

service. The disappearance of farmer- or cooperative-owned telephone facilities in rural areas accounts for a part of the decline in the number of farms with telephones following 1920.

Significant progress in the number of farms equipped with telephones came in the South where, despite a 29 percent decrease in the number of farms, the farms with telephones increased 23 percent. The South's 140,000 gain in farms with telephones more than counterbalanced the combined decreases of 58,000 in the North and 8,000 in the West and provided the net increase of more than 74,000 for the country as a whole.

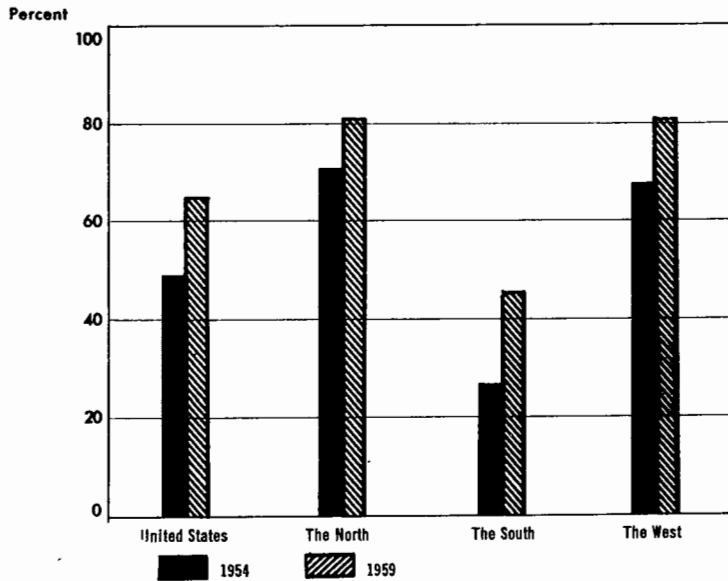
By geographic divisions, the percent of all farms having telephones in 1959 ranged from 87.5 in the New England States to 40.1 in the East South Central States. The greatest gain occurred in the East South Central States with an increase of 56,000 farms (33.0 percent) reporting telephones compared with a 24.8 percent decline in the number of farms with telephones in New England. The number of farms in New England equipped with telephones as a percent of all farms increased from 80.9 in 1954 to 87.5 in 1959 indicating that the decline in the number of farms with telephones was a result of the decrease in number of farms in the New England States. There were fewer total farms in 1959 in New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut than there were farms with telephones in 1954. North Carolina, with an increase of more than 22,000, or 49.3 percent, reported the greatest gain in the number of farms having telephones, but Montana, with 49.8 percent increase, had the highest percent gain in the number of farms equipped with telephones. Although about half of the States had fewer farms with telephones in 1959 than in 1954, a large part of

this decrease resulted from the diminution in total number of farms rather than from the discontinuation of telephone service.

The number of farms with home freezers increased from 1954 to 1959 in spite of the rapid decrease in the overall number of farms. In 1959, five farms out of nine had a home freezer while in 1954 and 1950 only one farm in three (32.2 percent) and one farm in eight (12.1 percent), respectively, had such equipment. The 2,065,000 farms (conterminous United States only) reporting home freezers in 1959 represent an increase of 34 percent over the 1,541,000 listed in 1954 and is more than three times the 651,000 reported in 1950.

In the Middle Atlantic, East North Central, Mountain, and Pacific States about two farms out of three had home freezers in 1959. Only in the East South Central and South Atlantic States did fewer than half the farmers have home freezers. The highest percent of increase in farms reporting home freezers was the 74.2 percent reported in the East South Central States. Nearly a third of the total increase in farms with home freezers occurred in the West North Central States where the gain of over 160,000 represented an increase of 51 percent over 1954. Increases were found in 43 of the 48 States with New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Jersey showing slight decreases resulting primarily from the notable drop in the total number of farms. Every State showed a higher proportion of farms with home freezers in 1959 than in 1954. Iowa's increase of nearly 37,000 farms reporting freezers was the largest gain for any State. Tennessee with a gain of more than 30,000, or 85.6 percent, had the highest percent increase over 1954.

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TELEPHONE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954 AND 1959



Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING HOME FREEZER FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1954 AND 1959

