

**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..	57 916	62 778	70 506	77 180	82 483	87 915	101 479	108 082
Land in farms ..... acres..	15 111 022	15 618 831	16 170 895	16 294 268	16 824 438	16 785 208	17 572 865	17 933 226
Average size of farm ..... acres..	261	249	229	211	204	191	173	166
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm ..... dollars..	532 663	346 199	265 446	338 549	323 213	137 385	70 316	51 645
Average per acre ..... dollars..	2 064	1 395	1 158	1 610	1 579	720	406	310
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	3 709 854	3 474 495	3 129 398	3 464 195	3 118 331	1 899 878	954 061	(NA)
Average per farm ..... dollars..	64 050	55 440	44 502	45 033	37 893	23 128	9 859	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres .....	4 183	5 141	5 444	5 648	4 606	3 594	4 706	4 847
10 to 49 acres .....	13 987	14 234	15 010	17 373	17 166	17 325	19 522	20 533
50 to 179 acres .....	19 913	21 268	24 892	27 460	31 559	37 055	44 110	47 128
180 to 499 acres .....	11 099	12 928	15 902	18 009	20 984	22 828	27 210	30 735
500 to 999 acres .....	5 268	6 000	6 670	6 567	6 552	5 969	5 256	4 369
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	2 753	2 687	2 291	1 872	1 452	1 019	610	410
2,000 acres or more .....	713	520	297	251	164	125	65	60
Total cropland ..... farms..	53 256	58 117	65 529	71 836	78 174	84 277	96 360	102 137
..... acres..	12 848 950	13 366 034	13 592 873	13 331 077	13 539 395	13 198 261	13 551 580	13 317 207
Harvested cropland ..... farms..	47 613	54 252	61 689	68 040	74 450	80 195	88 350	95 846
..... acres..	11 716 704	11 834 675	10 706 298	12 136 310	11 809 491	11 234 214	9 670 494	10 298 855
Irrigated land ..... farms..	1 753	1 742	1 481	1 206	901	633	682	558
..... acres..	250 050	240 898	169 703	131 987	75 173	33 385	33 580	16 924
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> , \$1,000..	5 229 977	4 633 090	4 067 684	4 226 930	3 358 288	2 612 631	1 400 146	1 105 356
Average per farm ..... dollars..	90 303	73 801	57 693	54 767	40 715	29 718	13 797	10 227
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	3 246 617	2 698 335	2 127 135	2 439 409	1 926 051	1 574 830	597 363	491 192
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..	1 983 359	1 934 755	1 940 549	1 787 521	1 432 237	1 033 709	799 116	610 686
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 .....	13 022	11 189	12 433	13 717	12 675	18 215	34 937	38 834
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	5 710	6 848	8 072	8 731	10 123	10 572	15 446	16 882
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	6 579	8 053	9 515	10 161	12 405	13 701	15 745	18 495
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	8 757	10 642	12 820	13 878	16 670	19 718	23 144	26 370
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	6 057	7 296	8 682	9 671	11 738	39 875	34 144	33 370
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	5 728	6 694	8 031	9 228	10 338	34 144	34 144	33 370
\$100,000 to \$499,999 .....	10 079	10 750	10 126	11 016	8 141	5 354	1 110	458
\$500,000 or more .....	1 984	1 306	827	749	348	154	52	458
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	49 293	53 105	59 955	65 548	70 551	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership .....	5 235	6 721	7 469	8 905	9 855	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation .....	3 018	2 622	2 823	2 422	1 828	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....	370	330	259	305	249	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None .....	20 733	23 384	25 127	27 352	30 730	26 960	(NA)	(NA)
Any .....	33 959	35 397	40 682	44 050	47 970	44 590	63 315	57 812
200 days or more .....	24 216	25 237	28 153	30 319	33 500	31 559	41 412	36 322
Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :								
Farming .....	26 993	31 547	36 654	40 189	43 010	50 017	(NA)	(NA)
Other .....	30 923	31 231	33 852	36 991	39 473	36 881	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..	52.8	51.6	50.5	49.1	49.0	50.2	49.8	50.9
Total farm production expenses <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	4 011 772	3 645 379	3 178 679	(NA)	(NA)	1 730 678	1 045 691	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..	282 253	328 492	328 366	300 350	285 567	193 829	176 074	105 869
Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..	818 113	657 193	576 585	522 442	387 069	334 734	194 401	165 299
Commercial fertilizer <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	451 832	420 849	354 501	453 678	352 541	283 265	105 961	95 374
Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..	192 729	205 728	171 786	275 154	160 578	108 634	65 219	58 497
Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..	248 070	209 089	196 231	152 061	117 573	71 751	52 302	42 756
Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	272 608	290 504	306 836	426 334	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	291 799	247 300	183 674	173 999	115 557	68 177	28 581	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..	23 025	25 974	30 340	36 907	39 097	47 461	52 092	70 635
..... number..	976 701	1 113 473	1 236 480	1 437 618	1 547 083	1 826 638	1 828 590	2 053 417
Beef cows ..... farms..	15 164	16 783	19 150	23 206	25 000	29 994	(NA)	36 637
..... number..	277 797	293 836	315 784	377 741	424 078	546 270	433 884	431 182
Milk cows ..... farms..	3 216	3 958	5 204	6 795	7 590	10 100	13 049	25 720
..... number..	131 630	144 532	163 867	188 716	184 413	205 075	227 048	328 065
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..	21 585	24 215	28 905	33 780	37 374	43 519	49 271	63 287
..... number..	667 846	763 919	881 663	890 380	1 066 881	994 638	1 160 315	1 224 660
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..	6 442	11 987	14 834	17 654	22 141	23 988	34 899	48 177
..... number..	3 972 060	4 618 663	4 372 294	4 298 027	4 159 733	3 350 529	4 440 389	4 496 507
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..	6 623	12 559	15 458	18 271	22 849	25 946	36 699	48 295
..... number..	7 584 642	8 760 626	8 024 713	7 279 358	6 448 136	5 927 786	7 207 719	7 502 242
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms..	1 846	2 348	3 713	5 568	6 297	9 226	12 122	29 194
..... number..	22 731 425	22 256 785	26 787 315	22 065 167	18 748 739	16 199 315	14 940 111	14 163 752
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..	204	188	311	405	503	530	454	574
..... number..	10 391 178	21 081 124	22 306 685	12 583 016	13 253 804	8 469 794	9 000 149	20 971 062

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 . .	30 642	37 005	45 383	50 290	56 441	59 911	62 652	75 188
acres . .	5 473 792	5 828 308	4 884 114	5 975 300	6 062 791	5 068 354	4 377 162	4 293 022
bushels . .	652 547 322	805 637 216	619 045 978	712 234 375	626 525 204	371 396 556	429 568 854	308 633 586
Wheat for grain . . . . . farms . .	10 658	12 936	18 294	23 764	20 065	37 039	39 138	54 166
acres . .	545 027	542 058	590 920	892 929	581 847	1 178 919	830 299	1 374 140
bushels . .	29 209 090	25 048 728	30 789 151	37 007 361	22 175 789	44 246 255	32 160 538	46 237 941
Oats for grain . . . . . farms . .	1 739	2 905	4 982	6 250	7 112	(NA)	(NA)	25 493
acres . .	23 551	41 538	69 063	94 806	100 281	(NA)	(NA)	375 181
bushels . .	1 445 213	2 603 270	4 317 321	5 868 963	5 234 841	(NA)	(NA)	16 525 216
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms . .	28 056	33 568	40 068	42 516	46 423	51 625	53 482	59 060
acres . .	5 003 186	4 729 880	4 397 253	4 397 224	4 086 126	3 734 150	3 075 155	2 666 929
bushels . .	210 645 005	195 049 717	169 749 051	161 462 876	134 853 388	94 724 611	97 879 366	64 474 337
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) . . . . . farms . .	22 923	24 321	27 050	28 924	33 445	36 664	39 703	(NA)
acres . .	674 789	686 707	720 914	731 584	857 046	852 504	833 792	1 210 401
tons, dry . .	1 756 825	1 712 613	1 892 446	1 841 243	2 038 362	1 831 874	1 902 572	2 393 638

<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.