

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1997 and Earlier Census Years

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

All farms	1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964
Farms number..	41 384	37 905	43 318	48 448	50 780	56 678	72 491	92 530
Land in farms acres..	8 704 385	8 450 823	9 145 753	10 200 547	11 147 825	11 852 946	13 654 215	15 225 797
Average size of farm acres..	210	223	211	211	220	209	188	165
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	298 244	220 265	168 161	171 210	138 257	76 049	37 596	20 552
Average per acre dollars..	1 442	1 000	800	826	630	364	200	125
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	1 485 851	1 148 900	1 115 106	1 167 165	1 061 994	699 224	395 386	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	35 914	30 354	25 831	24 151	20 976	13 198	5 909	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	2 141	1 902	2 602	3 043	2 855	3 056	3 711	5 467
10 to 49 acres	11 854	10 165	12 356	14 132	13 282	15 475	21 439	33 254
50 to 179 acres	16 015	14 929	16 514	18 277	20 319	23 313	29 610	35 722
180 to 499 acres	7 561	7 162	7 776	8 471	9 503	9 962	12 379	12 668
500 to 999 acres	2 277	2 244	2 469	2 786	3 025	2 934	3 374	3 278
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 039	990	1 111	1 186	1 194	1 295	1 349	1 371
2,000 acres or more	497	513	490	553	602	643	629	770
Total cropland farms..	34 407	32 327	37 148	41 975	45 443	51 272	66 580	83 918
Harvested cropland farms..	4 197 670	4 237 057	4 496 607	5 105 734	5 448 622	5 296 467	5 789 393	5 118 610
..... acres..	24 819	24 780	28 509	33 351	37 301	40 969	52 444	74 409
Irrigated land farms..	1 301	1 380	1 344	1 040	994	427	337	318
..... acres..	76 871	82 015	84 054	66 020	58 581	13 909	11 058	11 768
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	3 098 989	2 369 179	1 908 303	1 704 160	1 531 432	1 122 481	646 695	537 093
Average per farm dollars..	74 884	62 503	44 053	35 175	30 158	19 805	8 921	5 805
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	632 978	649 110	497 992	606 916	504 120	406 259	172 023	230 406
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	2 466 010	1 720 070	1 410 311	1 097 244	1 027 312	699 388	463 023	293 283
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	15 286	11 663	15 082	19 246	17 918	28 361	43 934	60 819
\$2,500 to \$4,999	6 940	6 506	7 726	7 916	8 782	6 853	8 468	11 437
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6 279	5 936	6 534	6 100	7 170	6 080	6 669	8 151
\$10,000 to \$24,999	4 985	5 076	5 210	5 230	6 249			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	1 842	2 178	2 324	2 702	3 384	12 885	12 657	11 681
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1 358	1 661	1 956	2 698	3 279			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	2 830	3 825	3 946	4 173	3 728	2 341	691	412
\$500,000 or more	1 864	1 060	540	353	236	119	41	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	37 697	34 257	39 553	44 009	45 968	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	2 734	2 843	3 014	3 754	4 074	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	735	666	570	513	606	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	218	139	181	172	132	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	13 961	13 492	14 206	14 774	16 649	16 564	(NA)	(NA)
Any	25 259	21 921	26 899	29 776	31 929	30 848	43 656	47 310
200 days or more	18 677	16 343	20 154	22 074	23 392	22 664	28 242	29 605
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	15 568	15 712	16 398	18 316	19 839	25 518	(NA)	(NA)
Other	25 816	22 193	26 920	30 132	30 941	30 786	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	54.9	54.8	53.1	51.8	51.1	52.3	52.7	52.3
Total farm production expenses ⁵ , \$1,000..	2 509 917	1 930 063	1 610 833	(NA)	(NA)	978 656	579 238	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	341 450	294 066	290 518	203 688	181 403	131 879	88 083	53 426
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	1 140 545	731 753	570 084	467 749	456 407	398 070	196 759	139 326
Commercial fertilizer ⁶ \$1,000..	106 011	103 080	86 491	110 580	104 751	92 014	52 267	46 557
Petroleum products \$1,000..	80 237	76 567	64 535	95 501	64 898	40 931	27 840	20 070
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	134 016	140 414	123 018	87 505	82 662	52 970	44 466	39 000
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	90 000	82 647	81 110	110 691	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁶ \$1,000..	73 867	72 317	64 530	63 014	51 862	31 450	15 732	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	28 450	26 360	29 844	33 671	33 304	40 098	46 396	68 905
..... number..	1 530 566	1 453 137	1 450 416	1 652 524	1 646 340	2 204 135	1 781 061	1 847 608
Beef cows farms..	25 384	23 925	25 879	29 016	29 034	31 015	(NA)	45 199
..... number..	832 298	771 151	748 002	785 032	815 257	1 083 693	821 381	820 832
Milk cows farms..	608	995	1 336	2 361	3 236	6 120	10 889	31 845
..... number..	27 848	45 454	45 994	58 946	65 275	83 256	110 040	160 395
Cattle and calves sold farms..	27 705	25 532	29 320	31 281	32 510	36 952	39 796	45 293
..... number..	767 806	676 215	831 908	822 127	942 354	850 775	881 471	725 851
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	932	1 880	3 585	6 061	10 325	11 500	21 002	39 721
..... number..	183 811	307 672	353 062	463 840	677 280	568 586	860 800	721 432
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	750	1 715	3 220	5 127	9 202	9 291	16 938	19 431
..... number..	380 853	571 680	648 262	785 996	1 057 220	978 340	1 292 982	880 500
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	1 250	1 643	2 785	4 580	5 451	7 704	12 752	42 112
..... number..	13 432 845	14 493 030	15 107 005	17 734 581	18 168 832	15 314 470	16 423 672	11 848 641
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	2 477	2 460	2 557	2 659	3 064	3 839	4 496	4 488
..... number..	871 123 702	737 608 903	564 583 477	426 623 399	382 146 806	337 189 357	334 952 131	214 461 267

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Historical Highlights: 1997 and Earlier Census Years—Con.

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

All farms	1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed farms . .	3 687	5 305	7 413	10 390	15 084	21 586	27 943	54 109
acres . .	230 484	281 053	234 669	310 680	485 450	551 586	618 663	964 233
bushels . .	19 735 218	24 941 228	15 623 257	20 144 774	22 723 611	23 782 615	20 546 071	32 852 070
Wheat for grain farms . .	732	870	1 914	4 090	977	1 249	1 564	1 546
acres . .	82 440	86 071	156 466	474 467	53 076	84 270	80 280	60 634
bushels . .	3 326 421	3 461 454	4 903 608	14 072 021	1 482 737	1 970 250	2 333 302	1 485 719
Soybeans for beans farms . .	1 889	2 065	4 124	9 897	10 998	8 555	6 821	2 789
acres . .	316 019	305 713	575 370	1 589 247	1 621 130	809 461	596 488	195 503
bushels . .	7 867 880	8 871 365	11 633 904	36 402 694	31 251 395	18 882 067	13 161 175	4 296 636
Cotton farms . .	1 470	1 469	1 820	1 458	2 083	6 827	24 779	42 024
acres . .	433 160	431 665	346 013	294 792	328 087	539 888	563 278	804 094
bales . .	523 864	601 506	380 936	421 367	287 622	481 198	497 526	853 522
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . .	19 085	17 480	19 061	18 492	19 819	19 002	18 060	(NA)
acres . .	778 602	678 726	647 843	568 456	571 087	498 030	444 355	475 634
tons, dry . .	1 750 870	1 409 044	1 186 655	1 113 671	1 029 089	956 281	814 767	712 362

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 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships.

⁵Data for 1964 to 1982 do not include cost of custom applications; data for agricultural chemicals include the cost of lime for 1969 to 1978.

⁶Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

⁷Data for 1969 to 1992 are for chickens 3 months old or older inventory; data for 1964 are for chickens 4 months old or older.