

interviews by enumerators employed by SRS.

The measurement base used for the 1974 census coverage evaluation did not include the entire June survey sample. It included only the sample of approximately 22,000 farm operators living inside the segments for which whole farm data were available, plus approximately 3,000 nonfarm persons living in all the segments. The information furnished for the 22,000 resident farm operators included name and address, name of farm or ranch, county, telephone number, total acres in place, acres by tenure, and sales class interval based on total value of agricultural products sold in 1973. Only name and address and limited acreage data were obtained for the nonfarm part of the sample.

In table 3 are estimates of census coverage for the conterminous United States in the last three censuses. Estimates for 1974 make use of both the 1974 and previous census farm definitions.

Census coverage varied by region from a high of 93.7 percent in the North Central to a low of 83.5 percent in the Northeast (table 4). Coverage of farms with sales of \$2,500 and over ranges from 96.9 percent for the North Central to 92.6 percent for the South. Coverage of farms with sales of under \$2,500 was much lower than that for the larger farms; coverage in the Northeast was less than 65 percent.

The coverage study provided estimates of the characteristics of farms not enumerated. Missed farms tended to be smaller than average in size, production, and sales. Three-fifths of them had sales of under \$2,500; their average size was 169 acres; and their average value of farm products sold was \$7,667 (table 5). More detailed information, on coverage estimates by size and type of farm and geographic area are included in volume IV, part 3.

Statistical Adjustments

Report forms were obtained and tabulated for all the identified larger farms (in general, those with expected sales

Table 3. Estimates of Census Coverage by Value of Sales Group: 1974, 1969, and 1964

	Estimated percent included in census		
	Farms	Land in farms	Value of farm sales
1974 ¹			
All farms.....	89.3	93.1	94.6
Farm sales of \$2,500 and over.....	95.3	(NA)	(NA)
Farms with sales under \$2,500.....	74.1	(NA)	(NA)
1974 ²			
All farms.....	85.7	96.7	94.5
Farm sales of \$2,500 and over.....	95.3	(NA)	(NA)
Farm sales of under \$2,500.....	67.2	(NA)	(NA)
1969 ²			
All farms.....	85.0	90.9	96.6
Farm sales of \$2,500 and over.....	96.7	(NA)	(NA)
Farm sales of under \$2,500.....	68.4	(NA)	(NA)
1964 ²			
All farms.....	88.7	93.9	97.1
Farm sales of \$2,500 and over.....	95.7	(NA)	(NA)
Farm sales of under \$2,500.....	80.7	(NA)	(NA)

¹Using 1974 farm definition.
²Using 1959 farm definition.

Table 4. Percentage of Farms Included in the Census by Value of Sales: 1974

	Percent of farms included in census		
	Total	Farms with sales of \$2,500 and over	Farms with sales of under \$2,500
United States.....	89.3	95.3	74.1
Regions			
Northeast.....	83.5	94.4	64.5
North Central.....	93.7	96.9	77.0
South.....	84.8	92.6	74.5
West ¹	90.5	95.9	72.2
Divisions			
New England.....	82.2	94.8	60.4
Middle Atlantic.....	83.8	94.3	65.4
East North Central.....	92.9	97.1	75.9
West North Central.....	94.4	96.8	78.2
South Atlantic.....	83.4	93.0	69.7
East South Central.....	85.2	92.2	77.7
West South Central.....	85.5	92.7	75.0
Mountain.....	93.3	97.6	71.6
Pacific ¹	88.4	94.4	72.5

¹Alaska or Hawaii not included.

Table 5. Characteristics of Farms Missed in the Census: 1974

	Average per farm		Percent distribution by value of sales				
	Acres	Value of sales (dollars)	Total	Under \$2,500	\$2,500 to \$4,999	\$5,000 to \$9,999	\$10,000 and over
United States.....	169	7,663	100.0	61.6	13.1	8.7	16.6
Northeast.....	105	8,380	100.0	70.7	8.8	2.5	18.0
North Central.....	217	10,274	100.0	48.4	15.7	10.9	25.0
South.....	125	5,373	100.0	67.6	13.0	8.6	10.8
West ¹	337	11,661	100.0	59.3	10.5	8.7	21.5

¹Alaska and Hawaii not included.

of \$40,000 and over). In the few instances where the operator did not supply the required information, data were obtained from secondary sources. By means of detailed programmed edit specifications, adjustments or corrections were made during the computer-edit operations for internally incomplete or inconsistent data. The manual review procedures provided for computer printouts of edit changes to an item that exceeded specified limits. These changes were then reviewed for reasonableness by members of the processing staff and necessary corrections made.

Nonresponse

The statistics for each State and county were adjusted to account for smaller operations which did not respond in the census. A sample of addresses which did not respond during the regular census

followup period was selected and surveyed to estimate the number of farms by size for which adjustment should be made. The adjustment for these nonrespondent farms was made by selecting a stratified sample of farms which did respond during the census and expanding their figures to represent the nonrespondents. The expanded data were included in census totals.

Table 10 shows for selected items for the United States the percent of the published total that the whole farm nonresponse adjustment represents. These percentages indicate the potential for bias in published figures due to nonresponse, i.e., the extent to which the actual data for nonrespondents may not agree with the nonresponse adjustments. The probable range of difference is unknown. However, the degree of uncertainty regarding the accuracy of the data increases as the