

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...	20 517	24 929	26 706	29 275	39 559	56 248	78 172	124 203
Land in farms.....acres...	4 758 631	5 589 799	6 045 719	6 177 024	6 991 718	8 101 417	9 149 492	11 069 348
Average size of farm.....acres...	232	224	226	211	177	144	117	89
Value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm.....dollars...	201 169	208 524	171 558	98 609	46 171	24 948	15 685	7 769
Average per acre.....dollars...	871	946	758	467	261	171	134	87
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹\$1,000...	639 734	761 038	692 409	449 233	261 675	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average per farm.....dollars...	31 252	30 576	26 002	16 418	7 138	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres.....	1 337	1 471	1 499	1 689	2 479	4 642	6 714	15 792
10 to 49 acres.....	5 437	6 956	6 906	7 677	12 129	22 214	34 483	60 483
50 to 179 acres.....	7 742	9 421	10 551	11 942	15 605	19 585	25 949	35 969
180 to 499 acres.....	3 762	4 490	5 045	5 277	6 452	6 848	8 011	8 868
500 to 999 acres.....	1 303	1 560	1 638	1 631	1 875	1 903	1 986	2 011
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	673	708	743	747	733	710	710	710
2,000 acres or more.....	263	323	324	312	286	346	1 029	1 080
Total cropland..... farms...	18 578	23 166	25 427	28 074	37 634	53 963	75 213	120 502
acres.....	2 686 117	3 179 278	3 375 565	3 201 239	3 439 927	3 520 349	4 035 157	4 787 778
Harvested cropland..... farms...	15 556	20 144	22 875	24 757	32 189	50 005	71 602	112 930
acres.....	1 589 636	2 474 025	2 524 147	2 250 952	2 041 755	2 263 258	2 694 196	3 393 002
Irrigated land..... farms...	1 216	946	770	446	675	1 337	1 398	748
acres.....	80 689	81 326	32 031	10 335	15 003	18 524	24 952	22 009
Market value of agricultural products sold ²\$1,000...	878 683	968 554	854 974	676 496	362 215	349 071	302 924	251 711
Average per farm.....dollars...	42 827	38 853	32 014	23 108	9 156	6 206	3 875	2 027
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ..\$1,000...	451 285	601 018	543 171	459 882	204 961	247 706	206 650	193 538
Livestock, poultry, and their products.....\$1,000...	427 398	367 536	311 804	206 582	150 263	92 925	87 285	53 920
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500.....	7 419	9 288	8 910	12 087	22 706	32 674	49 386	93 810
\$2,500 to \$4,999.....	3 516	3 756	4 342	3 665	4 992	8 659	13 164	20 731
\$5,000 to \$9,999.....	2 900	3 308	3 857	3 882	4 575	7 597	9 344	6 632
\$10,000 to \$24,999 ⁴	2 547	3 101	3 685	3 811	4 575	7 597	6 234	2 220
\$25,000 to \$49,999 ⁵	1 276	1 621	2 154	8 116	6 743	6 953	742	742
\$50,000 to \$99,999.....	954	1 511	1 696	1 696	1 696	1 696	1 696	1 696
\$100,000 to \$499,999.....	1 592	2 044	1 862	1 395	498	338	338	338
\$500,000 or more.....	313	287	182	107	21	21	21	21
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	18 337	22 297	23 673	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership.....	1 583	2 078	2 487	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation.....	488	417	453	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.....	109	137	93	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁶ :								
None.....	7 335	8 390	9 769	9 424	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	64 851
Any.....	11 791	14 172	15 596	14 484	22 500	26 532	37 019	59 327
200 days or more.....	8 549	10 118	10 866	10 077	14 309	16 425	20 917	28 483
Operators by principal occupation ⁶ :								
Farming.....	8 983	11 299	12 477	15 659	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other.....	11 534	13 630	14 229	13 303	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁶years...	54.5	52.6	51.9	53.4	53.1	51.9	50.4	48.3
Total farm production expenses ¹\$1,000...	736 918	(NA)	(NA)	509 937	319 907	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased.....\$1,000...	62 818	53 566	46 966	30 450	26 649	12 941	12 719	(NA)
Feed for livestock and poultry.....\$1,000...	170 086	141 310	129 971	96 996	54 515	34 109	34 974	23 680
Commercial fertilizer ⁷\$1,000...	68 222	97 736	94 953	84 760	44 546	42 878	(NA)	(NA)
Petroleum products.....\$1,000...	41 808	73 992	50 757	33 816	24 433	23 135	19 253	15 948
Hired farm labor.....\$1,000...	92 317	79 734	79 173	53 247	46 003	38 946	36 425	29 031
Interest expense ⁸\$1,000...	42 815	74 196	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷\$1,000...	42 545	59 103	48 546	31 020	15 980	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory..... farms...	10 227	12 133	11 683	13 825	16 600	28 663	38 907	70 258
number.....	428 491	507 279	474 050	589 827	515 832	555 424	496 728	614 857
Beef cows..... farms...	8 903	10 278	9 978	10 557	(NA)	17 027	(NA)	(NA)
number.....	205 344	226 482	219 696	279 175	199 338	207 131	156 280	183 656
Milk cows..... farms...	697	1 219	1 485	2 478	3 866	11 657	24 743	54 490
number.....	40 113	47 559	45 544	47 718	56 478	77 150	99 584	147 170
Cattle and calves sold..... farms...	9 635	10 583	10 628	11 811	13 025	16 087	20 977	22 383
number.....	218 766	213 608	245 161	219 844	248 596	221 412	213 640	203 549
Hogs and pigs inventory..... farms...	3 249	4 709	7 210	7 654	13 132	28 225	53 776	79 692
number.....	352 413	399 810	478 660	345 282	414 291	369 367	672 803	571 290
Hogs and pigs sold..... farms...	3 031	3 965	6 341	6 129	10 106	11 688	24 588	26 066
number.....	619 986	646 956	690 956	533 466	534 342	421 394	538 958	366 576
Chickens 3 months old or older inventory ⁹ farms...	1 477	2 320	3 177	4 295	7 443	27 503	53 822	95 478
number.....	7 539 759	7 475 114	6 957 373	6 203 860	6 835 645	4 758 926	4 511 895	3 787 991
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold..... farms...	227	210	216	193	243	229	371	346
number.....	60 295 197	41 578 104	30 821 889	20 674 220	23 425 555	16 220 809	13 628 978	4 777 016

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..	6 292	7 942	11 240	13 913	17 888	33 434	55 187	84 962
acres..	309 791	384 966	523 326	451 165	386 999	415 380	684 262	923 189
bushels..	22 143 190	31 085 287	29 268 243	28 218 982	19 172 480	16 534 566	17 524 709	9 259 319
Wheat for grain ----- farms..	3 097	4 478	1 216	2 633	3 372	5 323	15 537	20 612
acres..	213 374	426 528	53 730	101 057	64 905	79 315	158 276	139 761
bushels..	7 558 179	14 810 264	1 745 494	2 688 032	2 165 011	2 091 759	3 116 662	2 597 734
Soybeans for beans ----- farms..	5 220	10 552	12 811	13 439	14 038	13 539	7 759	2 966
acres..	597 258	1 385 643	1 404 636	1 081 703	851 524	621 223	383 779	148 235
bushels..	12 872 219	29 039 562	29 082 744	21 516 524	18 613 432	12 907 064	6 598 313	937 140
Cotton----- farms..	744	417	488	2 509	10 161	25 928	45 437	78 094
acres..	116 424	95 392	100 793	256 082	300 240	525 582	544 195	809 525
bales..	102 078	147 897	114 401	265 454	296 417	554 072	411 120	488 418
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) ----- farms..	7 272	7 481	7 785	7 119	7 846	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres..	230 800	216 153	211 184	157 401	151 048	236 486	266 104	414 255
tons, dry..	432 109	414 498	405 556	309 783	293 363	354 017	311 558	317 900

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.