

"Other farms" were further classified into three groups as follows:

Part-Time Farms.—Farms with a value of sales of farm products of \$50 to \$2,499 were classified as "part-time" if (1) the operator was under 65 years of age and (2) he either worked off the farm 100 or more days during 1959 or the income he and members of his household received from off-the-farm-operated sources was greater than the total value of farm products sold.

Part-Retirement Farms.—Farms with a value of sales of farm products of \$50 to \$2,499 were classified as "part-retirement" when the operator was 65 years old or over. Many of these are farms on which the income from off-the-farm-operated sources was greater than the value of sales of agricultural products while others are residential, subsistence, or marginal farms. In previous censuses, the age of the farm operator was not a criterion for grouping farms by economic class. Since the number of elderly people in our population has been steadily increasing during recent years, a separate classification for farms operated on a "part-retirement" basis was considered important for an adequate analysis of agriculture.

Abnormal Farms.—Institutional farms and Indian reservations were classified as "abnormal" regardless of the value of sales of farm products. Institutional farms include those operated by hospitals, penitentiaries, schools, churches, grazing associations, and government agencies. Abnormal farms were excluded from the "commercial" group regardless of the value of the farm products sold.

Value of Farm Products Sold.—The data on the value of farm products sold represent estimates based upon the tabulation of data for only a sample of approximately 20 percent of the farms for the conterminous United States. For Alaska and Hawaii, data for the value of farm products sold are for all farms.

For an explanation of the methods used for computing the value of farm products sold and a statement of the reliability of the data, see chapter IX of this volume.

Determination of Economic Class of Farm.—The determination of economic class of farm for each farm was made during the

office processing. In many cases, the economic class of farm was determined by inspection; in others, it was necessary to calculate the approximate value of all farm products sold. There were many farms for which the sale of a single product or of two products comprised the only farm products sold and for these farms the determination for economic class of farm was relatively easy. For example, the value of sales of vegetables, horticultural specialty crops, dairy products, and cattle and calves were reported on the agriculture questionnaire. For a farm where the only farm products sold were vegetables, or a horticultural specialty crop, or dairy products, or cattle and calves, a comparison of the sale of the single product sold with the economic class limit provided an immediate determination for economic class. Likewise, in case the sale of any farm product exceeded \$40,000 the economic class could be determined immediately without the calculation of the total value of sales for all farm products. For highly specialized farms, such as vegetable, fruit-and-nut, cotton, tobacco, poultry, and dairy farms, it was possible to determine economic class by inspection rather than by the making of detailed calculations. However, for general farms and other farms with sales from several sources, it was necessary to make detailed calculations of the value of all farm products sold. In order to calculate the total value of farm products sold, it was necessary to add the values reported on the questionnaire for the following farm products: Vegetables harvested for sale, horticultural specialty crops sold, standing timber and miscellaneous forest products sold, milk and cream sold, cattle and calves sold, and horses and mules sold. To this total, it was necessary to add the estimated values of all other farm products sold. For corn, sorghums, small grains, and hay crops the estimated sales were calculated by multiplying the quantity reported sold by a State average price. For all other crops including firewood, fuelwood, fence posts, and sawlogs and veneer logs, it was necessary to calculate the estimated value of each farm product sold by multiplying the quantity sold by a State average price. For hogs and pigs and sheep and lambs it was necessary to determine the estimated value of sales by multiplying the number sold and to be sold by a State average price.

TABLE 1.—CRITERIA FOR THE ECONOMIC CLASSES OF FARMS AND NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Class	Number of farms, 1959	Criteria		Farms excluded
		Value of farm products sold	Other	
United States, total.....	3,701,364	xxx.....	xxx.....	xxx.
Commercial farms, total.....	2,412,917	xxx.....	xxx.....	xxx.
Class I.....	101,835	\$40,000 and over.....	None.....	Abnormal.
Class II.....	210,162	\$20,000 to \$39,999.....	None.....	Abnormal.
Class III.....	482,478	\$10,000 to \$19,999.....	None.....	Abnormal.
Class IV.....	653,150	\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	None.....	Abnormal.
Class V.....	616,819	\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	None.....	Abnormal.
Class VI.....	348,473	\$50 to \$2,499.....	Farm operator under 65 years of age; Did not work off the farm 100 or more days; Income that he and members of his household received from off-the-farm sources was less than the total value of farm products sold.	Abnormal.
Other farms, total.....	1,288,447	xxx.....	xxx.....	xxx.
Part-time.....	881,883	\$50 to \$2,499.....	Farm operator under 65 years of age and he either worked off the farm 100 or more days or the income he and members of his household received from off-the-farm sources was greater than the total value of farm products sold.	Abnormal.
Part-retirement.....	403,527	\$50 to \$2,499.....	Farm operator 65 years old or over.....	Abnormal.
Abnormal.....	3,037	Not a criterion.....	Institutional farms, Indian reservations, experimental farms, grazing associations, etc.	xxx.

Income From Sources Other Than the Farm Operated.—Included in the census total count for farm operators are many operators who work at other jobs or businesses. More than 1.6 million farm operators worked off their farms in 1959. More than 1.1 million farm operators worked off their farms 100 days or more and 0.9 million worked off their farms 200 days or more in 1959. In addition, 1.5 million farm operators reported income from other sources such as sale of farm products from rented land, cash rent, social security, old age assistance, pensions, veterans' allowances, unemployment compensation, interest, dividends,

and profits from a nonfarm business. Moreover 0.8 million farm operators reported that other members of their family had a nonfarm job, profession, business, or worked on someone else's farm in 1959.

Off-farm work and income from sources other than the farm operated have been of increasing importance to farmers. The income of farm operators' families from nonfarm sources has grown steadily during the last 30 years and in 1960 it accounted for more than a third of the income of farm-operator families.