



Changes in the Selected Farm Expenditures.—An increasing proportion of the farms is using purchased farm production inputs except hired labor. Most of these inputs come from nonfarm sources.

Table 17.—FARMS REPORTING AND PERCENT OF ALL FARMS REPORTING SELECTED FARM EXPENDITURES FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1869 TO 1959

Items and census year	Farms reporting	
	Total	Percent of all farms
Hired labor.....1959..	1,782,735	48.2
.....1954..	2,220,688	46.4
.....1949..	2,670,043	49.6
.....1944..	2,799,026	47.8
.....1939..	2,260,237	37.1
.....1929..	2,631,601	41.8
.....1924..	2,536,721	39.8
.....1919..	2,888,999	44.8
.....1909..	2,922,279	45.9
Machine hire.....1959..	1,989,284	53.7
.....1954..	2,545,128	53.2
.....1949..	2,757,864	51.3
Feed for livestock and poultry.....1959..	2,840,070	76.7
.....1954..	3,652,899	76.4
.....1949..	3,875,704	72.0
.....1944..	4,271,642	72.9
.....1939..	3,342,715	54.8
.....1929..	3,283,400	52.2
.....1924..	3,190,739	50.1
.....1919..	3,511,121	54.4
.....1909..	2,368,905	37.2
Gasoline and other petroleum fuel and oil for the farm business.....1959..	3,457,807	93.4
.....1954..	3,267,865	68.3
.....1949..	2,983,476	55.5
.....1939..	2,886,614	47.3

The number of farms reporting expenditures for farm labor has been declining and there has been a large decrease in the number of farms with expenditures of less than \$1,000 for hired labor. Notwithstanding the decrease in the number of farms, the number of farms reporting an expenditure of \$2,500 or more increased 14.3 percent from 1954 to 1959.

Table 18.—FARMS BY AMOUNT OF CASH EXPENDITURES FOR HIRED LABOR, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1944
[Data for the conterminous States are based on reports for only a sample of farms. See text]

Item	All farms, number			Percent distribution		
	1959	1954	1949	1959	1954	1949
Total.....	3,707,973	4,783,021	5,379,250	xxx	xxx	xxx
Reporting expenditures for hired labor.....	1,784,826	2,220,688	2,670,043	100.0	100.0	100.0
\$1 to \$199.....	772,876	1,088,136	1,354,103	43.3	49.0	50.7
\$200 to \$499.....	368,063	456,868	538,778	20.6	20.6	20.2
\$500 to \$999.....	210,986	245,209	301,830	11.8	11.0	11.3
\$1,000 to \$2,499.....	224,215	248,335	289,125	12.6	11.2	10.8
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	111,298	100,789	111,298	6.2	4.5	4.5
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	55,817	47,628	55,817	3.1	2.1	2.1
\$10,000 to \$19,999.....	25,058	21,657	25,058	1.4	1.0	1.0
\$20,000 to \$49,999.....	12,129	12,066	12,129	0.7	0.5	0.5
\$50,000 or more.....	4,384	4,384	4,384	0.2	0.2	0.2
Not reporting expenditures for hired labor.....	1,923,147	2,562,333	2,709,207	xxx	xxx	xxx

There have been significant changes in the relative importance of various inputs during the last few decades. There have been significant decreases in the relative importance of labor to land and buildings.