

appears to have halted between 1964 and 1969. The average age of operators in 1945 was 48.7 years, increasing to 51.3 years in 1964, then dropping to 51.2 years in 1969. The percentage of all farm operators 65 years old and older was 14.8 percent in 1950. It increased to 17.4 percent in 1964 then dropped back to 16.6 percent in 1969.

As shown in table 12 for class 1-5 farms, farm operators under 35 years of age and over 65 years of age accounted for a smaller portion of several key items of agriculture production than did operators of 35 to 44, 45 to 54, or 55 to 64 years of age.

Considering size of farm, value of land and buildings, cropland harvested and value of sales, the 35 to 44, and 45 to 54 years of age groups are the most important. (See table 13.)

Table 13. Selected Items by Age of Farm Operator for Class 1-5 Farms: 1969

	Total	Age of farm operator				
		Under 35 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 years and over
Average size of farm.....acres..	529.7	446.3	563.0	571.5	497.2	531.5
Average value of land and buildings.....dollars..	103,526	99,019	115,170	113,123	95,123	85,969
Average cropland harvested acres.....	150.6	160.8	177.6	165.5	135.2	98.2
Average value of farm products sold.....dollars..	25,680	25,311	31,023	28,984	22,536	16,961

Table 14. Farm Operators by Age, by Tenure, Percent Distribution for Class 1-5 Farms: 1969

	Total	Tenure of farm operator		
		Full owners	Part owners	Tenants
Total.....	100.0	50.8	33.5	15.6
Under 35 years.....	100.0	33.3	29.9	36.8
35 to 44 years.....	100.0	41.5	39.5	19.0
45 to 54 years.....	100.0	48.1	38.5	13.4
55 to 64 years.....	100.0	58.0	32.0	10.0
65 years and over.....	100.0	73.1	20.0	6.9

By tenure of operator, full owners tend to be the oldest and tenants the youngest. The average age of operators was 53.0 years for full owners, 48.4 years for part owners, and 40.3 years for tenants. (See table 14.)

Race of Farm Operator

Only 104 thousand farm operators reported race other than white in 1969 versus 200 thousand in 1964. Of these operators in 1969, 87 thousand were black, 5 thousand were Indian, and 11 thousand were "other." Table 15 provides the number of farms and land in farms by race of operator for each class, tenure, and type of organization group included in the 1969 census. The data by class and tenure are for all farms; by type of organization, for class 1-5 farms.

Most of the black and Indian operators were on farms which were in the lower value-of-sales categories. Sixty-two thousand of the 87 thousand operators operated farms with less than \$2,500 in sales; 74 thousand operated farms with less than \$5,000. The distribution for Indian operators was about the same, with nearly one-half reporting sales of less than \$2,500 from their farms.

In 1969, 449 of the farm operators of races other than white were in the Northeast, 3,004 in the North Central, 90,141 in the South, and 10,253 in the West. Of the 13,706 not in the South 1969, 4,483 were in California and 3,113 were in Hawaii, leaving only 6,110 in all the other States. The number in the South dropped from 185,578 in 1964 to only 90,141 in 1969. Changes in the other regions over the 5-year period were relatively minor.

Off-Farm Work by Farm Operators

The proportion of farm operators working off their farms has increased significantly, rising from 38.9 percent in 1950 to 54.3

Table 15. Farms, Land in Farms by Race, Class, Tenure, Type of Organization: 1969

Classes:	Total		White		Black		Indian		Other	
	Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres	Farms	Acres
Total, all farms.....	2,730,250	1,063,346,489	2,626,403	1,011,091,799	87,393	7,099,061	5,050	42,495,984	11,404	2,659,645
Class 1.....	221,690	357,117,017	218,909	354,961,178	586	391,243	113	312,699	2,082	1,451,897
Class 1a.....	51,995	171,832,316	51,004	170,581,314	118	120,123	19	69,933	854	1,060,946
Class 1b.....	169,695	185,284,701	167,905	184,379,864	468	271,120	94	242,766	1,228	390,951
Class 2.....	330,992	207,286,034	327,877	206,156,044	1,264	491,929	270	287,214	1,581	350,847
Class 3.....	395,472	171,208,668	390,040	169,714,828	3,447	740,704	486	423,707	1,499	329,429
Class 4.....	390,425	106,832,494	380,343	105,318,157	7,812	996,678	778	323,651	1,492	194,008
Class 5.....	395,104	75,868,400	379,984	74,319,486	12,540	1,157,275	869	230,444	1,711	161,195
Class 6.....	192,564	18,513,738	172,126	17,458,867	19,109	948,668	602	45,529	727	60,674
Part time.....	574,546	49,297,527	548,194	47,827,480	23,461	1,246,894	1,212	146,087	1,679	77,066
Part retirement.....	227,346	21,969,094	207,035	20,771,934	19,152	1,111,761	547	63,155	612	22,214
Abnormal.....	2,111	55,253,517	1,895	14,563,825	22	13,909	173	40,663,498	21	12,285
Tenure:										
Total, all farms.....	2,730,250	1,063,346,489	2,626,403	1,011,031,799	87,393	7,099,061	5,050	42,495,984	11,404	2,659,645
Full owners.....	1,705,720	375,091,955	1,642,253	332,148,555	51,083	1,012,253	3,188	38,058,718	6,196	872,428
Part owners.....	671,607	550,649,491	652,512	543,403,781	15,762	2,130,722	1,036	4,037,375	2,297	1,077,613
Tenants.....	352,923	137,605,040	331,638	135,539,459	17,548	956,086	826	3,399,801	2,911	709,601
Type of Organization:										
Total, class 1-5 farms.....	1,733,683	918,312,613	1,697,153	910,469,693	25,649	3,777,829	2,516	1,577,715	8,365	2,487,376
Individual.....	1,480,555	665,692,881	1,449,081	659,812,865	22,621	3,184,103	2,142	1,313,330	6,718	1,352,583
Partnership.....	221,535	163,387,960	217,626	162,190,979	2,450	418,278	271	145,870	1,188	301,833
Corporation, total.....	21,513	80,831,188	20,717	80,184,436	380	113,171	25	23,107	391	510,174
10 shareholders or fewer.....	19,718	66,471,436	19,007	66,045,697	311	105,361	22	22,239	343	298,139
More than 10 shareholders.....	1,797	14,359,752	1,710	14,138,739	35	7,810	3	868	18	212,335
Other.....	10,070	8,400,581	9,726	8,251,413	198	32,277	78	94,408	68	22,486