

While only 33 percent of the farms with less than \$2,500 total value of sales have farm-related income, they account for just over 80 percent of the farms with farm-related income equal to or more than total value of sales. Most are part-time farms.

For table 12, Government payments have been added to total value of sales. This value is grouped by dollars as shown in the left hand column of table 12. The class of farm based solely on value of sales is shown in the heading across the top of the table. The table shows how many farms shift into another class if Government payments are added to value of sales. For instance, for the United States, if Government payments are added to value of sales 20,643 class 2 farms (\$20,000-\$39,999) move into the class 1 group (\$40,000 or more).

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, BY CLASS OF FARM

Definitions of Farm Classes

A classification of farms by value-of-sales class was made for the purpose of segregating groups of farms that are similar in size of operations as measured by value of agricultural products sold. In 1964 and earlier censuses of agriculture, a classification called "Commercial farms" was used which included classes 1 through 6. This grouping is not the same as the class 1-5 grouping used in the 1969 reports. For comparative purposes, table 16 shows U.S. data for the class 1-6 group together with data for all farms, class 6, part time, part retirement, and abnormal farms. These data are presented for each State in volume I, State table 9.

The value-of-sales classes used in this report are defined as follows:

- Class 1—\$40,000 or more of farm product sales
 - Class 1a—\$100,000 or more of farm product sales
 - Class 1b—\$40,000 to \$99,999 of farm product sales
- Class 2—\$20,000 to \$39,999 of farm product sales
- Class 3—\$10,000 to \$19,999 of farm product sales
- Class 4—\$5,000 to \$9,999 of farm product sales
- Class 5—\$2,500 to \$4,999 of farm product sales or having a value of products sold of less than \$2,500 provided they had the acreage or livestock operations which normally would have had sales in excess of \$2,500. These would include new farm operators, farms having crop failure, and farms with large inventories and small 1969 sales.
- Class 6—\$50 to \$2,499 of farm product sales and a farm operator who is under 65 years of age and did not work off the farm 100 days or more in the census year.
- Part time—\$50 to \$2,499 of farm product sales and a farm operator who is under 65 years of age and worked off the farm 100 days or more in the census year.
- Part retirement—\$50 to \$2,499 of farm product sales and a farm operator who is 65 years or over.
- Abnormal—Includes Institutional farms, experimental and research farms, and Indian reservations. Institutional farms include those operated by hospitals, penitentiaries, schools, grazing associations, government agencies, etc.

From 1964 to 1969, the number of farms declined nearly 14 percent. During the 10-year period from 1959 to 1969, the number of farms decreased about 25 percent. The number of

class 1-5 farms (with a value of farm products sold of \$2,500 and over) decreased 84 thousand from 1964 to 1969, or almost 5 percent, and decreased 333 thousand from 1959 to 1969, or 16 percent. There were 948 thousand farms in 1969 with a value of farm products sold of \$10,000 and over compared with 869 thousand farms in 1964, a gain of 9 percent, and almost 20 percent more than the 796 thousand farms in 1959. Farms with a value of farm products sold of less than \$2,500, totaled 1.0 million for 1969, a 26-percent decrease from 1.3 million for 1964, and almost 40 percent lower than the 1.6 million for 1959. Part of the decrease shown for the farms with low value of sales was a consequence of poorer coverage of such farms under the mail procedures used in the 1969 census, see chapter 1 of this volume for a discussion of missed farms.

All Farms, Class 1-5 Farms, and Farms With a Value of Farm Products Sold of Less Than \$2,500

	All farms	Farms with a value of farm products sold of—		
		Under \$2,500	\$2,500 and over	\$10,000 and over
Number of farms:				
1969.....	2,730,250	994,456	1,733,683	948,154
1964.....	3,157,857	1,338,239	1,817,440	868,908
1959.....	3,707,973	1,637,849	2,067,063	795,505
Percent of change:				
1964 to 1969.....	-13.5	-25.7	-4.6	9.1
1959 to 1964.....	-14.8	-18.3	-12.1	9.2
1959 to 1969.....	-26.4	-39.3	-16.1	19.2

Farms by Class

	Class 1-5 farms					Other classes		
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	Class 6	Part time	Part retirement
Number of farms:								
1969.....	221,690	330,992	395,472	390,425	395,104	192,564	574,546	227,346
1964.....	141,914	259,898	467,096	504,614	443,918	348,272	639,409	350,558
1959.....	102,099	210,402	483,004	653,881	617,677	348,954	884,785	404,110
Percent change:								
1964 to 1969.....	56.2	27.4	-15.3	-22.6	-11.0	-44.7	-10.1	-35.1
1959 to 1964.....	39.0	23.5	-3.3	-22.8	-28.1	-0.2	-27.7	-13.3
1959 to 1969.....	117.1	57.3	-18.1	-40.3	-36.0	-44.8	-35.1	-43.7

Farms With Sales of \$2,500 and Over

Class 1-5 farms in 1969 comprised about 63 percent of all farms compared with 58 percent in 1964.

The significant change in 1969 was the shift of farms from classes 3, 4, and 5 to classes 1 and 2. The reduction of farms and the shift to higher value classes, increased the average value of sales from class 1-5 farms. Not only were average sales increased but also the averages were higher in many categories.

Large-Scale Farms (Class 1a)

Farms with a total value of farm products sold of \$100,000 or more have been designated large-scale farms. For detail about the large-scale farms by type of farm, see chapter 8, Type of Farm. Table 19 of this chapter shows a summary of selected items for class 1a farms with value-of-sales groups to \$1 million and over. The number of large-scale farms increased from over 31 thousand in 1964 to nearly 52 thousand in 1969, a 66 percent gain. California is the leading State with nearly 7.4 thousand class 1a farms, 14 percent of the U.S. total, Iowa is next with 8 percent, and Texas is third with 7 percent. The value of farm products sold from large-scale farms in 1969 was \$15.3 billion compared with \$8.5 billion in 1964, a gain of 80