

Changes for Farms With a Value of Farm Products Sold of \$2,500 and Over.—There have been significant shifts in the distribution in the number of farms and in the value of farm products sold since 1950.

Item and value of farm products sold	Number (1,000)			Percent distribution		
	1959	1954	1950	1959	1954	1950
Number of farms.....	3,701	4,783	5,379	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$2,500 or more, total.....	2,084	2,102	2,088	55.8	43.9	38.8
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	617	812	882	16.7	17.0	16.4
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	653	707	721	17.6	14.8	13.4
\$10,000 or more.....	794	583	484	21.5	12.2	9.0
	Dollars (1,000)					
Value of farm products sold:						
\$2,500 or more, total.....	28,850,075	22,544,712	19,562,688	94.7	90.9	87.8
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	2,271,434	3,008,511	3,198,161	7.5	12.1	14.4
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	4,717,859	5,084,640	5,060,529	15.5	20.5	22.7
\$10,000 or more.....	21,860,783	14,451,561	11,303,998	71.7	58.2	50.7
	Average per farm (dollars)					
Average value of farm products sold:						
\$2,500 or more, total.....	13,975	10,726	9,370	xxx	xxx	xxx
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	3,682	3,705	3,625	xxx	xxx	xxx
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	7,223	7,193	7,017	xxx	xxx	xxx
\$10,000 or more.....	27,516	24,790	23,337	xxx	xxx	xxx

From 1950 to 1959, 1 out of each 3 farms with sales of farm products of \$2,500 to \$4,999 and 1 out of 10 farms with sales of farm products of \$5,000 to \$9,999 disappeared or was shifted to the group of farms with sales of \$10,000 and over increased 64 percent. The percentage of the value of all farm products sold by farms with sales of \$2,500 to \$4,999 declined from 14 percent in 1949 to 8 percent in 1959. While the percentages of the value of all farm products sold by farms with sales of \$5,000 to \$9,999 declined from 23 percent in 1949 to 16 percent in 1959, the proportion of the value of all farm products sold by farms with a value of farm products of \$10,000 and over increased from 51 percent in 1949 to 72 percent in 1959.

Changes in prices received by farmers have influenced the change in the number of farms in the various economic classes from 1950 to 1959. In order to provide some measure for the approximate effect of changes in prices, it is necessary to examine data by type of farm for commercial farms as the changes in prices have varied for several of the important farm products.

For each type of farm, the sale of the product or group of products that determined the type of farm accounted for a large part of the total value of farm products in 1959.

Type of farm	Percent of the value of all farm products sold derived from sale of farm products or group of products determining type of farm for farms with a total value of farm products sold of—			
	\$2,500 or more	\$2,500-\$4,999	\$5,000-\$9,999	\$10,000 or more
Cash-grain farms.....	76.7	76.8	75.0	77.1
Cotton farms.....	74.4	81.6	75.8	73.4
Field-crop farms other than cash-grain and cotton.....	76.3	78.2	76.6	75.6
Vegetable farms.....	81.7	77.7	79.2	82.0
Fruit-and-nut farms.....	93.3	91.6	92.6	93.5
Poultry farms.....	91.0	84.2	86.4	91.7
Dairy farms.....	84.5	82.8	82.4	85.4
Livestock farms other than poultry and dairy farms.....	83.4	79.6	76.8	84.9

TABLE 4.—NUMBER AND CHANGE IN NUMBER OF FARMS WITH VALUE OF PRODUCTS SOLD OF \$2,500 OR MORE, BY TYPE OF FARM, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1950

Type of farm	Farms with a value of farm products sold of—				
	\$2,500 or more	\$2,500 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 or more	
All farms with sales of \$2,500 or more.....	number 1959	2,064,444	616,819	653,150	794,475
	1954	2,101,842	811,965	706,929	582,948
	1950	2,087,895	882,302	721,211	484,382
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-37,398	-195,146	-53,779	+211,527
	1950-54	+13,947	-70,337	-14,282	+98,566
	1950-59	-23,451	-265,483	-68,061	+310,093
Cash-grain farms.....	number 1959	365,697	92,160	124,559	148,978
	1954	421,861	128,990	160,298	132,573
	1950	325,424	109,815	127,744	87,865
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-56,164	-36,830	-36,739	+16,405
	1950-54	+96,437	+19,175	+32,554	+44,708
	1950-59	+40,273	-17,655	-3,186	+61,113
Cotton farms.....	number 1959	158,647	67,068	37,961	53,628
	1954	203,749	116,064	46,997	40,698
	1950	174,837	91,377	44,972	38,488
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-45,102	-48,996	-9,036	+12,930
	1950-54	+28,912	+24,677	+2,025	+2,210
	1950-59	-16,190	-24,319	-7,011	+15,140
Other field-crop farms.....	number 1959	164,998	79,647	53,997	31,354
	1954	182,991	114,234	47,730	21,027
	1950	169,551	114,317	37,316	17,918
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-17,993	-34,587	+6,267	+10,327
	1950-54	+13,440	-83	+10,414	+3,109
	1950-59	-4,553	-34,670	+16,681	+13,436
Vegetable farms.....	number 1959	17,221	4,430	4,090	8,701
	1954	19,710	6,379	5,100	8,231
	1950	23,923	9,248	6,743	7,932
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-2,489	-1,949	-1,010	+470
	1950-54	-4,213	-2,869	-1,643	+299
	1950-59	-6,702	-4,818	-2,653	+769
Fruit-and-nut farms.....	number 1959	55,470	12,927	14,367	28,186
	1954	59,248	16,846	16,414	25,988
	1950	50,691	18,929	15,491	16,271
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-3,778	-3,919	-2,057	+2,198
	1950-54	+8,557	-2,083	+923	+9,717
	1950-59	+4,779	-6,002	-1,134	+11,915
Poultry farms.....	number 1959	94,154	17,640	22,254	54,260
	1954	97,851	27,546	28,495	41,810
	1950	93,636	34,030	28,427	31,179
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-3,697	-9,906	-6,241	+12,460
	1950-54	+4,215	-6,484	+68	+10,631
	1950-59	+518	-16,390	-6,173	+23,081
Dairy farms.....	number 1959	397,811	97,315	145,963	154,533
	1954	397,996	153,707	156,550	87,739
	1950	405,129	179,935	153,980	71,214
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-185	-56,392	-10,587	+66,794
	1950-54	-7,133	-26,228	+2,570	+16,525
	1950-59	-7,318	-82,620	-8,017	+83,319
Livestock farms other than poultry and dairy.....	number 1959	594,280	175,665	176,246	242,369
	1954	456,543	142,972	152,436	161,135
	1950	525,425	176,580	189,087	189,758
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	+137,737	+32,693	+23,810	+81,234
	1950-54	-68,882	-33,608	-36,651	+1,377
	1950-59	+68,855	-915	-12,841	+82,611
General farms.....	number 1959	185,521	61,134	65,819	58,568
	1954	238,999	98,126	87,327	53,546
	1950	293,382	138,940	110,854	43,588
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	-53,478	-36,992	-21,508	+5,022
	1950-54	-54,383	-40,814	-23,527	+9,958
	1950-59	-107,861	-77,806	-45,035	+14,980
Miscellaneous farms.....	number 1959	30,645	8,843	7,904	13,898
	1954	22,894	7,111	5,582	10,201
	1950	25,897	9,131	6,597	10,169
Change in number of farms.....	1954-59	+7,751	+1,732	+2,322	+3,697
	1950-54	-3,003	-2,020	-1,015	+32
	1950-59	+4,748	-288	+1,307	+3,729

For cash-grain farms, the sales of corn, sorghums, wheat, rice, rye, flaxseed, and soybeans have made up more than two-thirds of the total value of all farm products sold. The average prices for these crops for the three censuses have been as follows:

Crop	Price per bushel (dollars)		
	1959	1954	1949
Corn for grain.....	1.05	1.44	1.24
Sorghums for grain.....	0.86	1.26	0.98
Wheat.....	1.77	2.13	1.86
Rice.....	2.06	2.04	1.77
Rye.....	1.02	1.22	1.22
Flaxseed.....	3.04	3.04	3.60
Soybeans for beans.....	1.97	2.52	2.12