

For commercial farms, merchant and dealer debt totaled \$1.9 billion. The distribution of this total by type of purchase was as follows: Tractors and farm machinery, 38 percent; feed, seed, etc., 21 percent; automobiles and trucks, 16 percent; livestock and poultry, 11 percent; gasoline and other petroleum products, 6 percent; household furniture, etc., 3 percent; and all other purchases, 5 percent. The distribution of merchant and dealer debt by type of purchase was influenced by size of farm operation, region, type of farm, and tenure of the farm operator. Debts for tractors and farm

machinery accounted for more than two-fifths of the merchant and dealer debt on farms in economic classes I and II. Debts for the purchase of tractors and farm machinery were important on cash-grain and cotton farms. On dairy and poultry farms, debts for the purchase of feed and livestock and poultry were important. Debts for the purchase of tractors and farm machinery comprised 42 percent of the debts to merchants and dealers on farms operated by part owners, but only 28 percent on farms operated by full owners.

Table 17. MERCHANT AND DEALER DEBT OF FARM OPERATORS, BY TYPE OF PURCHASE, FOR COMMERCIAL FARMS

Subject	Amount of debt by type of purchase (millions of dollars)							
	Total	Tractors and farm machinery	Autos and trucks	Gasoline, etc.	Feed, seed, etc.	Livestock and poultry	Household furniture, etc.	All other purchases
Commercial farms.....	1,936	733	306	112	416	215	62	92
Economic class:								
Class I.....	513	187	38	19	151	82	3	33
Class II.....	432	203	53	21	95	37	6	17
Class III.....	425	169	61	34	92	45	14	10
Class IV.....	330	97	92	25	50	36	15	15
Class V.....	147	43	42	10	18	14	11	9
Class VI.....	90	34	20	2	11	3	12	8
Region:								
North.....	748	263	112	44	200	79	20	30
South.....	495	208	95	26	97	27	24	18
West.....	696	262	99	42	120	110	18	45
Type of farm:								
Cash-grain.....	401	230	53	26	50	23	8	11
Tobacco.....	98	35	24	11	15	2	9	2
Cotton.....	143	78	24	6	20	3	6	6
Other field-crop.....	73	31	10	5	22	1	2	2
Vegetable.....	55	13	4	1	31	(¹)	1	5
Fruit and nut.....	43	14	9	2	11	(¹)	3	4
Poultry.....	100	15	16	3	33	26	3	4
Dairy.....	367	105	64	22	104	45	9	18
Livestock other than poultry, dairy, and livestock ranches...	387	120	53	20	82	79	12	21
Livestock ranches.....	50	11	12	5	4	13	(¹)	5
General.....	188	75	29	11	39	19	7	8
Miscellaneous.....	31	5	9	1	6	2	1	7
Tenure of operator:								
Full owners.....	517	145	120	25	112	56	25	34
Part owners.....	896	378	116	48	212	85	21	36
Managers.....	71	16	5	3	16	20	(¹)	11
Tenants.....	452	195	64	35	76	54	16	12
Age of operator:								
Not reported.....	3	1	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	2	(¹)	(¹)
Under 35.....	343	136	50	20	69	43	13	12
35 to 44.....	629	223	96	42	143	73	21	31
45 to 54.....	613	247	92	35	124	68	19	28
55 to 64.....	295	106	56	13	70	26	8	16
65 and over.....	51	19	10	3	10	3	1	5
Years of operator on farm:								
Not reported.....	12	3	1	2	4	(¹)	1	1
Under 2.....	150	59	22	10	27	20	6	6
2 to 4.....	191	76	34	6	32	30	6	7
5 to 9.....	345	121	61	22	74	36	14	17
10 to 14.....	322	118	42	21	73	49	8	11
15 to 19.....	302	120	45	18	69	25	8	17
20 to 29.....	414	161	65	24	93	35	15	21
30 and over.....	204	75	36	9	47	20	4	13

¹Less than .5 million.