

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..	61 593	63 278	68 579	73 315	74 171	79 188	86 057	92 440
Land in farms acres..	46 089 268	46 672 188	46 628 519	47 052 213	47 499 831	47 945 722	49 390 369	50 271 117
Average size of farm acres..	748	738	680	642	640	605	574	544
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	430 533	343 312	278 047	384 197	322 165	179 454	91 131	66 397
Average per acre dollars..	577	463	413	601	498	296	159	122
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	4 560 051	3 713 712	3 447 663	3 830 616	3 137 696	2 109 529	1 008 608	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	74 047	58 812	50 411	52 304	42 385	28 069	12 124	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	2 223	2 632	3 689	3 547	3 186	2 797	3 460	2 366
10 to 49 acres	6 970	6 023	6 222	6 837	5 379	5 127	5 231	6 465
50 to 179 acres	15 118	14 221	15 510	16 720	16 971	18 974	19 025	20 796
180 to 499 acres	13 928	15 218	16 705	18 693	20 044	23 231	27 334	31 514
500 to 999 acres	9 687	10 817	12 093	13 600	14 871	16 047	18 394	19 664
1,000 to 1,999 acres	7 895	8 809	9 304	9 428	9 501	9 193	9 272	8 518
2,000 acres or more	5 772	5 558	5 056	4 490	4 219	3 819	3 341	3 117
Total cropland farms..	54 145	56 389	61 615	66 481	68 430	74 306	80 455	86 535
..... acres..	30 020 580	31 119 250	31 385 090	30 598 859	29 843 255	29 984 268	31 767 739	29 421 414
Harvested cropland farms..	48 280	52 348	57 822	62 860	64 862	70 573	76 110	84 171
..... acres..	19 839 087	18 794 787	17 729 394	20 186 974	18 987 644	19 870 535	17 649 231	18 160 353
Irrigated land farms..	6 135	6 543	7 352	7 257	7 961	6 710	6 271	5 102
..... acres..	2 707 489	2 680 343	2 463 073	2 675 167	2 685 757	2 010 385	1 522 317	1 004 210
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	9 207 130	8 315 965	6 476 669	6 190 861	4 995 543	3 682 044	1 818 018	1 174 563
Average per farm dollars..	149 483	131 420	94 441	84 442	67 352	46 497	21 125	12 706
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	3 221 766	2 270 577	1 693 609	2 143 047	1 440 843	1 794 548	579 188	448 267
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	5 985 364	6 045 388	4 783 060	4 047 815	3 554 701	1 886 980	1 238 363	725 635
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	10 968	8 387	9 502	9 637	7 967	10 897	18 268	23 670
\$2,500 to \$4,999	5 068	5 618	6 919	6 565	7 897	7 698	12 280	15 622
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6 767	7 808	9 430	9 183	10 944	11 067	16 699	21 421
\$10,000 to \$24,999	10 293	12 132	14 070	15 130	17 284	17 284	16 699	21 421
\$25,000 to \$49,999	7 757	9 387	10 282	11 827	13 426	43 422	37 115	30 962
\$50,000 to \$99,999	7 304	8 277	8 997	10 459	9 687	9 687	9 687	9 687
\$100,000 to \$499,999	11 433	10 174	8 422	9 584	6 324	5 659	1 534	748
\$500,000 or more	2 003	1 495	957	895	604	412	142	142
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	53 196	54 952	60 202	64 313	65 380	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	5 196	5 686	5 889	6 702	7 092	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	2 576	2 222	2 100	1 876	1 478	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	625	418	388	424	221	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	25 892	27 788	29 462	30 524	34 255	31 086	(NA)	(NA)
Any	31 891	30 776	34 654	35 521	36 256	29 601	43 708	40 865
200 days or more	21 507	19 757	21 677	21 306	20 390	16 970	21 147	18 086
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	34 979	39 324	42 607	47 293	49 104	57 633	(NA)	(NA)
Other	26 614	23 954	25 972	26 022	25 067	20 722	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	54.4	53.2	52.0	50.9	50.7	52.2	51.1	51.3
Total farm production expenses ⁵ \$1,000..	7 290 703	6 920 528	5 516 518	(NA)	(NA)	2 678 186	1 531 075	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	2 687 621	3 193 374	2 426 149	1 900 272	1 674 241	738 839	573 566	267 759
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	1 506 407	1 146 620	887 270	920 415	803 712	602 285	234 254	158 573
Commercial fertilizer ⁶ \$1,000..	373 353	280 102	216 166	254 590	252 403	205 830	72 564	44 808
Petroleum products \$1,000..	294 353	284 197	243 568	358 860	207 732	138 140	76 882	72 103
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	306 410	239 629	228 075	153 404	131 444	85 140	53 816	38 399
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	351 690	318 599	314 163	467 054	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁶ \$1,000..	224 156	161 750	125 003	94 957	68 543	43 071	16 856	(NA)
Livestock and poultry: Cattle and calves inventory	36 244	37 889	40 785	47 008	48 215	54 045	60 299	71 558
..... number..	6 506 089	6 066 493	5 539 292	5 800 138	5 930 018	5 590 628	5 753 261	5 149 607
Beef cows	29 446	30 308	31 475	36 497	37 856	43 545	(NA)	54 633
..... number..	1 466 429	1 434 017	1 354 649	1 523 697	1 579 322	1 890 367	1 696 614	1 598 226
Milk cows	1 466	2 165	3 093	4 631	5 691	7 823	12 563	25 990
..... number..	82 080	85 132	96 675	123 009	120 775	149 477	172 099	240 522
Cattle and calves sold farms..	36 207	37 893	41 498	47 032	49 162	54 803	61 404	70 334
..... number..	8 271 113	7 699 746	7 310 338	6 519 159	6 756 343	5 104 331	4 711 037	3 920 543
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	2 831	5 684	6 768	9 241	13 329	13 065	19 784	24 819
..... number..	1 585 224	1 584 048	1 516 878	1 708 770	2 014 541	1 520 269	1 638 904	1 264 346
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	2 873	6 089	7 090	9 778	13 794	14 558	21 071	25 088
..... number..	3 184 437	2 992 913	2 759 676	3 036 205	3 344 600	2 829 467	2 934 653	2 257 937
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	2 019	2 407	4 206	6 044	7 137	9 615	16 211	35 657
..... number..	1 805 127	1 926 383	2 094 610	2 093 245	2 796 152	2 728 432	3 889 910	5 068 037
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	93	80	132	210	220	270	194	10
..... number..	35 018	88 483	176 061	94 543	259 001	438 326	132 878	82 950

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 . .	10 833	9 604	8 944	8 346	10 618	13 300	17 131	23 570
acres . .	2 497 516	1 748 802	1 243 969	1 161 875	1 567 013	1 597 279	1 152 878	988 065
bushels . .	356 413 100	258 720 259	144 133 581	130 662 235	154 173 376	126 247 120	90 136 720	44 103 321
Sorghum for grain or seed farms . .	20 398	23 820	32 492	26 908	34 778	34 821	40 159	46 959
acres . .	3 077 984	2 957 276	3 399 564	3 187 148	3 664 560	3 238 489	3 167 318	2 878 091
bushels . .	231 561 211	222 145 624	228 045 100	192 400 229	176 218 600	132 210 153	178 300 694	92 530 503
Wheat for grain farms . .	30 392	36 623	38 638	49 231	46 131	55 895	62 204	71 703
acres . .	9 560 615	9 942 149	8 679 588	11 664 008	9 601 848	11 040 335	9 342 569	9 034 093
bushels . .	407 515 802	329 082 833	292 999 442	372 590 045	268 457 130	299 416 699	268 780 083	196 896 894
Oats for grain farms . .	2 603	4 659	5 313	6 644	4 666	(NA)	(NA)	16 744
acres . .	79 163	118 788	128 091	168 982	94 399	(NA)	(NA)	295 602
bushels . .	4 530 823	6 024 886	4 775 729	7 799 056	3 483 394	(NA)	(NA)	8 561 555
Soybeans for beans farms . .	14 733	14 743	18 864	17 116	16 254	14 236	15 068	16 909
acres . .	2 208 642	1 669 958	1 878 978	1 692 288	1 480 800	931 135	765 450	618 919
bushels . .	78 563 054	56 854 327	55 789 994	43 042 471	26 436 742	18 634 381	17 124 661	10 948 094
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . .	30 573	32 926	33 964	37 341	39 244	42 504	43 761	(NA)
acres . .	2 565 482	2 509 904	2 254 082	2 233 631	2 241 288	2 066 168	1 902 475	2 402 209
tons, dry . .	6 147 197	5 938 634	5 080 847	5 092 039	4 462 796	4 032 977	4 312 407	4 214 548

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.