

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..	82 273	90 281	92 453	101 642	102 263	102 053	125 069	133 038
Land in farms acres..	13 334 234	13 665 798	14 012 700	14 179 284	14 606 168	14 431 713	15 968 243	16 265 180
Average size of farm acres..	162	151	152	140	143	141	128	122
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	230 274	163 660	135 696	144 427	124 233	60 344	32 309	22 235
Average per acre dollars..	1 450	1 077	896	1 049	861	427	253	181
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ .. \$1,000..	2 741 593	2 244 930	2 091 558	2 233 182	1 889 439	1 102 882	583 339	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	33 327	24 918	22 670	22 001	18 516	12 156	5 141	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	7 114	10 402	10 648	13 248	11 576	9 360	13 914	14 785
10 to 49 acres	20 754	21 911	20 707	23 654	21 652	20 945	26 761	29 500
50 to 179 acres	33 992	36 515	38 261	41 739	44 837	48 047	58 425	62 824
180 to 499 acres	15 522	16 586	17 920	18 352	19 660	19 624	22 083	22 403
500 to 999 acres	3 399	3 468	3 618	3 527	3 564	3 171	3 142	2 866
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 104	1 066	1 052	904	799	747	630	551
2,000 acres or more	388	333	247	218	175	159	114	109
Total cropland farms..	77 784	86 345	88 664	98 331	99 347	99 168	119 145	130 723
..... acres..	8 549 027	8 880 989	8 900 086	8 960 250	9 297 858	8 803 159	9 443 454	9 364 094
Harvested cropland farms..	68 953	79 590	83 097	93 082	94 497	92 468	106 561	123 100
..... acres..	4 678 622	4 417 651	4 250 284	4 835 631	4 511 837	3 700 920	3 128 222	3 473 047
Irrigated land farms..	4 104	2 120	3 733	2 815	2 137	1 910	4 467	2 708
..... acres..	58 490	27 647	37 693	22 707	13 770	10 920	19 587	14 405
Market value of agricultural products sold ² \$1,000..	3 064 460	2 663 702	2 075 571	2 376 882	1 812 531	1 251 853	769 858	591 598
Average per farm dollars..	37 247	29 505	22 450	23 385	17 724	12 267	6 155	4 447
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	1 578 861	1 449 823	889 882	1 358 309	948 464	729 747	343 204	308 773
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	1 485 599	1 213 879	1 185 689	1 018 573	864 066	517 076	422 607	278 914
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	19 143	17 881	24 380	21 706	23 382	34 896	64 867	74 187
\$2,500 to \$4,999	12 566	14 745	16 421	17 829	19 406	19 060	22 499	26 342
\$5,000 to \$9,999	14 393	17 129	17 620	20 020	21 087	19 233	19 113	19 496
\$10,000 to \$24,999	17 388	20 354	18 078	21 479	21 283			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	8 339	9 623	7 880	10 421	9 681	27 378	18 177	12 804
\$50,000 to \$99,999	4 843	5 519	4 527	6 028	4 760			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	4 773	4 568	3 298	3 904	2 527	1 394	365	164
\$500,000 or more	828	462	249	236	103	53	18	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship)	71 307	76 712	78 463	85 808	87 330	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	9 353	12 135	12 717	14 660	13 939	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	1 266	1 064	817	761	725	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	347	370	456	413	269	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	28 911	32 526	32 743	33 928	37 008	32 940	(NA)	(NA)
Any	48 491	51 075	54 464	58 214	59 361	48 105	72 127	59 722
200 days or more	35 100	36 497	37 893	38 660	39 568	31 691	41 536	30 215
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	33 841	40 175	41 451	49 062	49 881	58 055	(NA)	(NA)
Other	48 432	50 106	51 002	52 580	52 382	43 510	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	54.0	53.2	52.2	50.5	50.5	52.2	52.0	51.9
Total farm production expenses ⁵ \$1,000..	2 033 070	1 828 743	1 485 994	(NA)	(NA)	775 176	522 884	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	236 935	240 512	209 357	210 696	158 605	94 465	91 022	44 591
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	341 123	246 108	179 713	183 477	165 546	138 264	82 575	65 895
Commercial fertilizer ⁵ \$1,000..	183 802	176 898	129 356	135 693	124 760	97 074	45 895	38 620
Petroleum products \$1,000..	105 514	105 188	86 777	134 504	80 659	49 167	34 015	27 954
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	209 578	202 545	158 130	166 518	113 750	61 756	54 626	39 869
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	179 810	173 887	179 409	228 462	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁵ \$1,000..	84 326	70 835	53 459	57 066	41 957	20 178	11 396	(NA)
Livestock and poultry: Cattle and calves inventory farms..	48 898	52 572	53 626	60 183	61 044	72 044	81 108	100 824
..... number..	2 428 891	2 503 680	2 343 541	2 524 964	2 449 404	3 033 010	2 591 935	2 340 752
Beef cows farms..	41 171	42 898	41 396	44 844	45 919	51 469	(NA)	55 812
..... number..	1 126 748	1 088 532	967 856	982 794	985 796	1 275 020	935 659	798 609
Milk cows farms..	3 393	4 984	7 002	10 817	13 226	18 586	27 758	58 689
..... number..	145 557	186 089	224 267	253 852	257 390	269 912	306 129	407 176
Cattle and calves sold farms..	47 355	50 174	52 210	55 973	59 668	66 819	75 961	88 207
..... number..	1 388 647	1 277 661	1 305 423	1 221 268	1 463 069	1 215 692	1 422 274	1 248 435
Hogs and pigs inventory ... farms..	1 881	4 879	8 242	11 436	18 997	20 242	29 119	47 970
..... number..	563 797	782 408	838 452	869 727	1 150 035	898 166	1 251 302	1 098 003
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	1 523	4 345	7 602	9 869	16 932	16 763	25 387	30 094
..... number..	1 100 523	1 464 686	1 497 306	1 390 528	1 765 739	1 557 385	2 074 441	1 770 276
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	1 991	3 126	5 989	10 032	11 796	17 233	23 534	63 962
..... number..	3 500 904	2 637 061	2 103 650	2 203 233	2 710 980	2 809 549	3 207 975	3 787 180
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	243	110	73	99	117	188	181	370
..... number..	91 548 829	27 623 677	2 201 169	2 410 306	2 858 936	4 729 589	5 040 981	11 001 722

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..	11 021	16 945	25 067	31 301	34 612	39 495	36 505	60 203
acres..	1 086 381	1 166 234	1 048 809	1 342 981	1 334 024	975 401	864 818	980 843
bushels..	110 787 023	145 213 536	104 364 883	131 668 799	110 068 935	78 231 852	64 364 866	54 268 581
Wheat for grain farms..	3 180	3 881	5 361	7 887	4 578	8 702	6 878	7 701
acres..	408 771	326 268	283 742	527 423	168 799	331 421	156 645	152 972
bushels..	21 658 648	16 252 236	12 752 191	19 653 581	5 994 647	10 460 083	5 271 900	4 908 327
Soybeans for beans farms..	6 644	7 185	8 765	12 628	12 265	11 032	6 395	4 643
acres..	1 214 938	1 030 180	1 021 903	1 462 360	1 235 201	874 551	391 458	236 135
bushels..	41 294 246	37 796 827	27 138 451	44 292 449	35 761 994	21 566 582	10 613 777	5 165 781
Tobacco farms..	44 967	59 373	61 962	74 166	73 932	71 037	91 472	95 802
acres..	255 053	268 140	175 957	256 619	210 327	179 075	162 323	210 379
pounds..	505 257 589	542 000 404	336 364 307	538 759 894	448 196 163	388 147 707	375 548 718	396 114 908
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms..	46 388	47 478	51 362	49 641	54 131	54 601	55 439	(NA)
acres..	2 009 061	1 837 802	1 796 635	1 466 050	1 511 427	1 308 729	1 280 296	1 556 114
tons, dry..	4 138 965	3 757 782	3 291 951	2 787 331	2 731 736	2 421 976	2 250 232	2 355 161

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.