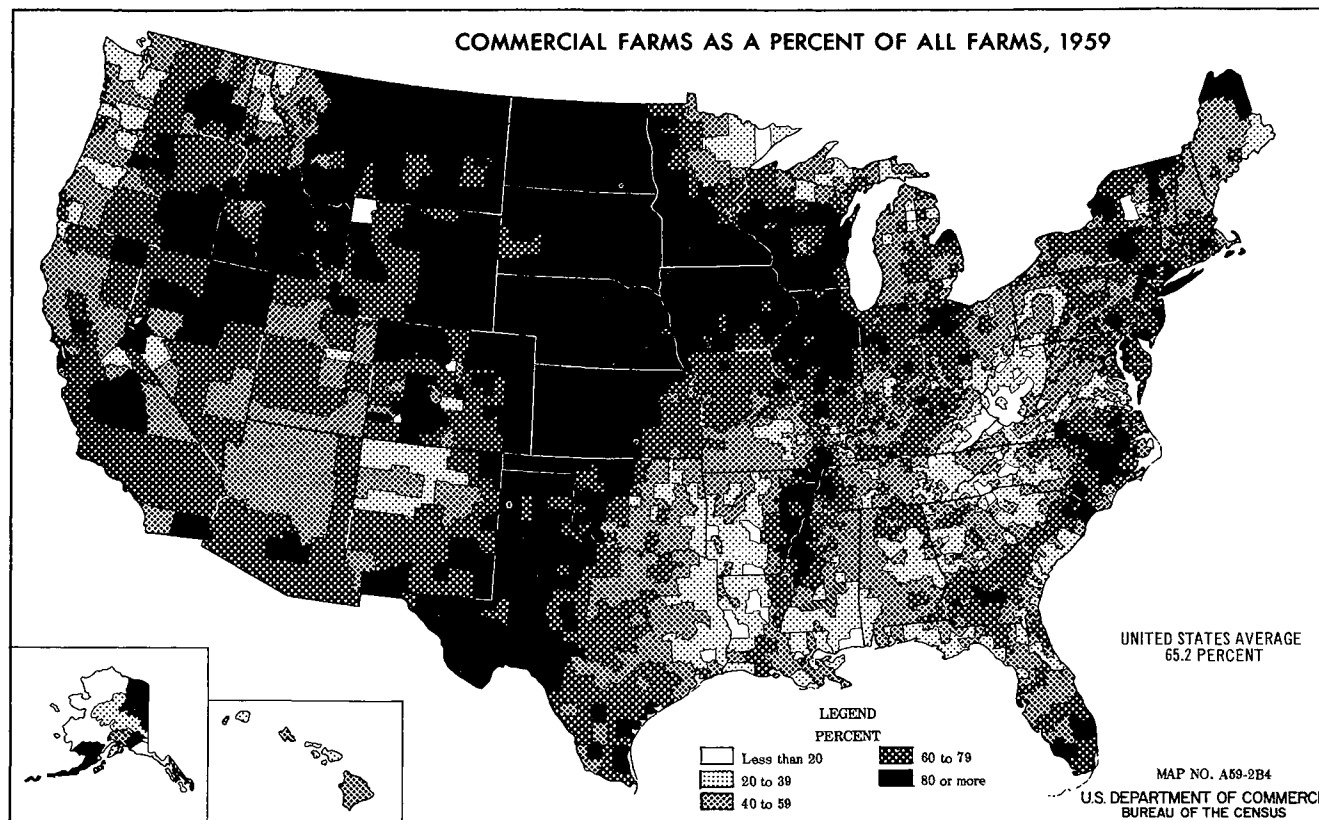


SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Importance of Commercial and Other Farms, 1959.—The most important purpose of the economic classification of farms is to

separate the farms that provide the major source of employment and income for the farm operator's family from the farms or places that provide part-time employment for workers at non-farm jobs and on other farms, and for persons semiretired.



The characteristics of commercial and other farms are markedly different and the interests of the operators for these two distinct groups of farms are likewise different. Commercial farms accounted for 96 percent of all farm products sold, had 87 percent of the land in farms, 94 percent of the cropland harvested, and approximately 85 percent of the value of land and buildings.

The segregating of other farms from commercial farms provides separate data for these two groups in regard to work off the farm and income from sources other than the farm operated. The following data provide measures of the relative importance of off-farm work and income from sources other than the farm operated for commercial and other farms in 1959.

TABLE 2.—OFF-FARM WORK AND OTHER INCOME OF FARM OPERATOR AND HIS FAMILY FOR COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FARMS FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959

Item	Percent of total for all farms represented by—	
	Commercial farms	Other farms
Number of farms.....	65.2	34.8
Land in farms.....	87.0	13.0
Cropland harvested.....	94.2	5.8
Value of land and buildings.....	85.7	14.3
Value of farm products sold.....	96.2	3.8
Number of cattle and calves.....	91.3	8.7
Number of chickens 4 months old and over.....	89.2	10.8
Number of tractors (other than garden).....	84.2	15.8
Expenditures for feed for livestock and poultry.....	94.2	5.8
Purchase of livestock and poultry.....	96.9	3.1
Expenditures for hired labor.....	96.6	3.4
Expenditures for gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business.....	92.9	7.1
Tons of fertilizer used.....	91.6	8.4
Tons of lime used.....	89.7	10.3
Farm operators 65 years old and over.....	34.5	65.5
Farm operators working off their farms 100 or more days.....	31.6	68.4
Farm operators reporting other members of the family working off the farm.....	55.8	44.2
Farm operators reporting income from sources other than the farm operated and off-farm work.....	50.0	50.0
Farm operators reporting income of family from sources other than the farm operated greater than the value of farm products sold.....	22.8	77.2

Item	All farms, total	Commercial farms		Other farms	
		Number	Percent of total for all farms	Number	Percent of total for all farms
Farm operators—					
Working off their farms, total.....	1,663,841	808,440	48.6	855,401	51.4
1 to 99 days.....	556,235	457,929	82.3	98,306	17.7
100 to 199 days.....	229,787	104,639	45.5	125,148	54.5
200 or more days.....	877,819	245,872	28.0	631,947	72.0
With other members of family working off farm.....	481,141	214,942	44.7	266,199	55.3
With income from sources other than farm operated and off-farm work.....	698,876	321,935	46.1	376,941	53.9
With other income of family exceeding value of agricultural products sold.....	977,606	232,489	23.8	745,117	76.2
Operators not working off their farms or not reporting as to work off their farms, total.....	2,044,132	1,607,577	78.6	436,555	21.4
With other members of family working off farm.....	319,331	231,635	72.5	87,696	27.5
With income from sources other than farm operated and off-farm work.....	759,734	406,889	53.6	352,845	46.4
With other income of family exceeding value of agricultural products sold.....	351,234	69,893	19.9	281,341	80.1