intermountain States.

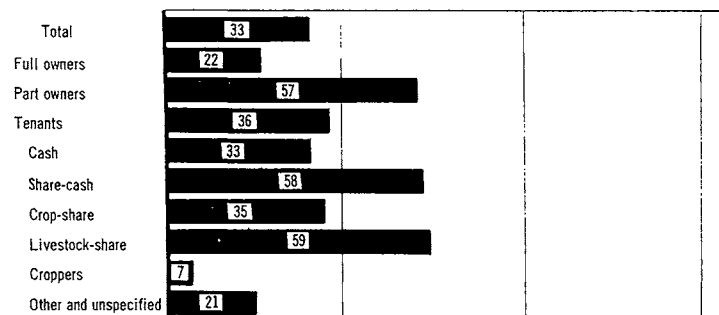
**Size of Farm.**—Of commercial farms, those operated by managers were the largest by far, averaging 3,933 acres in 1959 as compared with an average of 404 acres for all farms. Managers represented less than 1 percent of all commercial farms but accounted for nearly 7 percent of all land in commercial farms. Many of the manager-operated farms were operated for corporations.

Commercial part-owner farms accounted for half the land in all commercial farms. The average commercial part-owner farm consisted of 691 acres as compared with an average of 245 acres for full-owner farms and 258 acres for tenant farms. Tenant-operated farms were, in general, larger than farms operated by full owners, except in the South where a large proportion of the tenant farms is associated with the production of cotton and tobacco. In the South, tenant-operated cotton and tobacco farms require the use of hand labor and the size of farm was limited by the labor that could be furnished by the operator and his family.

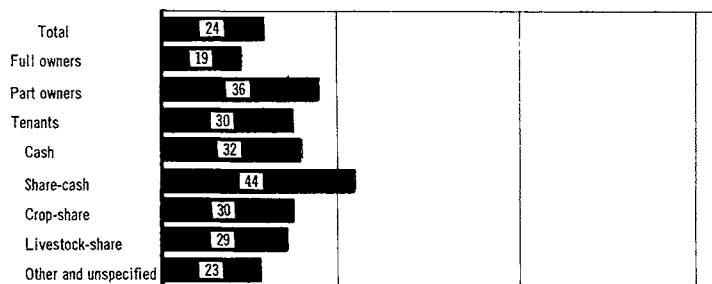
Except for manager-operated farms, farms other than commercial were small, with an average size of about one-fourth that of commercial farms. The tenure differences were similar to those of commercial farms.

### AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PER FARM, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR ALL FARMS IN THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1959

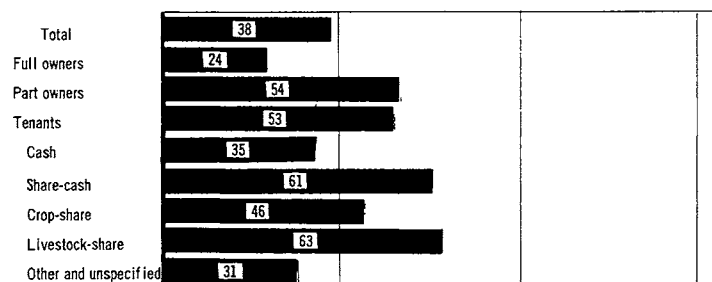
#### UNITED STATES



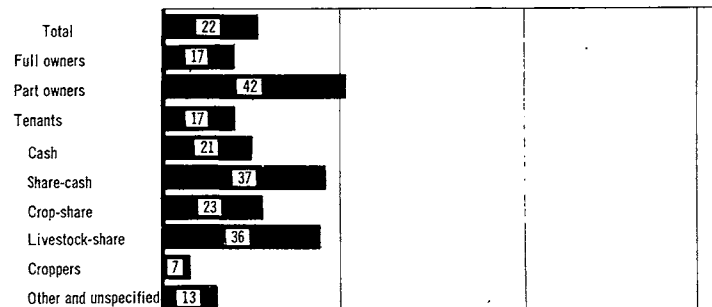
#### NORTHEAST



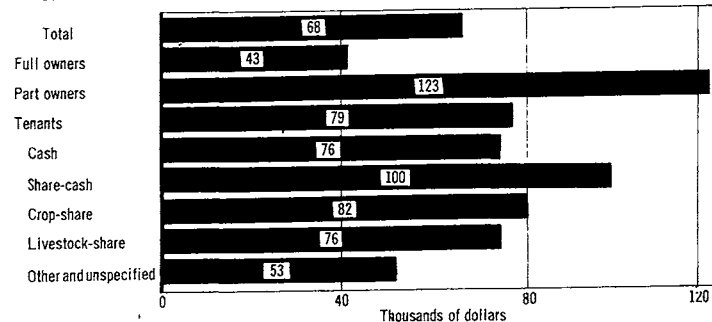
#### NORTH CENTRAL



#### SOUTH



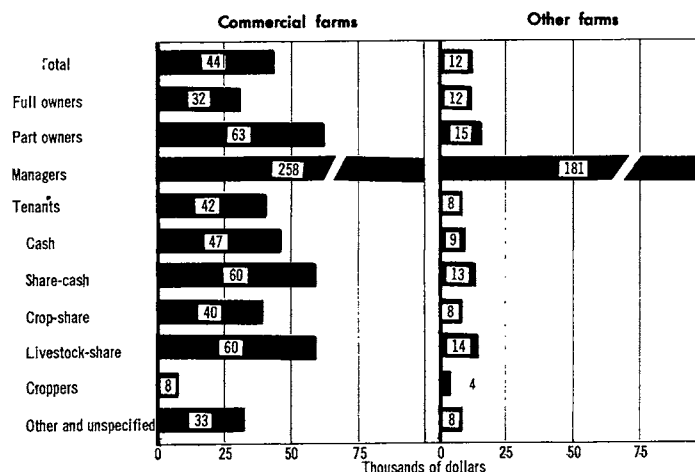
#### WEST



**Value of Land and Buildings.**—Farm tenancy is associated with the more productive and more valuable lands. With a higher per acre value and somewhat larger size, the per farm average value of land and buildings was usually higher for tenant than for full-owner farms. An exception was cropper farms which, because of their smaller size, had a much lower average value per farm than full-owner farms in the same area. In a few States, mostly in the South, some of the other classes of tenants also operated farms with a lower average value per farm than full owners.

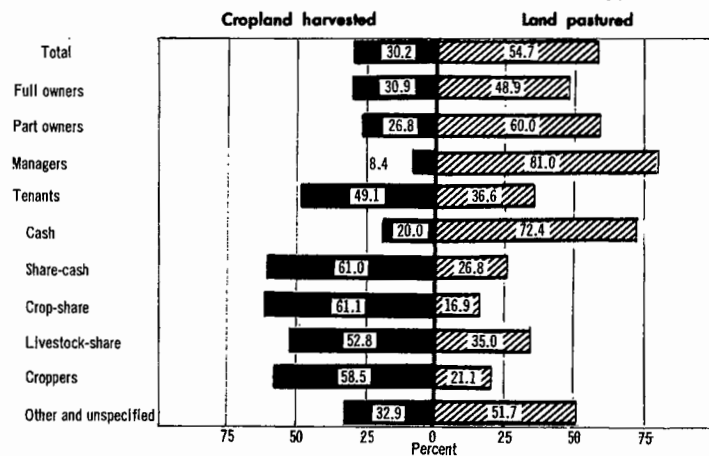
For all commercial farms in the United States, the average value of tenant farms was \$42,446 as compared with \$32,190 for full owners. Part-owner-operated farms, with their much larger size, had an average value of \$63,394, or nearly twice the average value of full-owner farms. Manager-operated farms, although containing a much higher proportion of land other than cropland and with a per acre value much less than for any of the other tenure groups, had a very high per farm value because of their large size. Commercial manager-operated farms had an average value of land and buildings of more than a quarter million dollars (\$257,667). Commercial farms operated by share-cash tenants and by livestock-share tenants had average per farm values of land and buildings nearly equal to that reported by part owners. The average value of land and buildings reported for share-cash tenants was \$60,324 and for livestock-share tenants, \$60,227. These high averages were the result of both a large size and a high value per acre. Commercial farms operated by croppers had an average reported value of land and buildings of only \$7,839, or less than one-fourth that reported for any other tenure.

### AVERAGE VALUE OF LAND AND BUILDINGS PER FARM, FOR COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959



**Land Use.**—Tenant-operated farms are usually located on the better lands, are generally of the crop-type, and have a higher proportion of the land in crops than farms of the other tenures. Commercial farms operated by tenants under crop-share arrangements had the highest proportion of land in crops. In 1959, cropland harvested on commercial crop-share farms was 61.1 percent of the land in farms. For commercial cropper farms the proportion was 58.5 percent. For share-cash tenants, the dominant type of tenancy in the North Central States, the acreage of cropland harvested comprised 61.0 percent of the land in farms. In contrast, farms of commercial livestock-share tenants had more of their land in pasture (35.0 percent) with 52.8 percent of the land in harvested crops. For cash tenants the proportion was only 20.0 percent in harvested crops and 72.4 percent in pasture.

**CROPLAND HARVESTED AND LAND PASTURED AS PERCENT OF LAND IN FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959**



Full owners used proportionately more of their land for feed crops than tenants and part owners. For full-owner-operated commercial farms, 53.1 percent of the harvested crop acreage was in hay and corn. For tenants, the proportion was 44.5 percent and for part owners, 40.6 percent. Livestock-share, cash, and share-cash tenants also used much of their land for the production of feed crops with hay and corn comprising 61.0 percent of the cropland harvested on livestock-share-tenant-operated commercial farms. For commercial farms operated by crop-share tenants, 71.4 percent of the cropland harvested acreage represented crops other than hay and corn, and for those operated by croppers, 61.4 percent of the cropland harvested was in crops other than hay and corn.

Commercial manager-operated farms reported only 8.4 percent of their land in harvested crops and 81.0 percent in pasture. A high proportion of manager-operated farms represents livestock operations. This included many of the livestock ranches in the West.

Part-owner-operated farms also had a high percentage (60.0 percent) of their land in pasture. The proportion of land from which crops were harvested was 26.8 percent for commercial part-owner farms and 30.9 percent for commercial full-owner farms with 48.9 percent of the land pastured.

Managers and full owners had much higher proportions of farms with no cropland harvested than tenants, largely because of the greater proportion of farms of the livestock types. Many dairy and livestock farms either depend on purchased feeds or on pasturing, or both. Of the manager- and full-owner operated commercial farms, 16.0 and 10.2 percent, respectively, reported no cropland harvested as compared with 2.6 percent for tenants. Among commercial tenant farms, cash and other and unspecified tenants accounted for most of the farms with no cropland harvested. These two classes of tenants were similar to full owners in the proportion of farms with no cropland harvested. Nearly all farms for the other classes of tenants reported cropland harvested. Even for livestock-share tenants the proportion with no cropland harvested was only 1.0 percent. Most livestock share-tenants are in the Corn Belt and grow feed crops which are marketed through livestock.

In respect to size-of-crop operations on commercial farms, managers reported the largest average acreage of cropland harvested with 396 acres per farm reporting as compared with a 191-acre average for part owners, 130 acres for tenants, and 84 acres for full owners. Croppers had the smallest average acreage of cropland harvested for commercial farms with an average of 27 acres and with over half the farms reporting less than 20 acres harvested.

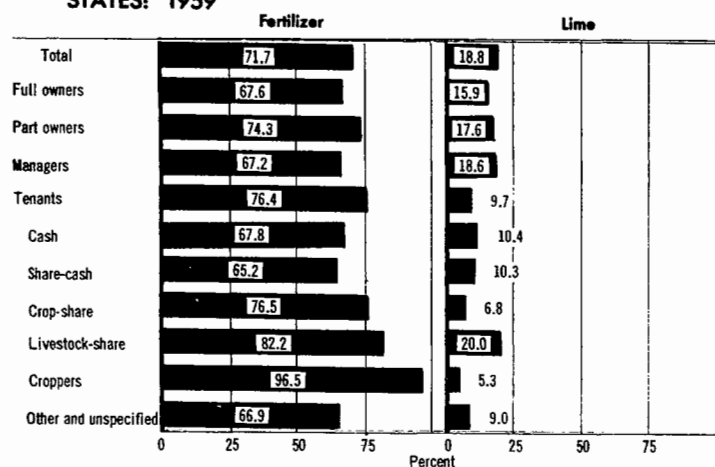
**Irrigation.**—In general, relatively more managers and part-owner-operated commercial farms were irrigated than were farms of the other tenure groups. For the United States, manager-operated farms included 7.1 percent of the irrigated land in commercial farms. In Hawaii, the percentage was 8.4 percent and in Florida, the percentage was 29. More than one-fourth of all manager-operated farms were irrigated as compared with 10.2 percent of all farms. Of part-owner commercial farms, 11.7 percent were irrigated. These irrigated part-owner-operated farms comprised one-third of all irrigated commercial farms and accounted for 45 percent of all irrigated land in commercial farms. The proportion of crop-share tenants reporting irrigation was slightly higher than that for part owners but they accounted for only 10.5 percent of the irrigated land.

The distribution of irrigated farms by tenure varied considerably from area to area. In the West, where two-thirds of all irrigated farms and all irrigated land are located 84 percent of the irrigated commercial farms were owner-operated. In the South and in the North Central Division a larger percentage of the tenant-operated farms were irrigated than in the other parts of the Nation and tenants and part owners accounted for approximately 70 percent of the irrigated commercial farms. In the South, 54 percent of the irrigated tenant commercial farms were crop-share tenants. (Crop-share tenants comprised 29 percent of all commercial tenant-operated farms.) In the North Central Division where most of the irrigated farms were located in Nebraska and Kansas, share-cash and crop-share tenants were the principal classes of tenant-operated irrigated farms and represented 13 and 11 percent, respectively, of all irrigated commercial farms. In the northeast, full owners operated 50 percent of the irrigated commercial farms; part owners, 40 percent; tenants, 7 percent; and managers, 3 percent.

**Conservation Practices.**—Cover crops on commercial farms were reported by 15 percent of the part owners, by 12 percent of the managers, by 11 percent of the full owners, and by 11 percent of the tenants. Land farmed on the contour was reported by 14 percent of the part owners, by 12 percent of the tenants, and by 10 percent of the full owners. Much of the land farmed on the contour was in areas having a high proportion of tenant-operated farms. Systems of terraces on crop and pasture land were reported by 17 percent of the part owners, by 12 percent of the tenants, and by 12 percent of the full owners. Stripcropping for soil-erosion control, a practice concentrated in the northern Great Plains, was reported by 6 percent of the part owners, by 4 percent of the full owners, and by 3 percent of the tenants. Land in soil-improvement grasses and legumes and not harvested and not pastured was reported by 13 percent of the part owners, 10 percent of the full owners, and 6 percent of the tenants.

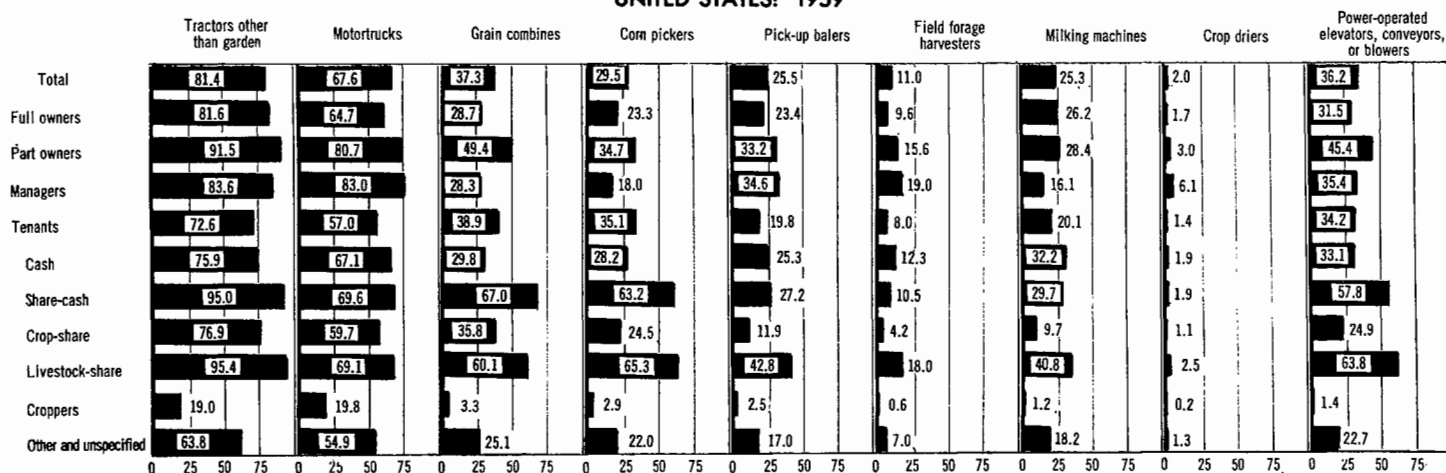
**Use of Fertilizer and Lime.**—A higher proportion of tenants than full owners reported the use of commercial fertilizer. More than 95 percent of the commercial cropper farms reported the use of commercial fertilizer. The more widespread use of commercial fertilizer on tenant-operated farms is the result, in part, of a higher proportion of tenant-operated farms having cropland harvested and, in part, of a higher proportion of tenant-operated farms having cotton and tobacco. Cropper-operated farms were predominantly cotton and tobacco farms (87 percent of the commercial cropper farms are of these types). There were wider differences between areas than between tenure groups in the proportion of farms reporting the use of commercial fertilizer. Much of the difference between tenure groups in the use of commercial fertilizer is related to difference in type of farm. For livestock-share tenant-operated farms, located mostly in the Corn Belt, the percentage reporting commercial fertilizer was 82 percent. For part-owner-operated commercial farms the percentage was 74 and for full owners, 68.

**PROPORTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING USE OF FERTILIZER AND LIME, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959**



Use of lime on commercial farms was reported by a higher proportion of owners than tenants. The proportion of the full

**PROPORTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING SPECIFIED FARM MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959**



The distribution of motortrucks and of specialized farm equipment such as grain combines, pick-up balers, field forage harvesters, milking machines, crop driers, and power-operated elevators or conveyors by tenure of operator provide further measures of the degree of mechanization of commercial farms of different tenure groups. For most of these items there was generally a higher proportion of part-owner operated farms reporting than for tenant-operated farms and a higher proportion for tenant-operated farms than for full-owner-operated farms. A higher percentage of the tenant-operated than of the part-owner operated farms, however, reported cornpickers. For motortrucks, pick-up balers, field forage harvesters, and milking machines, equipment associated with livestock type of farm, the proportion of farms reporting was higher for full owners than for tenants. The proportion of farms reporting crop driers was also higher for full-owner farms than for tenant farms.

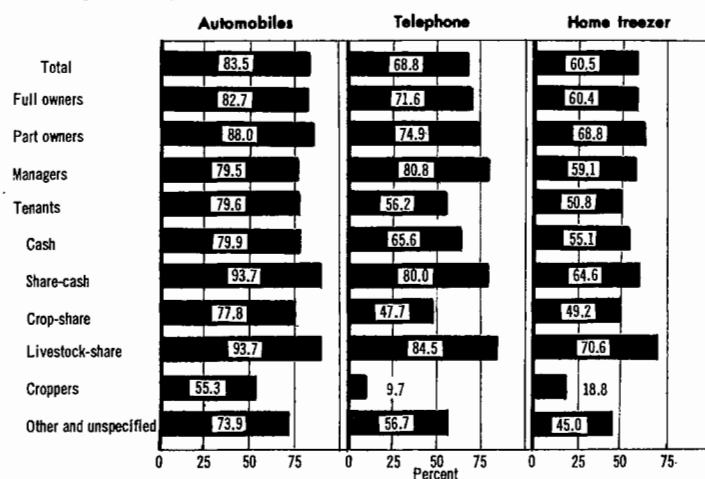
Mechanization on tenant-operated commercial farms varied greatly by region and by class of tenant. Mechanization on tenant farms was much greater in the North than in the South. A higher proportion of the farms operated by share-cash and livestock-share tenants reported tractors, motortrucks, and specialized equipment. In the South, the proportion of commercial tenant farms reporting tractors was 48 percent. For the North the proportion was 94 percent. For cropper farms the proportion reporting tractors was only 19 percent. For cropper farms the landlords furnish the workpower and for many cropper-operated farms the tractor used may have been reported by the landlord.

owners reporting lime was 16 percent and of the tenants, 10 percent. For part owners the percentage was 18 percent and for managers, 19 percent. The proportion of livestock-share tenants reporting use of lime was 20 percent. The more widespread use of lime on owner- and manager-operated farms and on livestock-share tenant farms is related in part to the greater importance of pasture and hay lands on farms of these tenure groups.

**Farm Machinery and Equipment.**—Part-owner and manager farms had the highest proportions of farms with tractors of any tenure groups. Tractors, other than garden, were reported by 92 percent of the part-owner commercial farms and by 84 percent of the manager farms. Part-owner farms averaged 2.3 tractors per farm and 90 acres of harvested cropland per tractor. Manager-operated farms reported 4.1 tractors per farm and 98 acres of harvested cropland per tractor. A smaller proportion of tenant-operated farms than of full-owner-operated farms had tractors. The proportion of commercial tenant-operated farms reporting tractors was 73 percent as compared with 82 percent for full owners. Tenants had an average of 2 tractors per farm reporting and 87 acres of harvested cropland per tractor as compared with 1.8 tractors per farm reporting tractors and 53 acres of harvested cropland per tractor for full owners.

**Automobiles, Telephones, and Home Freezers.**—The proportion of tenants reporting these items was generally less than for the other tenures. The proportion of cropper farms reporting these items was much lower than for all tenants. For share-cash and livestock-share tenant-operated farms, the proportions of farms reporting were as high as for owner-operated farms.

**PROPORTION OF COMMERCIAL FARMS REPORTING AUTOMOBILES, TELEPHONE, AND HOME FREEZER, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959**



**Farm Labor.**—Most of the labor used on commercial farms was provided by the farm operator. Only one farm in eight reported hired workers regularly employed. Manager-operated farms were the most dependent on hired labor with 58.3 percent reporting hired workers regularly employed and with an average of 8.5 regular hired workers (employed 150 or more days) per farm reporting. Expenditures for hired labor were reported by 86 percent of the manager-operated farms and equaled 20.1 percent of the total value of farm products sold on manager-operated farms. For part-owner-operated farms the percentage of the farms reporting regular hired workers was 18 and the average number of regularly employed workers per farm reporting was 2.2. For full owners the percentage of farms reporting was 11 and the average number of regular hired workers per farm reporting was 1.9; and for tenants, the percentage reporting was 7 and the average number of regularly employed workers per farm reporting was 1.7. Only 1.6 percent of the farms operated by croppers reported regularly hired workers.

**Specified Farm Expenditures.**—Many of the variations in expenditures by tenure of operator are related to type of farm, size of operations, and geographic area. Manager-operated commercial farms, had the highest average expenditures, with hired labor being the largest cost item followed by expenditures for purchase of livestock and for feed. The expenditures for these items equalled 20.1, 19.6, and 13.0 percent, respectively, of the total value of farm products sold from manager-operated farms.

Average expenditures per farm for tenant farms in the South were much smaller than those of other tenure groups. On cropper farms the principal items of expenditure were hired labor and machine hire (including cotton ginning) with these two cost items equal to nearly ten percent of the total value of farm products sold.

**Type of Farm by Tenure of Operator.**—Fruit-and-nut farms were predominantly owner-operated with over three-fourths (76.1 percent) operated by full owners. Part owners operated 14.9 percent of the fruit-and-nut farms and tenants, 5.3 percent. Managers operate a larger proportion of fruit-and-nut farms than of any other type.

Nearly four-fifths (79.4 percent) of all poultry farms were operated by full owners. Tenants operated only 6.2 percent of the poultry farms.

Dairy farms, concentrated largely in the northeast and the Great Lakes States were largely owner-operated with 55.2 percent operated by full owners and 30.4 percent by part owners. Tenants operating dairy farms generally rented on either a livestock-share basis or for cash.

Most livestock farms were owner-operated. On livestock ranches, located for the most part in areas where much of the grazing land is available only on a lease basis, part owners operated 46.8 percent and full owners 39.6 percent of the livestock ranches. For livestock farms other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches, full owners were the dominant tenure operating 51.4 percent of the farms, followed by part owners with 27.9 percent, and tenants with 20.0 percent. A third of the tenants of livestock farms (33.5 percent) rented on a share-cash basis, 29.6 percent were livestock-share tenants, 13.3 percent cash tenants, and 12.6 percent were crop-share tenants. Share-cash was the most frequent method of renting farms in the western Corn Belt. Livestock farms are concentrated in this area.

General farms were predominantly owner-operated. Full owners operated 42.4 percent of the general farms, part owners 33.4 percent, and tenants 23.8 percent. Share-cash tenants operated 32.9 percent of the general farms. Crop-share tenants were of next importance, operating 25.9 percent followed by livestock-share tenants (15.7 percent) and cash tenants (10.8 percent).

**Type of Farm.**—The percentage distribution in 1959 for commercial farms by type for each tenure group was as follows:

Type of farm	All farms	Percent distribution of farms operated by—									
		Full owners	Part owners	Managers	Tenants						
					All	Cash	Share-cash	Crop-share	Livestock-share	Croppers (South only)	Other and unspecified
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cash-grain	16.5	11.0	21.2	5.8	21.2	9.2	38.0	30.2	13.8	1.7	14.2
Tobacco	7.9	6.1	6.4	0.8	13.0	2.8	2.1	16.7	4.6	35.8	10.2
Cotton	10.0	5.1	8.2	5.0	21.2	13.5	5.3	28.6	2.2	51.3	18.9
Other field-crop	1.6	1.2	1.9	2.1	1.9	2.6	0.8	2.6	0.8	2.3	1.8
Vegetable	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.9	0.6	3.0	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.3
Fruit-and-nut	2.5	4.3	1.3	13.4	0.5	1.6	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.1	1.4
Dairy	4.3	21.6	18.5	12.5	9.9	24.7	7.0	3.5	23.8	1.1	14.1
Poultry	17.7	7.5	1.9	8.0	1.1	2.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.5	4.9
Livestock other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches	25.5	29.0	24.3	26.2	20.7	24.3	32.6	9.0	44.0	2.4	22.9
Livestock ranches	2.8	2.4	4.5	13.4	1.1	6.4	0.3	0.1	0.5	0.1	2.6
General	8.8	8.2	10.0	5.3	8.4	8.0	13.1	7.6	9.5	4.3	6.6
Miscellaneous	1.5	2.7	0.7	5.9	0.3	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.2

Farms operated by full owners were largely of livestock types. Dairy; livestock other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches; livestock ranches; poultry; and general farms comprised nearly 70 percent of all commercial farms operated by full owners. Cash-grain farms; dairy farms; livestock farms other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches; and general farms

accounted for three-fourths of all commercial farms operated by part owners. Fruit-and-nut farms; dairy; livestock farms other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches; and livestock ranches made up two-thirds of all farms operated by managers. Farms operated by tenants are primarily of crop types. Cash-grain, tobacco, cotton, and general farms accounted for more than

three-fifths of all tenant-operated farms. Livestock types of farms comprised two-thirds of all commercial farms operated by cash tenants. Cash-grain and livestock other than dairy and poultry types of farms accounted for 70 percent of the farms operated by share-cash tenants. Cash-grain and cotton types of farms accounted for three-fifths of the farms operated by crop-

share tenants. Livestock farms other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches made up 44.0 percent of the farms operated by livestock-share tenants. Tobacco and cotton farms accounted for 87 percent of the commercial farms operated by croppers.

The distribution in 1959 of farms for each type by tenure of operator was as follows:

Tenure of operator	Percent distribution for type of farm												
	Total	Cash-grain	Tobacco	Cotton	Other field-crop	Vegetable	Fruit-and-nut	Dairy	Poultry	Livestock other than dairy, poultry, and livestock ranches	Livestock ranches	General	Miscellaneous
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full owners.....	45.3	30.3	35.3	23.2	34.9	44.9	76.1	55.2	79.4	51.4	39.6	42.4	79.0
Part owners.....	29.2	37.6	23.8	23.9	35.0	36.0	14.9	30.4	13.1	27.9	46.8	33.4	13.2
Managers.....	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.9	1.5	3.7	0.5	1.3	0.7	3.4	0.4	2.7
All tenants.....	24.8	31.9	40.8	52.5	29.2	17.6	5.3	13.9	6.2	20.0	10.2	23.8	5.1
Cash.....	2.8	1.6	1.0	3.8	4.5	9.3	1.7	3.9	1.7	2.7	6.4	2.6	2.6
Share-cash.....	5.3	12.1	1.4	2.8	2.6	1.1	0.3	2.1	0.4	6.7	0.6	7.8	0.2
Crop-share.....	7.2	13.1	15.2	20.5	11.9	2.9	1.9	1.4	0.8	2.5	0.4	6.2	0.4
Livestock-share.....	3.4	2.9	2.0	0.8	1.8	0.2	0.1	4.6	0.5	5.9	0.7	3.7	0.1
Croppers.....	4.1	0.4	18.6	20.9	6.0	1.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	2.0	0.2
Other and unspecified.....	2.0	1.7	2.6	3.8	2.3	2.9	1.1	1.6	2.3	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.5

Of cash-grain farms, located for the most part in the Corn Belt and the Great Plains, 37.6 percent were operated by part owners, 31.9 percent by tenants, and 30.3 percent by full owners. Tenants were the dominant tenure of cash-grain farms in the Corn Belt, with concentrations in central Illinois, northwestern Iowa, and eastern Nebraska. Part owners were relatively more important in the Great Plains. Cash-grain farms are generally rented on either a crop-share or share-cash basis. In the Corn Belt the number of commercial farms rented on a share-cash basis was about twice the number rented on a crop-share basis. In the Great Plains those rented on a crop-share basis outnumbered those rented on a share-cash basis.

Tobacco farms were predominantly tenant-operated. In 1959, roughly two-fifths of the tobacco farms were operated by tenants, one-fourth by part owners, and one-third by full owners. Of the tenant-operated tobacco farms, 45.5 percent were cropper-operated. The remaining tenants, for the most part (37.3 percent), rented their farms on a crop-share basis. The production of tobacco is associated with a high rate of tenancy and tenants were the dominant tenure on tobacco farms in the Carolinas, Virginia, and Georgia. Owner-operators, however, outnumbered tenants on tobacco farms in Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, and Florida.

Cotton farms, traditionally dependent on a high input of labor furnished by tenant-operators, continued to be mostly tenant-operated. Tenants operated 52.5 percent of the cotton farms in 1959. The remainder were about equally divided between full owners (23.2 percent) and part owners (23.9 percent). More than one-fifth (20.9 percent) of all cotton farms were cropper-operated and another fifth (20.5 percent) were operated by crop-share tenants.

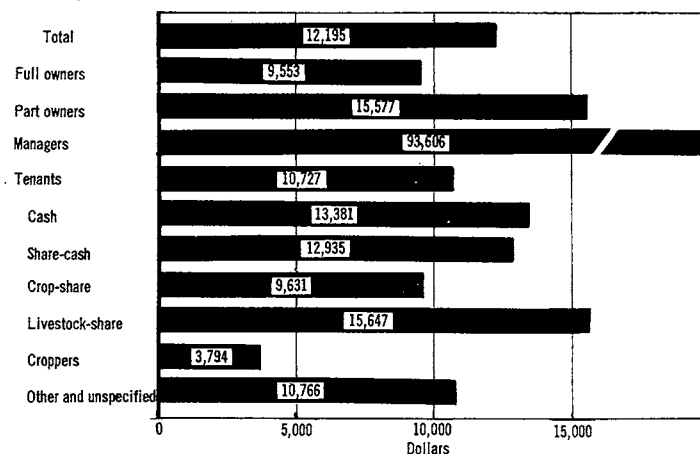
For other field-crops farms, tenant operation was most common in the peanut-producing areas of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Texas, and Oklahoma and in the sugarcane

areas of Louisiana. In these areas tenants operated a higher proportion of the other field-crop farms than either full or part owners. In most other areas part owners or full owners operated a higher proportion of other field-crop farms than tenants.

Vegetable farms were most frequently operated by full owners or part owners. In 1959, full owners operated 44.9 percent of the vegetable farms and part owners, 36.0 percent. Tenants, most of whom rented on a cash basis, operated 17.6 percent, and managers 1.5 percent of the vegetable farms.

**Value of Farm Products Sold by Tenure.**—Part-owner farms accounted for a greater share (37.3 percent) of the total value of agricultural products sold from commercial farms than any other tenure group. Manager-operated commercial farms had the highest average value of farm products sold per farm with an average of more than \$93,000. The value of farm products

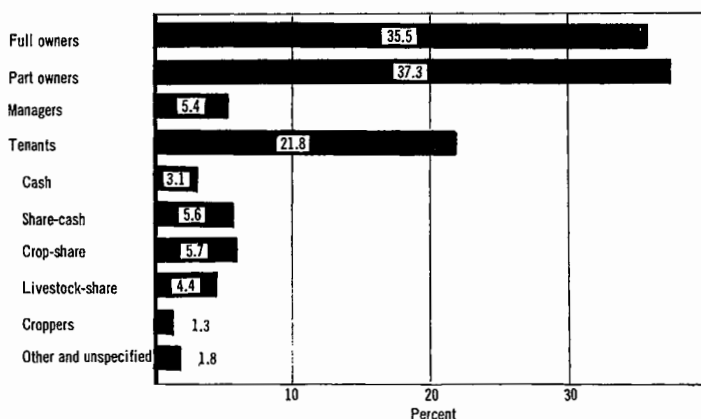
**AVERAGE VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS SOLD PER COMMERCIAL FARM, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959**



sold for commercial full-owner farms averaged somewhat lower than those from commercial tenant farms (\$9,553 for full owners as compared with \$10,727 for tenants). Among the tenant-operated farms, farms operated on a livestock-share basis had the highest average value of farm products sold per farm (\$15,647). Commercial cropper farms reported the lowest average value of farm products with a per farm average of \$3,794.

**Source of Sales.**—Owner-operators account for the bulk of sales of those farm products requiring long-range planning and high investments in facilities such as barns, fences, water systems, and other improvements on the land. Owner-operators accounted for 87.4 percent of the sales of poultry products, 81.2 percent of the sales of dairy products, 80.5 percent of the sales of forest products and horticultural specialties, 77.9 percent of the sales of fruits and nuts, and 72.2 percent of the livestock sales other than poultry and dairy.

**PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, BY COMMERCIAL FARMS, BY TENURE OF OPERATOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959**



The bulk of the sales from field crops were from tenant and part-owner farms with 30.3 and 43.6 percent, respectively. For field crops, the rental arrangement was usually a crop-share arrangement with crop-share and share-cash tenants accounting for 65.8 percent of the total value of field crops sold from commercial tenant-operated farms. For vegetables and for forest products and horticultural specialty crops, the rental arrangement was more often on a cash basis with cash tenants accounting for 49.6 and 47.1 percent, respectively, of the value of these groups of crops sold from tenant-operated farms. For fruit and nut crops a crop-share arrangement was the most important with share tenants accounting for 38.3 percent of the sales of such crops from tenant-operated farms. For livestock and livestock products the tenants generally paid cash rentals or had a livestock-share arrangement. Cash and share-cash tenants accounted for 49.3 percent and livestock-share tenants 28.4 percent of the sales of dairy products from commercial tenant farms. For poultry and poultry products, cash and share-cash tenants accounted for 42.8 percent of the total sales of these products from tenant-operated farms. For livestock sales other than dairy and poultry, 33.5 percent of the total for commercial tenant farms was from farms operated on a livestock-share basis, 30.7 percent from farms rented on share-cash basis, and 14.9 percent from farms rented for cash.

Manager-operated farms accounted for a significant proportion of the sales of more specialized products—17.8 percent of the fruits and nuts, 14.7 percent of the vegetables, and 14.7 percent of forest products and horticultural specialties—sold by all commercial farms.

The source of the sales of farm products by tenure varied greatly.

Percent distribution of the value of farm products sold by source for each tenure follows:

Source of farm products sold	All farms	Percent distribution for commercial farms operated by—									
		Full owners	Part owners	Managers	Tenants						
					All	Cash	Share-cash	Crop-share	Livestock share	Croppers (South only)	Other and unspecified
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All crops sold	44.0	34.8	47.3	52.3	51.3	35.2	47.9	77.8	24.9	89.9	43.2
Field crops other than vegetables, fruits, and nuts sold	34.2	21.6	40.0	23.0	47.7	24.1	46.4	75.2	24.4	88.9	33.7
Vegetables sold	2.5	1.4	3.2	6.8	2.1	7.3	1.1	1.2	0.3	0.6	4.5
Fruits and nuts sold	4.6	7.3	2.7	15.3	0.9	1.8	0.3	1.3	0.1	0.2	2.3
Forest products and horticultural specialty products sold	2.7	4.5	1.4	7.2	0.6	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	2.7
All livestock and livestock products sold	56.0	65.2	52.7	47.7	48.7	64.8	52.1	22.2	75.1	10.1	56.8
Poultry and poultry products sold	7.8	14.7	4.2	5.5	3.1	4.8	2.6	1.7	2.5	2.2	8.8
Dairy products sold	13.3	16.6	13.1	4.5	10.4	23.0	7.3	3.6	14.5	2.2	15.3
Livestock and livestock products other than poultry and dairy sold	34.9	33.8	35.4	37.7	35.2	37.0	42.2	16.9	58.1	5.7	32.7

**Economic Class of Farm.**—The percentage distribution of the commercial farms in each tenure group by economic class of farm

was as follows:

Economic class of farm	All farms	Percent distribution for farms operated by—									
		Full owners	Part owners	Man-agers	Tenants						
					All	Cash	Share-cash	Crop-share	Live-stock-share	Croppers (South-only)	Other and unspecified
Total.....	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0	100. 0
Class I.....	4. 2	2. 9	6. 4	33. 5	3. 3	5. 5	2. 9	3. 1	5. 8	0. 2	3. 6
Class II.....	8. 7	6. 2	12. 3	19. 9	8. 7	9. 2	12. 3	7. 6	16. 0	0. 7	6. 2
Class III.....	20. 0	15. 7	25. 4	18. 8	21. 5	21. 0	33. 5	19. 0	35. 0	2. 8	14. 5
Class IV.....	27. 1	26. 6	28. 4	14. 7	26. 7	25. 7	33. 1	27. 5	28. 7	18. 3	22. 6
Class V.....	25. 6	30. 5	19. 9	9. 5	23. 6	22. 0	14. 7	26. 3	12. 0	39. 9	26. 0
Class VI.....	14. 4	18. 0	7. 7	3. 7	16. 2	16. 6	3. 5	16. 5	2. 6	38. 1	27. 2

The percentage distribution in 1959 for commercial farms in each economic class was as follows:

Farms operated by—	Percent distribution by economic class						
	Total	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V	Class VI
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full owners.....	45.3	31.4	32.4	35.6	44.5	54.1	56.5
Part owners.....	29.2	44.0	41.2	37.2	30.6	22.8	15.5
Managers.....	0.7	5.6	1.6	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.2
All tenants.....	24.8	19.1	24.8	26.6	24.5	22.8	27.9
Cash.....	2.8	3.6	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.4	3.2
Share-cash.....	5.3	3.6	7.4	8.8	6.4	3.0	1.3
Crop-share.....	7.2	5.2	6.3	6.8	7.3	7.4	8.2
Livestock-share.....	3.4	4.7	6.3	6.0	3.7	1.6	0.6
Croppers (South only).....	4.1	0.2	0.3	0.6	2.8	6.4	10.8
Other and unspecified.....	2.0	1.7	1.4	1.5	1.7	2.1	3.8

The proportion of commercial farms operated by tenants showed less variation by economic class of farm than any other tenure groups. Among the classes of tenants, however, a greater proportion of tenants renting on a livestock-share basis and for cash were in the economic classes with a high value of farm products sold. The lower the value of farm products sold group the higher proportion of farms operated by croppers. Of the tenant farms of Economic Class VI, 38.6 percent were operated by croppers. Nearly four-fifths (78.0 percent) of the commercial cropper farms had gross incomes of less than \$5,000.

The distribution by economic class varies greatly among tenure groups. A large proportion of the manager- and part-owner-operated farms are in the economic classes I to III.

Of Class I farms, those with sales of \$40,000 and over, 44.0 percent were operated by part owners, 31.4 percent by full owners, 19.1 percent by tenants, and 5.6 percent by managers. In Class VI farms, commercial farms with value of farm products sold of less than \$2,500, 15.5 percent were operated by part owners, 56.5 percent by full owners, 27.9 percent by tenants, and 0.2 percent by managers.

**Years on Present Farm.**—In 1959, owner-operators had occupied their farms about twice as long as tenants. About three-fourths of the owner-operators of commercial farms (74.9 percent of the full owners and 73.5 percent of the part owners) had occupied their farms 10 or more years, as compared with two-fifths (39.1 percent) for the tenant-operated. This shorter period of occupancy for tenants was related to their frequent moving. More than one-third (35.8 percent) of all tenants, and nearly one-half (48.2 percent) of the croppers had occupied their farms less than 5 years. One tenant in 10 (9.8 percent) had occupied his present farm 1 year or less. 15.5 percent of the croppers reported 1959 as the year they began operating their present farms.

## FARMS OTHER THAN COMMERCIAL

**Farms Other Than Commercial.**—In the 1959 census, one in three farms was classed as other than commercial. These farms were rather generally distributed with the heaviest concentration in the Appalachians, in the Ozarks, and in the western upper coastal plains from Alabama to east Texas. In many of these areas more than half the farms were other than commercial. In West Virginia the proportion was 71.3 percent. Other farms were a smaller proportion of the total in the western Corn Belt and the Great Plains than elsewhere. The tenure distribution of farms other than commercial is quite different from that of commercial farms.

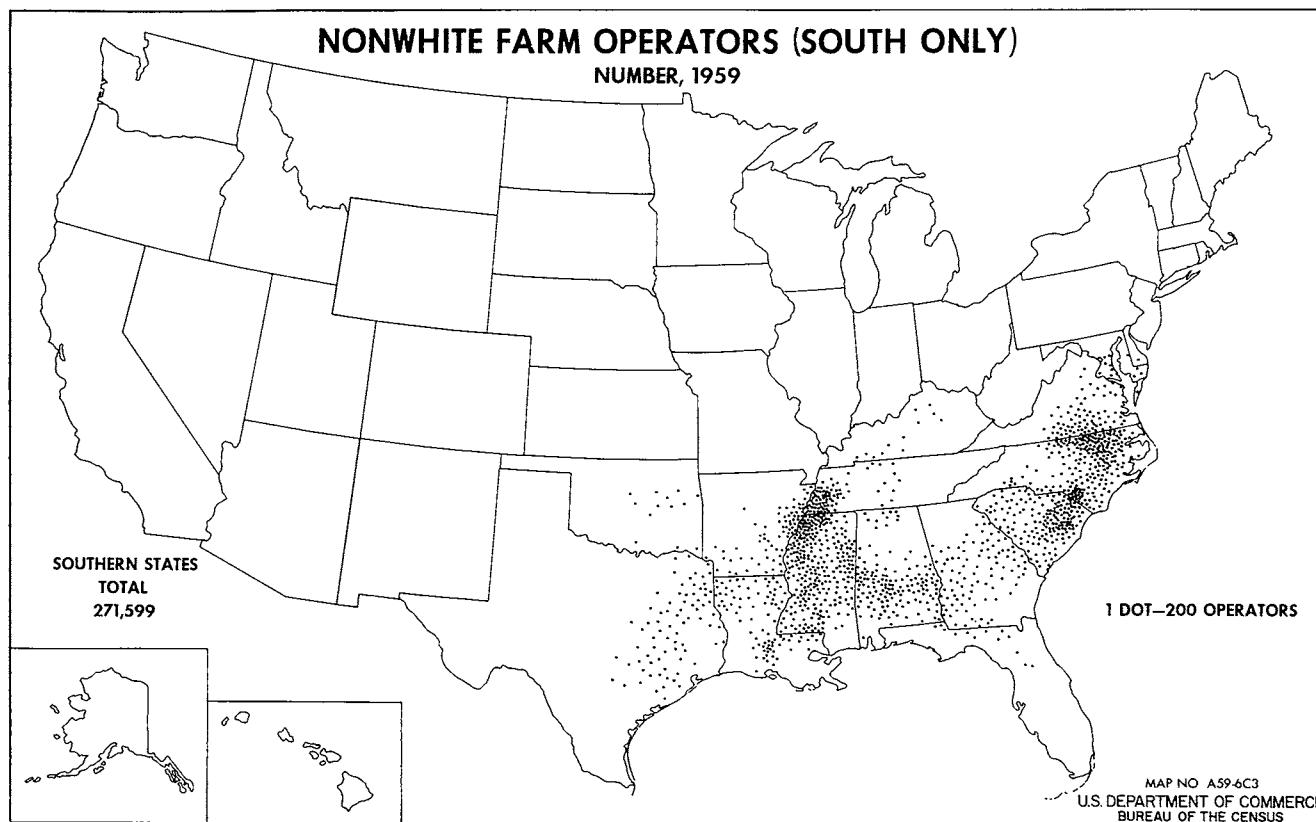
Farms other than commercial are predominantly owner-operated. Of every 10 farms other than commercial, approximately 8 were operated by full owners, 1 by a part owner, and 1 by a tenant. Tenants renting for a share of the products were in the minority. Cash and other and unspecified tenants accounted for 56.9 percent of all tenants of other than commercial farms.

Farms other than commercial, operated mostly by full owners and by cash and other unspecified tenants, generally had either none or very small acreages of cropland harvested. Although comprising about one-third of all farms, other farms accounted for only 5.8 percent of the cropland harvested with 26.4 percent of the farms reporting no cropland harvested. A high proportion of the land in other farms was in pasture (60.5 percent), or was used neither for harvested crops nor pasture (27.0 percent).

The other than commercial farms comprise 884,785 part-time, 404,110 part-retirement, and 3,061 abnormal farms. The tenure distribution in 1959 of these three groups differs significantly as the following data indicate.

Farms operated by—	Percent distribution of—		
	Part-time farms	Part-retirement farms	Abnormal farms
Total.....	100.0	100.0	100.0
Full owners.....	75.9	86.7	0.5
Part owners.....	11.5	6.7	-----
Managers.....	0.1	0.1	99.1
All tenants.....	12.5	6.5	0.4
Cash.....	3.7	1.7	0.2
Share-cash.....	0.5	0.2	0.2
Crop-share.....	2.5	1.4	-----
Livestock-share.....	0.3	0.2	-----
Croppers (South only).....	2.0	1.2	-----
Other and unspecified.....	3.5	1.9	(Z)

Z Less than 0.05 percent.



### COLOR OF FARM OPERATOR

**Color of Farm Operator.**—Of 284,612 nonwhite farm operators in the United States, 265,621, or 93.3 percent, were in the South. In the South, nonwhite farm operators, mostly Negroes, represented one-sixth of all farm operators. Nonwhite operators in the South were most numerous in the tobacco- and older cotton-growing areas. There were very few nonwhite operators in the more northerly States of the South—Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Very few were in the hilly sections—the Appalachian and Ozark-Ouachita areas—and in Florida, Oklahoma, and west Texas.

About two-fifths of the nonwhite-operated farms in the South were classed as other than commercial farms. The proportion was somewhat less than for white operators largely because of a smaller ratio of nonwhite operators with income from sources other than the farm operated and to smaller gross sales from farms operated by nonwhite persons with other income. One

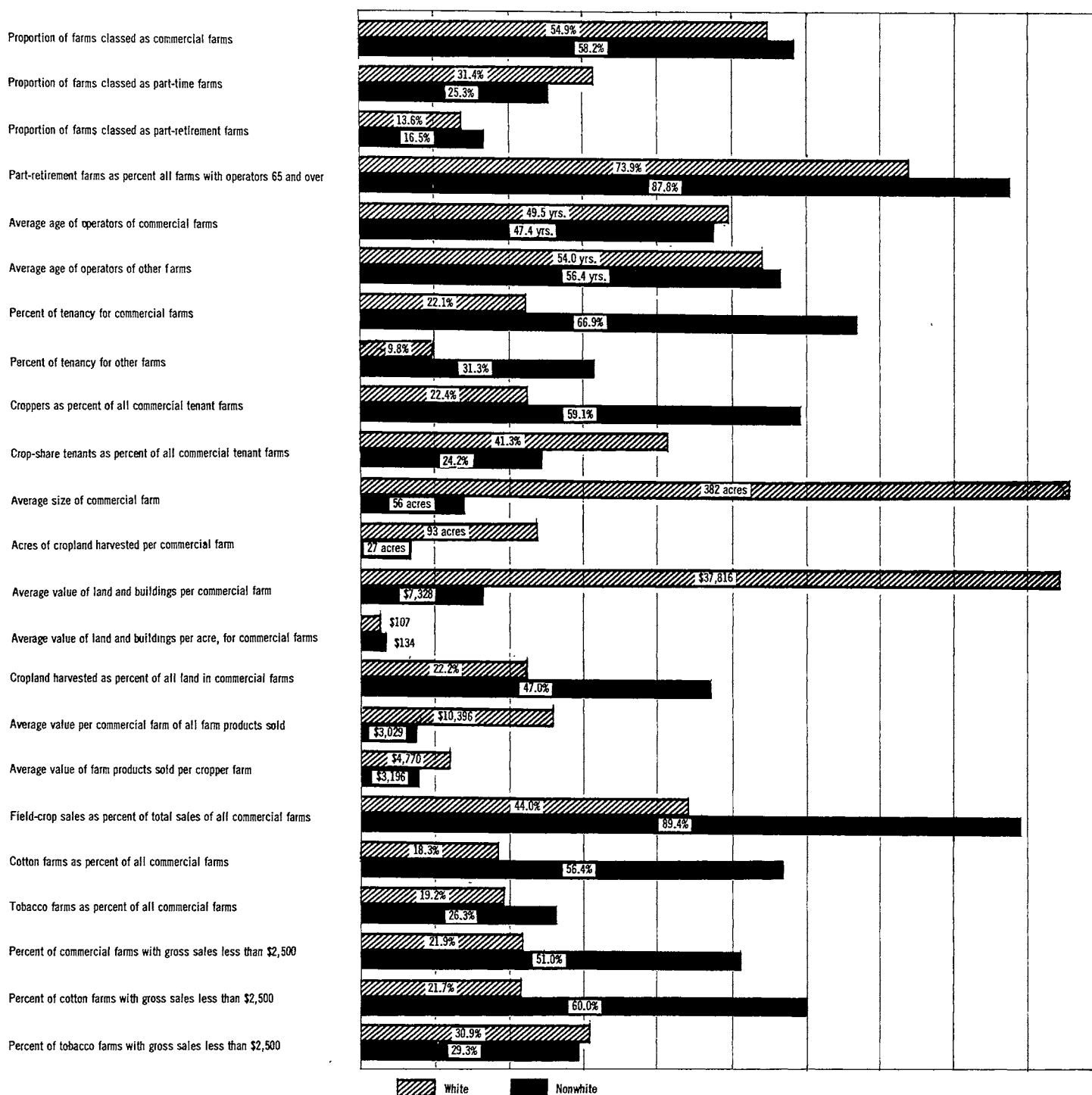
nonwhite-operated farm in four was a part-time farm as compared with nearly one in three for white-operated farms.

Most nonwhite farm operators in the South were tenants. The proportion of tenancy was three times that of white operators. Two-thirds (66.9 percent) of the commercial nonwhite-operated farms in the South were tenant-operated. Most of these nonwhite tenants were croppers. More than three-fifths (62.0 percent) of all croppers were nonwhite and these nonwhite croppers comprised two-fifths of all nonwhite operators of commercial farms in the South. Most of the remaining nonwhite tenants rented their farms on a crop-share basis.

Farms of nonwhite operators in the South were small with an average size of 56 acres and 27 acres of cropland harvested as compared with an average size of 382 acres and 93 acres of cropland harvested for white operators. The average value of land and buildings was \$7,328 for nonwhite operators as compared with \$37,816 for white operators. Farms of nonwhite operators, with a large proportion of the land in crops, had a higher value per acre, \$134, as compared with \$107 for white farm operators.

## GENERAL REPORT

## SELECTED ITEMS BY COLOR OF FARM OPERATOR, FOR THE SOUTH: 1959



Nonwhite operators depended almost wholly on field crops, cotton, and tobacco as a source of their farm income. The classification by type of farm showed most of the nonwhite-operated farms to be either cotton or tobacco, and these two types accounted for 82.7 percent of the nonwhite-operated commercial farms. Of the total value of farm products sold, 89.4 percent was from sale of field crops. For nonwhite croppers the percentage was 97.2. White operators had a greater diversity of sources of farm income with only 44.0 percent of gross sales from field crops.

Over half the commercial farms operated by nonwhite operators in the South had total sales of farm products of less than \$2,500 and 84.6 percent had less than \$5,000. Only 2.2 percent of

the nonwhite commercial farms had gross sales of \$10,000 or more. The average value of gross sales was \$3,029 for nonwhite and \$10,396 for white operators. For croppers the difference was much less, with an average of \$3,196 for nonwhite croppers and \$4,770 for white croppers. The difference in net income to the operator would be even greater than that indicated by the total value of farm products sold as a higher proportion of the nonwhite operators shared the returns with a landlord.

The movement of people from farms was very heavy in the South between 1950 and 1959. The number of farms decreased 38.0 percent. For the United States as a whole, the decrease in the number of farms was 31.2 percent. The number of nonwhite

operators in the South in 1959 was less than half the number 10 years earlier. The greater off-farm migration of nonwhites than whites may be the result, in part, of their lower farm incomes and of the consolidation of the smaller farms. The loss of nonwhite operators between 1950 and 1959 was greater in the cotton than in the tobacco areas. Of commercial cotton farms oper-

ated by nonwhite operators, 60 percent reported a total value of farm products sold of less than \$2,500. For tobacco farms operated by nonwhite operators, 29.3 percent reported a total value of products sold under \$2,500, 44.1 percent, a value of farm products sold of \$2,500 to \$4,999, and 26.6 percent, a value of \$5,000 or more.

