

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..	22 314	22 124	24 142	24 714	24 249	23 680	25 475	29 661
Land in farms acres..	11 830 167	13 468 992	13 931 875	13 921 639	14 699 100	14 274 258	14 416 521	15 301 513
Average size of farm acres..	530	609	577	563	606	603	566	516
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	536 521	410 206	336 615	459 965	348 408	204 091	99 916	68 178
Average per acre dollars..	1 017	682	572	814	574	339	177	132
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	1 740 107	1 496 916	1 330 607	1 454 150	1 275 154	762 410	389 697	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	77 916	67 841	55 327	59 016	52 760	33 594	15 752	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	3 092	2 785	3 021	2 953	1 708	1 286	1 807	2 050
10 to 49 acres	5 621	5 017	5 268	5 296	4 528	4 251	4 382	5 331
50 to 179 acres	4 757	5 070	5 685	6 129	6 792	7 443	8 044	9 997
180 to 499 acres	3 812	4 182	4 716	4 887	5 520	5 286	5 835	6 605
500 to 999 acres	2 199	2 270	2 446	2 562	2 622	2 516	2 568	2 741
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 582	1 524	1 697	1 568	1 766	1 652	1 621	1 666
2,000 acres or more	1 251	1 276	1 309	1 319	1 313	1 246	1 218	1 271
Total cropland farms..	18 994	19 204	21 085	22 031	22 545	22 312	23 734	27 660
..... acres..	6 308 877	6 301 862	6 742 285	6 484 076	6 540 493	6 247 705	6 172 473	5 877 633
Harvested cropland farms..	15 494	16 023	18 270	19 596	20 815	20 854	21 640	25 636
..... acres..	4 478 862	4 225 273	4 349 122	4 887 805	4 820 928	4 531 164	3 954 957	3 934 659
Irrigated land farms..	15 191	15 487	16 620	17 355	18 215	16 825	17 840	22 251
..... acres..	3 493 542	3 260 006	3 219 192	3 450 443	3 475 392	2 859 047	2 760 852	2 801 500
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	3 345 864	2 964 216	2 269 404	2 231 605	1 633 160	1 381 209	649 571	478 181
Average per farm dollars..	149 945	133 982	94 002	90 297	67 350	58 328	25 498	16 122
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	1 773 699	1 492 103	1 097 255	1 160 742	796 800	875 759	295 922	265 900
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	1 572 166	1 472 113	1 172 149	1 070 863	836 360	502 917	352 072	211 132
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	5 663	4 726	5 329	4 910	3 801	4 304	6 110	8 766
\$2,500 to \$4,999	2 350	2 186	2 519	2 435	2 606	2 100	2 941	4 080
\$5,000 to \$9,999	2 362	2 433	2 627	2 635	2 988	2 791	4 022	5 404
\$10,000 to \$24,999	3 182	3 266	3 646	3 655	4 371			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	2 068	2 370	2 781	3 042	3 857	11 611	11 389	10 805
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1 898	2 253	2 787	3 306	3 248			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	3 510	3 790	3 791	3 963	2 897	2 421	809	505
\$500,000 or more	1 281	1 100	662	664	358	330	75	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship)	18 631	18 534	20 368	20 950	20 506	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	1 956	2 074	2 314	2 312	2 409	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	1 459	1 287	1 207	1 175	1 118	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	268	229	253	277	216	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	8 856	9 297	10 101	10 044	10 598	8 712	(NA)	(NA)
Any	12 230	11 342	12 614	12 567	12 495	9 820	13 952	15 216
200 days or more	7 885	7 214	7 555	7 425	6 829	5 637	7 248	7 540
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	12 049	13 082	14 550	15 268	15 720	15 961	(NA)	(NA)
Other	10 265	9 042	9 592	9 446	8 529	6 840	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	53.2	52.2	51.1	49.6	49.6	50.8	50.3	49.9
Total farm production expenses ⁵ , \$1,000..	2 705 028	2 445 017	1 862 264	(NA)	(NA)	993 575	545 319	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased, \$1,000..	469 600	527 312	394 684	326 442	311 262	153 470	130 722	61 688
Feed for livestock and poultry, \$1,000..	450 829	347 903	230 572	233 142	182 418	153 117	63 464	46 678
Commercial fertilizer ⁶ , \$1,000..	245 440	190 698	148 396	160 602	107 141	91 490	32 798	21 603
Petroleum products, \$1,000..	100 076	95 329	83 022	118 529	67 230	46 304	26 309	26 308
Hired farm labor, \$1,000..	270 843	245 990	181 790	147 584	108 936	85 782	52 857	39 475
Interest ⁶ , \$1,000..	178 482	157 683	158 965	218 310	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁶ , \$1,000..	118 406	82 374	65 098	52 652	28 849	18 127	8 333	(NA)
Livestock and poultry: Cattle and calves inventory	12 063	12 527	13 481	15 980	15 535	16 621	17 673	23 592
..... number..	1 908 097	1 812 720	1 772 756	1 925 419	1 853 621	1 917 279	1 731 284	1 602 721
Beef cows	8 405	8 393	8 604	10 201	10 117	11 115	(NA)	12 460
..... number..	555 676	565 016	558 229	614 385	605 859	724 012	565 038	515 512
Milk cows	1 404	1 990	2 769	4 199	4 663	5 833	7 617	13 748
..... number..	265 854	181 785	157 665	178 082	137 492	137 712	128 614	164 560
Cattle and calves sold	11 684	12 230	13 321	15 262	15 103	16 244	17 606	21 942
..... number..	1 578 375	1 646 112	1 502 218	1 490 079	1 482 254	1 239 761	1 246 601	960 584
Hogs and pigs inventory	714	1 141	1 258	1 648	2 426	2 089	3 034	4 247
..... number..	29 026	67 343	76 882	80 957	96 456	79 302	118 485	105 814
Hogs and pigs sold	573	940	1 113	1 355	1 992	1 718	2 817	3 110
..... number..	44 626	104 723	119 188	114 391	133 861	125 089	176 406	169 465
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷	886	1 119	1 839	2 731	2 723	2 855	3 114	8 125
..... number..	(D)	1 488 472	1 425 572	1 131 996	987 584	1 098 055	1 008 130	1 115 267
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold	55	59	85	107	83	105	67	39
..... number..	6 043	27 206	8 733	14 634	15 570	20 152	1 766 522	4 600 934

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:								
Wheat for grain farms..	5 199	6 106	7 706	7 870	8 367	10 430	11 830	14 793
acres..	1 410 978	1 384 893	1 239 480	1 507 775	1 362 793	1 413 811	960 758	1 041 424
bushels..	108 941 849	94 094 326	83 250 152	87 980 724	69 166 361	57 552 348	38 091 608	40 977 149
Barley for grain farms..	4 178	5 149	7 852	9 379	9 817	(NA)	(NA)	8 466
acres..	711 504	691 273	833 225	1 090 811	1 008 445	(NA)	(NA)	463 739
bushels..	54 317 070	48 647 384	59 437 911	73 169 464	61 765 733	(NA)	(NA)	19 570 516
Potatoes, excluding sweetpotatoes farms..	1 402	1 616	1 792	1 892	2 271	2 296	(NA)	4 434
acres..	394 977	372 028	352 670	320 019	363 309	315 921	(NA)	228 250
cwt..	135 578 736	119 060 333	99 392 607	89 540 662	96 201 115	78 025 304	(NA)	37 339 271
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms..	11 960	11 940	13 717	14 635	16 022	16 733	17 228	(NA)
acres..	1 260 010	1 063 292	1 173 475	1 222 726	1 322 426	1 323 140	1 179 630	1 327 619
tons, dry..	4 395 396	3 389 557	3 563 558	3 846 435	3 956 186	3 760 095	3 336 854	3 417 672

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.