

Table 8.—PERCENT OF FARMS REPORTING TRACTORS, OTHER THAN GARDEN, BY ECONOMIC CLASS OF FARM, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959

[Data for conterminous United States are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text]

Economic class ¹	Percent of farms reporting by number of tractors reported					
	No tractors	1 tractor	2 tractors	3 tractors	4 tractors	5 or more tractors
All farms.....	30.2	34.9	21.8	8.7	2.6	1.7
Commercial farms.....	18.6	31.8	30.2	12.8	3.9	2.6
Other farms.....	51.9	40.7	6.3	0.9	0.2	0.1
Commercial:						
Class I (Farm sales of \$40,000 or more).....	8.1	9.8	16.4	21.2	16.2	28.4
Class II (Farm sales of \$20,000 to \$39,999).....	7.4	12.0	30.2	29.6	13.0	7.8
Class III (Farm sales of \$10,000 to \$19,999).....	6.9	18.3	43.2	23.3	6.1	2.1
Class IV (Farm sales of \$5,000 to \$9,999).....	11.0	33.6	40.3	12.1	2.4	0.7
Class V (Farm sales of \$2,500 to \$4,999).....	22.1	47.8	24.0	4.9	0.9	0.3
Class VI (Farm sales of \$50 to \$2,499).....	52.9	37.4	8.0	1.3	0.3	0.1
Other farms:						
Part-time (Farm sales of \$50 to \$2,499).....	48.2	43.6	7.0	1.0	0.2	0.1
Part-retirement (Farm sales of \$50 to \$2,499).....	60.2	34.4	4.6	0.6	0.1	(Z)
Abnormal (Farm sales of \$50 or more).....	25.7	18.9	15.2	11.1	7.9	21.2

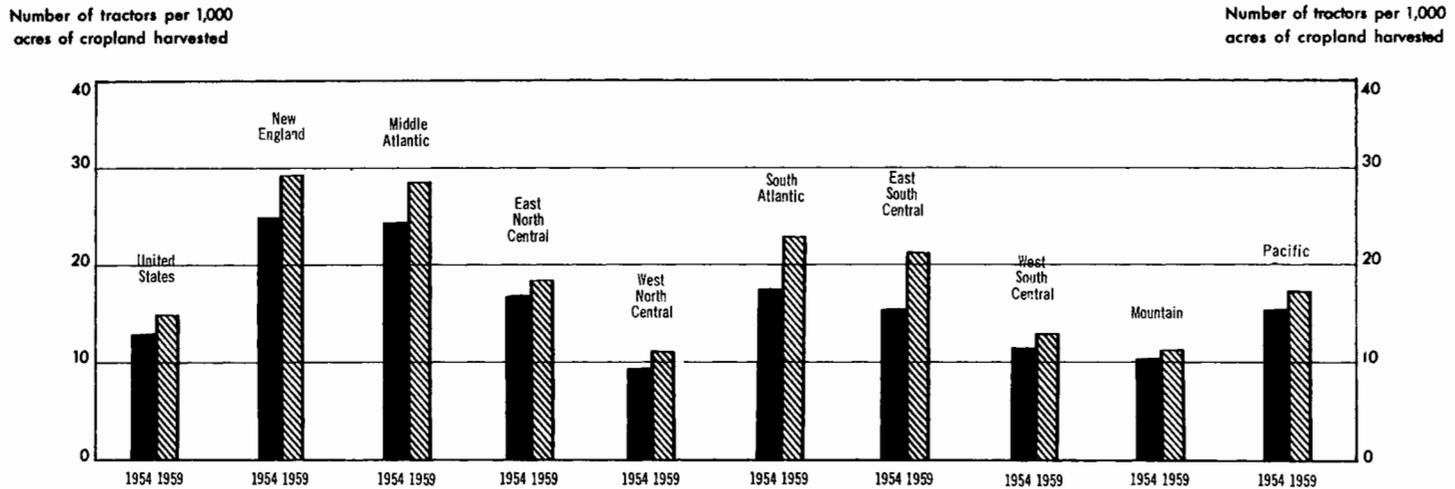
Z Less than 0.05 percent.

¹The classification of commercial farms and other farms was made on the basis of total value of farm products sold, days of off-farm work by the operator, and the age of the operator. Farms with a value of sales of farm products of \$50 to \$2,499 were classified as "part-time" if the operator was 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 nonfarm sources was greater than the total value of farm products sold. "Part-retirement" farms include those with a value of sales of farm products of \$50 to \$2,499 if the farm operator was 65 years of age or older. Many of these are farms on which the income from nonfarm sources exceeded the value of sales of farm products. Others are residential, subsistence, or marginal farms. "Abnormal" farms comprise institutional and similar kinds of farms.

The increase in the number of tractors used per 1,000 acres of cropland harvested is another indication of the growth of farm mechanization. In 1920, less than one tractor was available for

each 1,000 acres of cropland harvested in the United States. By 1959 there were 15 tractors for each 1,000 acres of cropland harvested.

NUMBER OF TRACTORS PER 1,000 ACRES CROPLAND HARVESTED, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS: 1954 AND 1959



Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.

Table 9.—NUMBER OF TRACTORS PER 1,000 ACRES OF CROPLAND HARVESTED, BY REGIONS AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS: 1920 TO 1959

[Data for conterminous United States for 1959, 1954, and 1950 are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text]

Geographic area	1959 ¹	1954 ¹	1950 ¹	1945	1940	1930	1925	1920
United States.....	14.9	NA	9.8	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Conterminous United States.....	14.9	13.0	9.8	6.9	4.9	2.6	1.5	0.7
The North.....	14.3	12.6	10.2	7.8	6.1	3.1	1.7	0.8
The South.....	17.4	14.0	9.1	4.9	2.6	1.3	0.8	0.3
The West.....	13.7	NA	9.9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Conterminous area.....	13.6	12.5	9.9	6.8	5.3	3.0	1.9	1.3
New England.....	29.3	25.0	18.8	13.5	8.4	3.9	1.8	0.6
Middle Atlantic.....	28.5	24.6	19.7	14.2	9.4	5.7	3.0	0.8
East North Central.....	16.4	17.0	13.7	10.5	7.9	4.4	2.5	0.9
West North Central.....	10.9	9.4	7.5	5.7	4.7	2.3	1.2	0.8
South Atlantic.....	22.8	17.7	10.5	4.9	2.2	1.7	1.1	0.4
East South Central.....	21.3	15.7	9.2	3.6	1.6	1.0	0.6	0.2
West South Central.....	12.9	11.4	8.3	5.4	3.4	1.3	0.7	0.4
Mountain.....	11.2	10.4	7.7	5.2	4.1	2.1	1.0	1.1
Pacific.....	17.2	NA	13.3	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Conterminous area.....	17.2	15.5	13.3	9.3	7.0	4.8	3.5	1.6

NA Not available.

¹Tractors other than garden.

With continued growth in farm mechanization and use of tractors, motortrucks, and automobiles for farm power and transportation, the number of horses and mules on farms declined from 4,141,000 on the 1,800,000 farms with horses or mules in 1954 to 2,948,000 on 1,138,000 farms reporting this type of livestock in 1959 in the conterminous United States. The farm operator's dependence on tractors for draft power becomes even more apparent when it is realized that many of the horses reported on farms in 1959 were used not as work or draft animals but as saddle horses mainly for exhibition, recreation, or other purposes.