

ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM

1203

TABLE 3.—CRITERIA FOR THE ECONOMIC CLASSES OF FARMS AND NUMBER OF FARMS IN EACH CLASS, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1954 AND 1950

Class	Number of farms	Criteria		Farms excluded
		Value of farm products sold	Other	
United States, total.....	1954.. 4, 783, 021	xxx	xxx	xxx.
	1950.. 5, 379, 250			
Commercial farms, total.....	1954.. 3, 327, 617	xxx	xxx	xxx.
	1950.. 3, 706, 412			
Class I.....	1954.. 134, 003	\$25, 000 or more	None	Abnormal.
	1950.. 103, 231			
Class II.....	1954.. 448, 945	\$10,000 to \$24,999	None	Abnormal.
	1950.. 381, 151			
Class III.....	1954.. 706, 929	\$5,000 to \$9,999	None	Abnormal.
	1950.. 721, 211			
Class IV.....	1954.. 811, 965	\$2,500 to \$4,999	None	Abnormal.
	1950.. 882, 302			
Class V.....	1954.. 763, 348	\$1,200 to \$2,499	None	Abnormal.
	1950.. 901, 316			
Class VI.....	1954.. 462, 427	\$250 to \$1,199	Less than 100 days of off-farm work by operator and income of operator and members of his family from off-the-farm sources less than value of all farm products sold.	Abnormal.
	1950.. 717, 201			
Other farms, total.....	1954.. 1, 455, 404	xxx	xxx	xxx.
	1950.. 1, 672, 838			
Part-time.....	1954.. 574, 575	\$250 to \$1,199	100 days or more of off-farm work by operator or income of farm operator and members of his family from off-the-farm sources greater than value of all farm products sold.	Abnormal.
	1950.. 639, 230			
Residential.....	1954.. 878, 136	Less than \$250	None	Abnormal.
	1950.. 1, 029, 392			
Abnormal.....	1954.. 2, 693	Not a criterion	Institutional farms, experimental farms, grazing associations, community-project farms, etc.	xxx.
	1950.. 4, 216			

CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF FARMS WITH A VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD OF LESS THAN \$2,500

Most of the changes in the number of farms since 1950 have occurred in the number of farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500.

Value of farm products sold	Number of farms				
	Total			Percent change	
	1959	1954	1950	1954-1959	1950-1959
Farms with value of farm products sold of—					
Total.....	3, 701, 364	4, 783, 021	5, 379, 250	-22. 6	-31. 2
Less than \$2,500 ¹	1, 636, 920	2, 681, 179	3, 291, 355	-38. 9	-50. 3
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	616, 819	811, 965	882, 302	-24. 0	-30. 1
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	653, 150	706, 929	721, 211	-7. 6	-9. 4
\$10,000 or more.....	794, 475	582, 948	484, 382	+36. 3	+64. 0

¹ Includes abnormal farms.

The decrease of 1,044,000 in the number of farms with sales of farm products of less than \$2,500 from 1954 to 1959 was affected by a change in the definition of a farm. The change in definition of a farm accounted for 22 percent of the change from 1954 to 1959 and 16 percent of the change from 1950 to 1959 in the number of farms with a value of products of less than \$2,500. If the definition of a farm had not been changed, the decrease from 1954 to 1959 would have been from 2,681,000 to 1,869,000 rather than to 1,637,000.

Farms with a value of farm products of under \$2,500 declined more than 50 percent from 1950 to 1959. They accounted for 61 percent of all farms in 1950 and only 44 percent in 1959. In 1950, they accounted for 12 percent of all farm products sold as compared with only 5 percent in 1959.

The change in farms with less than \$2,500 of farm products sold accounts for a large part of the change in all farms.

Item and year	All farms	Farms with value of farm products sold of less than \$2,500 ¹	Farms with value of farm products sold of \$2,500 or more
Number of farms.....			
1959.....	3, 701, 364	1, 636, 920	2, 064, 444
1954.....	4, 783, 021	2, 681, 179	2, 101, 842
1950.....	5, 379, 250	3, 291, 355	2, 087, 895
Change in number of farms.....			
1954-1959.....	-1, 081, 657	-1, 044, 259	-37, 398
1950-1959.....	-1, 677, 886	-1, 654, 435	-23, 451
1950-1954.....	-596, 229	-610, 176	+13, 947
Average size of farm.....			
acres 1959.....	302. 6	111. 7	454. 0
1954.....	242. 5	102. 6	421. 1
1950.....	215. 6	94. 2	407. 0
Value of farm products sold per farm.....			
dollars 1959.....	8, 232	990	13, 975
1954.....	5, 188	846	10, 726
1950.....	4, 142	825	9, 370

¹ Includes abnormal farms.

Most of the farms with less than \$2,500 of sales that have disappeared are in the smaller size groups.

Size of farm and year	All farms	Farms with value of farm products sold of less than \$2,500 ¹	Farms with value of farm products sold of \$2,500 or more
All farms.....			
1959.....	3, 701, 364	1, 636, 920	2, 064, 444
1954.....	4, 782, 416	2, 680, 545	2, 101, 871
1950.....	5, 379, 250	3, 291, 355	2, 087, 895
Farms under 10 acres.....			
1959.....	240, 351	193, 961	46, 390
1954.....	484, 291	438, 500	45, 791
1950.....	480, 373	438, 173	42, 200
Farms 10 to 99 acres.....			
1959.....	1, 467, 721	1, 013, 489	454, 232
1954.....	2, 076, 894	1, 556, 988	519, 906
1950.....	2, 522, 717	2, 025, 262	497, 455
Farms 100 to 219 acres.....			
1959.....	997, 210	317, 870	679, 340
1954.....	1, 210, 298	485, 358	724, 940
1950.....	1, 379, 654	612, 638	767, 016
Farms 220 to 499 acres.....			
1959.....	660, 027	89, 376	570, 651
1954.....	688, 755	152, 731	536, 024
1950.....	691, 530	170, 829	520, 701
Farms 500 to 999 acres.....			
1959.....	199, 755	16, 263	183, 492
1954.....	191, 697	33, 123	158, 574
1950.....	183, 913	32, 675	151, 238
Farms 1,000 or more acres.....			
1959.....	136, 300	5, 961	130, 339
1954.....	130, 481	13, 845	116, 636
1950.....	121, 063	11, 778	109, 285

¹ Includes abnormal farms.