

of the rural population as farm population accounted for, on the basis of small-scale tests, 4.5 million of the 9.9 million decrease in farm population from 1950 to 1960. Also the small-scale surveys showed that the 1960 farm population was between 15 and 16 million. The data for farm population for 1960 do not include persons living on farms in cities and other territory classified as urban. The total number of persons living on farms in those urban areas probably does not exceed half a million.

The peak of the farm population since 1910 was reached in the 1930's when more than 32 million persons were counted as living on farms. Since the 1930's the farm population has declined significantly. Less than half as many persons were counted as living on farms in 1960 as in 1940. The decline of 9.9 million from 1950 to 1960, was greater than during any other decade, even when allowance is made for the change in definition. However, even the 1960 farm population of 13.4 million includes a considerable number of persons who are not engaged in farm operations as well as many persons who

work at nonfarm jobs and secure the major part of their livelihood from nonfarm sources.

While both total population and food requirements have been increasing, the farm population has been decreasing. The proportion of the population living on farms in 1960 was less than half that of 1950 and one-third that of 1940.

The acres of land in farms and cropland harvested have been declining. The average acreage of cropland per person is now about half that of 1920. On the other hand, the average acreages of land in farms and cropland harvested per person living on farms in 1960 were more than twice the corresponding averages for 1940. With the increasing mechanization, increased use of power and electricity on farms, advances in farm technology, the increased use of inputs from nonfarm sources, the increasing substitution of capital for labor, increasing commercialization and specialization in agricultural production, and increasing technical and managerial know-how of farm operators, fewer and fewer people living on farms have been able to provide increasing quantities of food and fiber for a growing population.

Table 2.—TOTAL, RURAL, AND FARM POPULATION, FOR THE UNITED STATES: 1850 TO 1959

Item and year	Number of persons ¹	Percent of total population	Increase or decrease (-)	
			Number	Percent
Total population ²1960...	179,323,175	100.0	NA	NA
1954 ³ ..	161,763,000	100.0	NA	NA
1950...	151,325,798	100.0	NA	NA
1945 ³ ..	139,583,000	100.0	NA	NA
1940...	132,164,569	100.0	NA	NA
1935 ³ ..	127,057,000	100.0	NA	NA
1930...	123,202,624	100.0	NA	NA
1925 ³ ..	115,402,000	100.0	NA	NA
1920...	106,021,537	100.0	13,793,041	15.0
1910...	92,228,496	100.0	16,016,328	21.0
1900...	76,212,168	100.0	13,232,402	21.0
1890...	62,979,766	100.0	12,790,557	25.5
1880...	50,189,209	100.0	11,630,838	30.2
1870...	38,558,371	100.0	7,115,090	22.6
1860...	31,443,321	100.0	8,251,445	35.6
1850...	23,191,876	100.0
Rural population: ⁴				
Current urban definition ⁵1960...	54,054,425	30.1	-424,556	-0.8
1950...	54,478,981	36.0	NA	NA
Previous urban definition....1960...	66,266,822	37.0	5,069,218	8.3
1950...	61,197,604	40.4	3,738,373	6.5
1940...	57,459,231	43.5	3,417,206	6.3
1930...	54,042,025	43.9	2,273,770	4.4
1920...	51,768,255	48.8	1,603,760	3.1
1910...	50,164,495	54.4	4,167,159	8.3
1900...	45,997,336	60.4	NA	NA
1890 ³ ..	40,841,449	64.9	4,815,401	13.4
1880 ³ ..	36,026,048	71.8	7,370,038	25.7
1870 ³ ..	28,656,010	72.0	3,429,207	13.6
1860 ³ ..	25,226,803	80.2	5,578,643	28.4
1850 ³ ..	19,648,160	84.7
Farm population ⁶1960...	13,444,898	7.5	-8,445,102	-38.6
1954 ³ ..	21,890,000	13.5	-1,441,738	-6.2
1950 ³ ..	23,331,738	15.4	-1,963,262	-7.8
1945 ³ ..	25,295,000	18.1	-5,251,911	-17.2
1940 ³ ..	30,546,911	23.1	-1,614,089	-5.0
1935 ³ ..	32,161,000	25.3	1,715,650	5.6
1930 ³ ..	30,445,350	24.7	-744,650	-2.4
1925 ³ ..	31,190,000	27.0	-424,269	-1.3
1920 ³ ..	31,614,269	29.8	-462,731	-1.4
1910 ³ ..	32,077,000	34.9

NA Not available.
¹Figures for 1910 to 1959 relate to April 1, those for earlier years to June 1.
 Figures for decennial years are based on the decennial Censuses with adjustments to obtain comparability; those for other years are estimates.
²Figures for 1940 to 1959 include members of the Armed Forces overseas, for the earlier years the number of persons in the Armed Forces overseas was not available but was probably negligible. Figures for 1870 include adjustments for underenumeration in Southern States.
³Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.
⁴Figures shown for rural population exclude members of Armed Services overseas; the percent of total population for 1959, 1954, 1950, and 1940, respectively, is based on the civilian population.
⁵The data for 1960 and 1950 for the current urban definition are not comparable with those for earlier years because of change in definition. See text.
⁶The figures shown for farm population in the quinquennial Censuses are estimates roughly comparable with the current estimates of the farm population obtained from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. These estimates differ substantially from the farm population as tabulated from the 1945, 1935, and 1925 Censuses of Agriculture.

Table 3.—AVERAGE NUMBER OF PERSONS PER FARM, WITH PER CAPITA DATA FOR LAND IN FARMS, CROPLAND HARVESTED, AND VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: CENSUSES OF 1850 TO 1959

Item and year	Average number of persons per farm	Average per capita		
		Land in farms (acres)	Cropland ¹ harvested (acres)	Value of farm products sold (dollars)
Total population.....1960...	4.833	6.3	1.7	170
1954 ² ..	33.82	7.2	2.1	152
1950...	28.08	7.7	2.3	147
1945 ² ..	23.82	8.2	2.5	116
1940...	21.66	8.1	2.4	² 51
1935 ² ..	18.65	8.3	2.3	NA
1930...	19.57	8.0	² 2.9	² 90
1925 ² ..	18.11	8.0	3.0	NA
1920...	16.43	9.0	² 3.3	NA
1910...	14.49	9.6	² 3.4	NA
1900...	13.28	11.0	² 3.7	NA
1890 ² ..	13.79	9.9	3.5	NA
1880 ² ..	12.51	10.7	3.3	NA
1870 ² ..	14.97	10.2	NA	NA
1860 ² ..	15.38	13.0	NA	NA
1850 ² ..	16.00	12.7	NA	NA
Farm population.....1960...	3.62	83.6	23.2	2,268
1954 ² ..	4.58	52.9	15.2	1,126
1950 ² ..	4.34	49.7	14.8	945
1945 ² ..	4.32	45.1	14.0	642
1940 ² ..	5.01	34.7	10.5	219
1935 ² ..	4.72	32.8	9.2	NA
1930 ² ..	4.84	32.4	11.8	316
1925 ² ..	4.90	29.6	11.0	NA
1920 ² ..	4.90	30.2	11.0	NA
1910 ² ..	5.04	27.4	9.7	NA

NA Not available.
¹Prior to 1924, based on total acreage of crops. See Table 5.
²Data for Alaska and Hawaii not included.