

**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..	45 142	43 937	48 242	50 525	51 751	50 959	60 433	79 898
Land in farms ..... acres..	14 364 955	14 127 711	14 355 611	14 682 960	15 074 799	14 641 677	15 694 527	16 565 299
Average size of farm ..... acres..	318	322	298	291	291	287	260	207
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm ..... dollars..	360 114	282 389	225 604	286 402	221 156	120 382	67 532	36 734
Average per acre ..... dollars..	1 151	880	761	972	763	419	260	178
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	2 510 490	1 957 035	1 661 321	1 790 270	1 623 539	971 233	540 480	(NA)
Average per farm ..... dollars..	55 619	44 601	34 505	35 483	31 441	20 417	9 398	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres .....	1 686	1 727	2 249	2 069	1 890	1 573	2 168	3 402
10 to 49 acres .....	9 186	8 295	9 723	10 255	9 234	8 537	10 935	20 091
50 to 179 acres .....	16 450	15 771	17 551	19 022	20 064	20 483	23 914	32 117
180 to 499 acres .....	10 437	10 719	11 173	11 622	12 730	13 062	15 899	17 145
500 to 999 acres .....	4 049	4 188	4 371	4 519	4 815	4 508	4 928	4 785
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	2 298	2 287	2 304	2 154	2 182	2 009	1 964	1 776
2,000 acres or more .....	1 036	950	871	884	836	787	625	582
Total cropland ..... farms..	37 205	37 408	40 536	43 228	45 552	45 524	54 236	66 591
Harvested cropland ..... acres..	10 062 289	10 064 948	9 950 401	10 042 942	10 330 477	9 652 236	9 986 536	8 525 225
Irrigated land ..... farms..	30 125	30 441	32 248	34 725	37 245	35 362	40 952	55 518
..... acres..	7 665 490	7 295 095	6 477 365	7 484 316	7 572 049	6 639 182	6 804 569	6 087 610
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> , \$1,000..	5 479 692	4 159 505	3 320 258	2 826 497	2 486 526	1 880 719	972 837	830 393
Average per farm ..... dollars..	121 388	94 670	68 825	55 943	48 048	36 907	16 097	10 393
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	2 188 026	1 714 842	1 246 686	1 356 618	1 189 875	1 027 355	454 675	542 191
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..	3 291 665	2 444 663	2 073 572	1 469 879	1 296 650	847 135	514 541	283 461
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 .....	11 029	9 566	12 130	15 515	13 154	20 632	27 747	47 694
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	6 901	6 405	7 609	7 768	8 729	6 214	8 527	8 740
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	6 723	6 844	7 101	6 403	7 649	5 067	6 646	6 598
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	6 071	6 071	6 088	5 544	6 423			
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	2 408	2 717	2 885	3 106	3 853	13 755	15 904	15 636
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	1 978	2 614	3 329	4 020	4 849			
\$100,000 to \$499,999 .....	6 832	7 900	8 197	7 436	6 589	4 980	1 527	1 203
\$500,000 or more .....	3 200	1 820	903	712	478	280	51	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	39 009	38 221	42 885	45 152	46 059	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership .....	3 891	3 824	3 626	3 856	4 267	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation .....	2 025	1 714	1 542	1 326	1 309	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....	217	178	189	191	116	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None .....	17 714	17 942	19 132	18 816	20 922	17 219	(NA)	(NA)
Any .....	24 906	22 755	26 208	26 948	28 580	23 418	33 356	39 579
200 days or more .....	17 855	16 181	18 417	18 455	19 286	15 693	19 228	22 480
Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :								
Farming .....	22 300	23 273	24 210	25 701	25 810	28 720	(NA)	(NA)
Other .....	22 842	20 664	24 032	24 824	25 941	21 549	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..	53.5	53.0	51.8	50.9	50.2	51.6	51.4	51.9
Total farm production expenses <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	4 161 029	3 245 341	2 454 097	(NA)	(NA)	1 424 284	824 132	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..	467 737	414 337	368 424	272 441	235 570	163 333	102 275	62 413
Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..	1 654 949	964 146	774 203	570 609	571 256	479 468	245 715	163 899
Commercial fertilizer <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	213 542	184 504	123 230	131 022	111 696	85 237	36 754	33 046
Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..	181 212	169 025	136 284	191 553	120 164	78 507	50 318	45 494
Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..	238 733	223 124	198 167	164 885	152 632	101 269	79 109	65 481
Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	192 005	165 014	135 440	192 827	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	237 031	201 753	115 386	114 397	81 679	60 113	31 119	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..	30 369	29 162	31 606	34 779	34 068	35 507	38 694	59 195
..... number..	1 770 248	1 632 666	1 562 243	1 718 315	1 641 669	1 959 725	1 542 608	1 573 605
Beef cows ..... farms..	26 981	26 011	27 297	30 083	29 889	28 830	(NA)	44 221
..... number..	927 357	826 306	786 183	819 320	826 578	974 483	731 096	742 651
Milk cows ..... farms..	1 193	1 688	2 252	3 769	4 500	5 574	8 854	26 198
..... number..	49 012	64 427	70 926	86 779	75 431	74 377	88 472	132 046
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..	29 903	28 545	31 315	33 292	34 418	34 323	36 706	47 744
..... number..	978 007	817 838	888 755	821 500	994 671	795 419	830 036	703 082
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..	1 247	1 883	2 467	3 737	5 893	5 865	8 986	18 335
..... number..	858 741	725 497	452 930	388 388	383 596	238 505	246 989	219 890
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..	1 019	1 666	2 168	3 172	5 175	4 860	7 113	9 106
..... number..	2 762 914	2 016 536	1 211 130	827 413	781 712	543 325	465 939	363 706
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms..	1 835	2 123	3 263	4 809	5 515	6 601	9 550	33 007
..... number..	20 213 603	22 115 272	24 085 427	24 235 681	22 567 930	19 160 812	24 456 322	11 790 425
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..	3 650	3 666	4 132	3 963	4 114	4 352	4 297	4 083
..... number..	1 003 161 769	862 403 824	719 764 548	569 303 000	514 155 457	437 192 605	368 078 464	267 771 498

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
<b>Selected crops harvested:</b>								
Corn for grain or seed . . . . . farms . . .	831	622	748	695	1 177	1 717	3 788	12 473
acres . . .	184 079	94 606	53 672	25 330	22 623	19 014	39 999	126 446
bushels . . .	21 901 248	12 139 499	5 802 912	2 389 882	1 351 741	745 315	1 454 754	3 205 777
Wheat for grain . . . . . farms . . .	3 361	4 134	5 329	7 727	2 693	3 169	3 967	6 605
acres . . .	763 388	815 096	859 405	1 667 522	244 006	294 665	214 087	417 194
bushels . . .	35 361 702	35 234 257	33 241 332	61 332 564	8 792 162	7 801 337	6 493 498	12 746 248
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms . . .	6 889	7 604	8 983	11 307	13 468	13 890	18 038	19 140
acres . . .	3 571 342	3 164 168	3 160 746	4 198 968	4 578 663	3 805 841	4 238 081	3 246 930
bushels . . .	103 074 994	99 219 546	73 279 691	98 603 852	103 394 661	76 365 435	86 900 341	64 669 085
Rice . . . . . farms . . .	4 207	4 924	5 613	5 436	4 698	(NA)	(NA)	3 430
acres . . .	1 384 969	1 363 237	1 041 433	1 262 744	1 078 783	(NA)	(NA)	426 890
cwt . . .	78 882 488	75 410 027	54 663 266	56 860 948	47 976 691	(NA)	(NA)	18 393 640
Cotton . . . . . farms . . .	1 730	2 279	2 479	2 019	4 064	7 585	15 079	21 704
acres . . .	962 272	947 973	529 636	405 345	755 629	1 114 688	1 079 681	1 235 677
bales . . .	1 621 344	1 574 664	816 723	525 887	648 790	852 309	1 150 478	1 535 731
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) . . . . . farms . . .	22 201	21 542	21 832	22 614	23 420	20 775	20 035	(NA)
acres . . .	1 232 771	1 111 909	944 470	878 203	861 361	717 557	630 527	683 759
tons, dry . . .	2 396 515	2 106 936	1 511 459	1 586 810	1 363 360	1 224 376	1 054 775	844 274

<sup>1</sup>Data are based on a sample of farms.

<sup>2</sup>Data for 1974 and prior years include the value of forest products sold.

<sup>3</sup>Data for 1982 and prior years exclude abnormal farms.

<sup>4</sup>Data for 1974 apply only to individual or family operations (sole proprietorship) and partnerships.

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

<sup>6</sup>Data for 1982 do not include imputation for item nonresponse.

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