

1959, 1954, and 1950. These data are available only for the conterminous United States. The size groupings are:

1. Farms with a value of farm products sold of \$2,500 to \$4,999.
2. Farms with a value of farm products sold of \$5,000 to \$9,999.
3. Farms with a value of farm products sold of \$10,000 or more.

Comparable data are not available by type of farm for farms with a value of farm products of less than \$2,500 for the three censuses. Tables 16 to 52 present data for the three size groupings of farms for each type for 1959, 1954, and 1950. Totals are given in these tables for all farms with a value of farm products sold of \$2,500 or more, and for 1959, totals are presented for all commercial farms and for commercial farms with sales of less than \$2,500. In 1959, commercial farms excluded from the comparisons of the three censuses total 348,000. Of this total, 89,000, or 26 percent, were livestock farms other than poultry and dairy farms; 83,000, or 24 percent, cotton farms; and 63,000, or 18 percent, other field-crop farms, of which 57,000 were tobacco farms. In all tables presenting figures for two or more censuses, data for 1959 for tobacco farms have been included with other field-crop farms, and livestock ranches have been included with livestock farms, other than poultry and dairy farms, in order to provide comparisons for 1959 and prior censuses.

The number of commercial farms with sales of \$2,500 or more was approximately 2.1 million in 1959, 1954, and 1950. The 1959 total was only 1.8 percent less than that for 1954 and 1 percent less than that for 1950.

There have been substantial reductions in the number of farms in the two groups of farms with sales of less than \$10,000. Although the number of farms with sales of \$2,500 or more changed very little from 1950 to 1954, and 1954 to 1959, the number of farms with sales of \$2,500 to \$4,999 declined 30 percent and the number of farms with sales of \$5,000 to \$9,999 declined 9 percent from 1950 to 1959. The decline from 1950 to 1959 in the number of farms with \$2,500 to \$9,999 of farm products sold occurred for every type of farm, except miscellaneous farms.

Part of the decline in the number of farms with sales of \$2,500 to \$9,999 has resulted largely from the enlargement of these farms, although increases in the prices of cattle and milk brought about some changes in the number of livestock and dairy farms without the farm operation being enlarged. (See table 10 for average prices of major farm products for the conterminous United States for 1959, 1954, and 1949.)

Table 10.—AVERAGE PRICES FOR MAJOR FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES: 1959, 1954, AND 1949

Farm products sold	Unit	Average price per unit (dollars)		
		1959	1954	1949
Cattle and calves.....	Head.....	152.79	96.58	118.32
Milk.....	Cwt.....	3.83	3.54	3.67
Hogs and pigs.....	Head.....	30.09	29.70	36.40
Cotton.....	Bales.....	168.37	194.62	161.57
Corn for grain.....	Bushels.....	1.05	1.44	1.24
Wheat.....	Bushels.....	1.77	2.13	1.86
Chicken eggs.....	Dozens.....	0.32	0.35	0.42
Soybeans for beans.....	Bushels.....	1.97	2.52	2.12
Tobacco.....	Pounds.....	0.58	0.51	0.46
Broilers.....	Each.....	0.53	0.70	NA
Irish potatoes.....	Bushels.....	1.28	1.30	1.28
Oranges.....	Tons.....	74.02	50.48	59.91
Sheep and lambs.....	Head.....	13.31	14.69	17.06
Sorghums for grain.....	Bushels.....	0.86	1.26	0.98
Alfalfa hay.....	Tons.....	21.21	22.90	22.51
Rice.....	Bushels.....	2.06	2.04	1.77
Barley.....	Bushels.....	0.86	1.08	1.05
Apples.....	Bushels.....	1.71	2.22	1.43
Sugar beets for sugar.....	Tons.....	11.14	11.17	10.82
Oats for grain.....	Bushels.....	0.64	0.71	0.65
Dry field and seed beans.....	Cwt.....	7.22	8.03	6.86
Peanuts for nuts.....	Pounds.....	0.10	0.12	0.10
Peaches.....	Bushels.....	1.90	1.97	1.45
Sugarcane for sugar.....	Tons.....	7.09	6.70	6.00

NA Not available.

From 1950 to 1959 there was a significant decrease in the number of general farms, cotton farms, other field-crop farms, and vegetable farms. On the other hand, there was a significant increase in the number of cash-grain and livestock farms. The decrease in general farms was associated with the increase in specialization in agricultural production. Many of the general farms in 1950, in the Middle West and other areas, became more specialized and were classified as cash-grain or livestock farms in 1954 and 1959. The increase in the price of cattle also affected the shift from general farms to livestock farms. Because of differences in the relative change in the prices of cash grains and livestock there was a shift in the livestock farms (other than poultry and dairy) to cash-grain farms from 1950 to 1954 and a shift of cash-grain farms to livestock farms from 1954 to 1959. Most of these changes occurred in the Midwest.

Item	Change in number of farms					
	Conterminous United States			East and West North Central divisions		
	1950 to 1959	1954 to 1959	1950 to 1954	1950 to 1959	1954 to 1959	1950 to 1954
Cash-grain farms with sales of—						
\$2,500 or more, total.....	40,273	-56,274	96,547	40,859	-48,090	88,949
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	-17,655	-36,882	19,227	-11,604	-29,876	18,272
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	-3,185	-35,778	32,593	1,959	-30,233	32,192
\$10,000 or more.....	61,113	16,386	44,727	50,504	12,019	38,485
Livestock farms (other than poultry and dairy) with sales of—						
\$2,500 or more, total.....	68,855	137,673	-68,818	-1,241	56,453	-57,694
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	-915	32,593	-33,508	-30,152	14	-30,166
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	-12,841	23,833	-36,674	-31,264	2,986	-34,250
\$10,000 or more.....	82,611	81,247	1,364	60,175	53,453	6,722

The prices of the principal cash-grain crops and livestock sold for the last three censuses were as follows.

Item	Average price per unit (dollars)		
	1959	1954	1950
Corn per bushel:			
Conterminous United States.....	1.05	1.44	1.24
East and West North Central divisions.....	1.03	1.42	1.18
Wheat per bushel:			
Conterminous United States.....	1.77	2.13	1.86
East and West North Central divisions.....	1.81	2.15	1.87
Hogs and pigs sold per head:			
Conterminous United States.....	30.09	39.70	36.40
East and West North Central divisions.....	30.13	41.59	39.08
Cattle and calves sold per head:			
Conterminous United States.....	152.79	96.58	118.32
East and West North Central divisions.....	172.08	115.45	133.72

The decrease in the number of cotton and other field-crop farms was associated with the decline in the number of farms with sales of less than \$5,000 operated by tenants, principally croppers on cotton and tobacco farms in the South.

Table 11.—CHANGES IN NUMBER OF FARMS BY VALUE OF FARM PRODUCTS SOLD FOR ALL TENANTS, CROPPERS,¹ COTTON FARMS, AND OTHER FIELD-CROP FARMS, FOR THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES AND THE SOUTH: 1950 TO 1959

Item	Change in number of farms		
	1950 to 1959	1954 to 1959	1950 to 1954
Farms with sales of \$2,500 or more:			
Conterminous United States.....	-23,451	-37,398	13,947
All tenants.....	-107,017	-114,449	7,432
Cotton farms.....	-16,190	-45,102	28,912
Other field-crop farms.....	-4,553	-17,993	13,440
The South.....	84,977	29,097	55,880
All tenants.....	-30,912	-56,824	25,912
Croppers.....	-12,576	-33,656	21,080
Cotton farms.....	-14,351	-40,414	26,063
Other field-crop farms.....	1,798	-16,024	16,822