

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..	40 334	40 759	43 552	49 630	51 405	54 911	67 431	83 366
Land in farms acres..	10 671 246	10 025 581	10 744 718	12 291 885	13 416 833	13 878 294	15 805 892	17 886 931
Average size of farm acres..	265	246	247	248	261	253	234	215
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	392 577	280 562	226 217	225 092	200 201	119 766	54 883	29 155
Average per acre dollars..	1 505	1 131	920	929	768	474	234	135
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	1 791 247	1 421 195	1 409 250	1 535 877	1 412 802	871 343	491 790	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	44 392	34 904	32 477	31 013	27 586	17 110	7 695	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	2 399	2 859	2 875	3 189	2 936	2 959	3 309	4 884
10 to 49 acres	10 255	10 443	10 953	12 179	10 768	11 118	13 737	19 680
50 to 179 acres	14 677	14 470	15 602	18 112	19 688	21 993	27 760	34 512
180 to 499 acres	7 910	7 987	8 868	10 197	11 632	12 449	15 638	17 035
500 to 999 acres	2 795	2 972	3 197	3 657	3 979	3 953	4 546	4 685
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 543	1 407	1 453	1 633	1 688	1 716	1 748	1 768
2,000 acres or more	755	621	604	663	714	723	693	802
Total cropland farms..	32 816	34 600	37 689	43 390	46 529	49 723	61 277	74 033
..... acres..	5 370 844	5 475 712	5 780 330	6 531 234	6 828 187	6 475 079	6 834 619	6 367 160
Harvested cropland farms..	25 082	27 177	30 301	35 650	39 312	40 732	47 340	65 059
..... acres..	3 762 559	3 332 666	3 298 268	4 761 260	4 687 895	4 161 205	3 650 656	3 950 518
Irrigated land farms..	4 372	4 701	4 985	4 443	4 568	2 138	3 510	6 907
..... acres..	748 520	724 792	640 256	575 306	462 850	112 271	78 630	64 112
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	4 992 918	3 521 217	2 814 592	2 767 679	2 340 505	1 859 780	1 039 994	825 654
Average per farm dollars..	123 789	86 391	64 626	55 766	45 531	33 869	15 423	9 904
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	1 920 598	1 428 964	1 005 664	1 180 988	913 046	849 543	319 742	341 973
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	3 072 320	2 092 253	1 808 928	1 586 691	1 427 458	976 488	698 555	457 727
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	13 731	12 070	13 176	15 693	14 320	19 790	30 713	42 025
\$2,500 to \$4,999	5 503	5 983	6 460	6 740	7 428	5 445	7 914	10 057
\$5,000 to \$9,999	5 154	5 402	5 805	5 843	6 619	6 132	8 070	10 752
\$10,000 to \$24,999	4 694	5 200	5 320	5 868	7 198			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	2 174	2 659	3 012	3 788	4 500	18 772	19 187	19 748
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1 908	2 397	2 883	3 947	4 809			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	4 472	5 354	5 961	7 002	6 036	4 486	1 434	725
\$500,000 or more	2 698	1 694	935	717	449	246	65	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	35 206	35 985	38 806	44 207	45 381	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	3 105	3 173	3 382	4 170	4 761	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	1 706	1 297	1 106	954	1 059	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	317	304	258	299	204	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	15 060	15 563	15 835	17 088	20 361	18 433	(NA)	(NA)
Any	21 902	21 843	25 029	27 730	28 158	25 214	37 029	41 157
200 days or more	16 295	16 051	18 426	20 149	19 974	18 000	24 449	25 895
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	17 523	18 817	19 449	23 075	25 373	30 243	(NA)	(NA)
Other	22 811	21 942	24 103	26 555	26 032	24 067	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	55.9	55.0	53.2	51.7	51.1	52.6	52.2	52.3
Total farm production expenses ⁵ \$1,000..	3 840 117	2 867 358	2 338 551	(NA)	(NA)	1 491 414	918 116	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	396 933	317 816	307 677	251 478	228 092	173 453	132 225	79 423
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	1 427 778	909 360	755 609	660 526	635 109	505 816	304 002	213 401
Commercial fertilizer ⁶ \$1,000..	219 398	191 665	156 412	199 916	200 367	180 691	87 737	73 980
Petroleum products \$1,000..	136 653	125 189	102 026	157 335	102 594	64 585	41 966	38 285
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	285 883	252 721	209 647	149 524	138 769	96 899	73 259	59 226
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	170 943	147 611	130 645	193 325	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁶ \$1,000..	196 778	148 906	108 992	111 558	87 940	58 664	29 717	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	21 874	23 339	25 349	30 440	29 591	35 478	42 050	60 069
..... number..	1 244 489	1 258 062	1 266 679	1 578 250	1 559 994	2 022 904	1 724 491	1 746 916
Beef cows farms..	19 180	20 549	21 952	25 658	25 264	28 014	(NA)	42 228
..... number..	613 731	599 899	606 750	690 184	705 277	943 475	724 678	716 666
Milk cows farms..	984	1 168	1 475	2 623	3 100	4 645	7 479	22 337
..... number..	98 931	102 001	97 763	130 542	126 902	119 532	131 175	152 532
Cattle and calves sold farms..	21 015	22 162	24 604	28 180	28 530	33 077	37 586	44 000
..... number..	613 950	612 588	681 238	729 924	881 451	803 176	901 040	764 676
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	1 764	3 844	5 805	8 911	14 602	15 158	23 690	40 532
..... number..	514 029	1 000 813	1 060 377	1 317 396	1 642 059	1 243 255	1 580 896	1 746 619
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	1 561	3 745	5 634	8 374	13 837	14 084	21 486	27 770
..... number..	1 030 187	1 865 702	1 869 236	2 119 068	2 478 470	2 091 998	2 287 925	37 586
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	1 295	1 800	2 629	4 145	4 894	6 187	9 438	31 262
..... number..	21 525 495	24 144 218	26 274 511	27 490 051	29 841 367	25 591 146	34 961 625	21 623 789
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	2 245	2 407	2 815	3 096	3 265	3 794	5 398	7 390
..... number..	1 017 501 305	749 018 187	609 503 009	521 508 557	424 817 579	355 956 075	374 271 143	306 808 012

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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All farms	1997	1992	1987	1982	1978	1974	1969	1964
Selected crops harvested:								
Corn for grain or seed farms . . .	5 196	7 896	10 561	13 793	21 468	26 979	30 339	44 800
acres . . .	404 268	647 833	548 498	788 306	1 497 159	1 661 085	1 543 969	1 407 659
bushels . . .	40 568 303	60 513 790	43 332 343	60 031 978	76 812 159	91 870 613	54 195 338	53 513 024
Wheat for grain farms . . .	2 115	2 332	4 704	7 874	2 034	2 092	2 344	3 630
acres . . .	299 188	292 362	416 997	995 962	109 364	117 268	58 854	66 569
bushels . . .	12 691 834	12 371 069	13 269 742	31 864 435	3 286 853	2 759 101	2 061 994	2 094 468
Soybeans for beans farms . . .	2 864	4 193	6 036	12 683	12 147	8 943	5 267	3 013
acres . . .	351 359	513 781	759 582	2 023 705	1 579 370	785 367	331 356	149 181
bushels . . .	7 078 444	14 391 870	16 725 741	51 993 159	27 148 555	18 885 782	8 351 394	2 928 425
Cotton farms . . .	4 188	2 015	1 733	770	851	4 279	11 441	22 941
acres . . .	1 367 620	431 625	231 635	131 300	113 461	373 342	374 288	616 508
bales . . .	1 764 127	668 950	286 188	192 496	103 409	367 268	310 666	615 249
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . . .	14 066	14 241	16 221	16 205	16 197	14 200	14 690	(NA)
acres . . .	553 243	508 575	536 670	482 438	470 224	360 502	320 319	416 417
tons, dry . . .	1 340 678	1 221 143	1 076 223	1 090 697	940 893	791 432	675 472	740 908
Land in orchards farms . . .	3 541	4 146	4 137	4 503	4 970	3 827	6 285	13 435
acres . . .	155 984	153 247	149 014	145 724	149 490	121 816	149 654	178 537

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.