

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

All farms	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964	1959	1954
Farms.....number.....	27 350	31 628	31 370	33 240	42 269	62 466	74 438	111 127
Land in farms.....acres.....	8 007 173	8 928 827	9 295 029	9 133 275	9 788 662	10 411 045	10 347 328	11 441 343
Average size of farm.....acres.....	293	282	296	275	232	167	139	103
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars.....	268 630	381 817	290 454	140 754	74 414	38 636	23 719	11 497
Average per acre.....dollars.....	940	1 351	981	512	321	233	171	112
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000.....	1 046 373	1 373 382	1 195 087	713 650	429 634	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars.....	38 323	43 528	38 217	23 037	10 757	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	2 066	2 461	1 698	1 709	2 033	4 806	7 900	16 531
10 to 49 acres.....	7 799	9 411	8 416	9 233	13 610	27 083	33 750	55 415
50 to 179 acres.....	8 248	9 565	10 322	11 849	14 837	19 592	22 175	28 143
180 to 499 acres.....	4 811	5 632	6 163	6 216	7 359	7 053	6 898	7 456
500 to 999 acres.....	2 602	2 617	2 798	2 397	2 709	2 275	2 189	2 050
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	1 279	1 343	1 383	1 242	1 185	1 059	1 526	1 532
2,000 acres or more.....	545	599	590	594	536	598		
Total cropland.....farms.....	23 273	27 424	28 351	30 067	37 921	50 000	62 428	97 770
.....acres.....	5 562 736	6 093 474	6 343 637	5 590 488	5 842 350	4 864 431	4 907 080	5 467 502
Harvested cropland.....farms.....	18 644	21 991	23 528	23 525	29 210	41 419	52 490	82 755
.....acres.....	3 599 678	4 699 323	4 838 520	3 628 199	3 443 108	2 672 631	2 425 936	3 010 580
Irrigated land.....farms.....	3 929	3 693	3 799	3 777	4 611	4 844	4 817	6 897
.....acres.....	646 677	693 698	681 056	701 587	701 692	580 687	484 850	707 818
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000.....	1 340 162	1 406 458	1 211 920	1 193 722	496 406	406 794	334 908	309 791
Average per farm.....dollars.....	49 000	44 469	38 633	35 912	11 473	6 512	4 499	2 788
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops.....\$1,000.....	929 858	994 976	839 265	927 246	295 920	278 915	213 032	240 000
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000.....	410 304	411 482	372 655	260 305	197 018	124 005	118 555	67 850
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	9 283	12 209	10 208	15 382	23 077	42 776	52 628	85 247
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	4 021	4 384	4 785	3 359	5 074	6 168	9 204	13 961
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	3 448	3 515	3 884	2 932	4 170	4 403	5 342	6 280
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	3 050	3 112	3 742				7 159	3 691
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	1 776	2 043	2 672	8 492	9 220	8 649	-	2 018
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	2 063	2 387	2 670				-	-
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	3 323	3 582	3 138	2 755	662		-	-
\$500,000 or more.....	386	356	224	280	32	438	-	-
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	24 322	28 255	27 813	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	1 926	2 402	2 643	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	905	724	748	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	197	247	166	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	11 078	10 888	12 434	11 283	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	59 248
Any.....	14 388	17 721	17 290	15 564	23 387	30 911	37 384	51 952
200 days or more.....	9 202	11 312	11 281	10 129	13 941	20 254	23 497	28 435
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	13 496	14 629	15 283	17 967	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	13 854	16 999	16 087	14 703	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years.....	52.0	50.5	50.4	51.7	51.4	52.1	50.9	49.1
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000.....	1 022 931	(NA)	(NA)	738 916	422 827	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000.....	55 167	64 469	57 480	47 653	35 994	18 182	21 271	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000.....	135 012	169 501	140 153	116 567	68 723	53 406	42 768	31 756
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000.....	86 079	95 050	81 354	71 007	32 799	23 793	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000.....	74 326	122 494	77 103	46 347	30 745	24 678	19 544	17 762
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000.....	121 984	107 345	101 312	79 639	59 485	46 237	40 039	39 393
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000.....	72 918	133 823	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000.....	112 347	117 109	76 231	47 717	22 500	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory.....farms.....	16 033	20 049	19 532	23 482	29 647	52 147	60 609	86 827
.....number.....	813 295	1 003 833	1 052 216	1 515 509	1 417 300	1 866 859	1 655 869	1 850 473
Beef cows.....farms.....	13 551	16 936	16 869	17 801	(NA)	39 834	(NA)	(NA)
.....number.....	422 604	480 918	523 342	746 592	680 192	957 241	804 799	831 782
Milk cows.....farms.....	1 581	2 652	3 134	5 181	9 029	24 332	39 963	66 579
.....number.....	83 381	100 159	112 316	125 302	138 333	187 102	205 433	264 881
Cattle and calves sold.....farms.....	15 248	17 994	18 823	22 077	25 802	36 164	45 479	41 079
.....number.....	402 235	434 781	539 157	583 538	681 745	646 875	614 652	590 139
Hogs and pigs inventory.....farms.....	1 262	2 188	3 047	3 335	6 908	17 810	35 709	53 854
.....number.....	51 857	55 657	73 475	72 365	122 438	180 667	352 716	400 844
Hogs and pigs sold.....farms.....	807	1 259	1 877	1 591	3 768	4 782	14 447	17 486
.....number.....	72 940	71 260	92 607	108 316	155 970	160 426	235 975	206 503
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹farms.....	2 382	3 891	4 429	5 856	10 268	32 694	52 491	89 005
.....number.....	1 504 057	2 679 741	3 875 182	3 657 907	4 476 114	3 865 939	3 624 005	3 446 840
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold.....farms.....	312	379	336	352	353	410	447	530
.....number.....	96 147 369	91 851 892	62 414 721	44 248 794	37 836 499	27 980 166	15 778 571	7 241 305

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1987 and Earlier Census Years—Con.

[For meaning of abbreviations and symbols, see introductory text]

All farms	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964	1959	1954
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed ----- farms...	1 663	1 506	2 376	3 920	7 611	18 704	32 686	54 749
acres...	189 772	33 792	34 668	43 937	111 390	189 483	362 639	557 446
bushels...	19 097 307	2 769 934	1 991 356	2 069 625	4 077 434	5 832 915	11 096 610	10 793 110
Wheat for grain ----- farms...	1 067	1 962	132	170	334	845	513	(NA)
acres...	151 251	379 289	13 030	15 092	23 878	62 628	32 461	(NA)
bushels...	4 654 627	13 515 660	400 487	372 834	564 412	1 568 876	709 068	(NA)
Soybeans for beans ----- farms...	5 017	8 047	9 777	7 180	8 224	5 075	3 647	1 789
acres...	1 540 372	2 638 249	2 969 049	1 608 070	1 490 089	446 728	189 014	71 675
bushels...	40 524 474	67 702 197	74 258 151	42 871 889	30 337 683	8 942 449	4 326 633	1 164 983
Rice ----- farms...	2 273	2 508	2 690	(NA)	(NA)	3 290	3 605	4 748
acres...	417 411	572 919	599 432	(NA)	(NA)	513 571	466 516	665 607
cwt...	17 970 394	23 487 541	22 442 049	(NA)	(NA)	17 550 800	13 566 350	16 335 900
Cotton----- farms...	2 675	2 371	2 531	4 486	10 281	16 184	24 374	51 348
acres...	590 257	562 581	510 107	584 816	453 805	511 219	481 414	672 012
bales...	921 867	788 360	470 675	519 427	516 087	570 640	479 298	539 612
Sugarcane for sugar ----- farms...	687	709	1 013	(NA)	(NA)	1 939	2 286	3 380
acres...	264 466	251 237	297 361	(NA)	(NA)	318 177	251 284	237 571
tons...	6 877 798	7 572 128	6 808 988	(NA)	(NA)	7 404 472	5 420 425	5 132 843

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

²Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

³Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

⁴Data for 1959 are for \$10,000 or more.

⁵Data for 1954 are for \$25,000 or more.

⁶Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships; see text.

⁷Data for 1987 include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals exclude the cost of lime for 1987 and 1982.

⁸Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

⁹Data for 1964 and prior years are for chickens 4 months old or older.