

**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..	23 823	25 652	27 350	31 628	31 370	33 240	42 269	62 466
Land in farms ..... acres..	7 876 528	7 837 545	8 007 173	8 928 827	9 295 029	9 133 275	9 788 662	10 411 045
Average size of farm ..... acres..	331	306	293	282	296	275	232	167
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm ..... dollars..	380 871	291 332	268 630	381 817	290 454	140 754	74 414	38 636
Average per acre ..... dollars..	1 206	972	940	1 351	981	512	321	233
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	1 414 014	1 186 601	1 046 373	1 373 382	1 195 087	713 650	429 634	(NA)
Average per farm ..... dollars..	59 330	46 299	38 323	43 528	38 217	23 037	10 757	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres .....	1 650	1 934	2 066	2 461	1 698	1 709	2 033	4 806
10 to 49 acres .....	6 485	6 895	7 799	9 411	8 416	9 233	13 610	27 083
50 to 179 acres .....	7 429	7 891	8 248	9 565	10 322	11 849	14 837	19 592
180 to 499 acres .....	4 128	4 553	4 811	5 632	6 163	6 216	7 359	7 053
500 to 999 acres .....	2 029	2 471	2 602	2 617	2 798	2 397	2 709	2 275
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	1 388	1 345	1 279	1 343	1 383	1 242	1 185	1 059
2,000 acres or more .....	714	563	545	599	590	594	536	598
Total cropland ..... farms..	19 333	21 777	23 273	27 424	28 351	30 067	37 921	50 000
Harvested cropland ..... acres..	5 331 411	5 552 733	5 562 736	6 093 474	6 343 637	5 590 488	5 842 350	4 864 431
Irrigated land ..... farms..	15 115	17 171	18 644	21 991	23 528	23 525	29 210	41 419
Harvested cropland ..... acres..	3 882 648	3 810 690	3 599 678	4 699 323	4 838 520	3 628 199	3 443 108	2 672 631
Irrigated land ..... farms..	3 400	4 064	3 929	3 693	3 799	3 777	4 611	4 844
Irrigated land ..... acres..	942 528	897 641	646 677	693 698	681 056	701 587	701 692	580 687
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> , \$1,000..	2 031 277	1 607 511	1 340 162	1 406 458	1 211 920	1 193 722	496 406	406 794
Average per farm ..... dollars..	85 265	62 666	49 000	44 469	38 633	35 912	11 473	6 512
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	1 411 472	1 111 346	929 858	994 976	839 265	927 246	295 920	278 915
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..	619 805	496 165	410 304	411 482	372 655	260 305	197 018	124 005
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 .....	7 755	8 008	9 283	12 209	10 208	15 382	23 077	42 776
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	3 389	3 664	4 021	4 384	4 785	3 359	5 074	6 168
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	3 097	3 407	3 448	3 515	3 884	2 932	4 170	4 403
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	2 825	3 149	3 050	3 112	3 742			
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	1 358	1 593	1 776	2 043	2 672	8 492	9 220	8 649
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	1 207	1 670	2 063	2 387	2 670			
\$100,000 to \$499,999 .....	3 126	3 545	3 323	3 582	3 138	2 755	662	438
\$500,000 or more .....	1 066	616	386	356	224	280	32	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	20 633	22 310	24 322	28 255	27 813	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership .....	1 850	2 032	1 926	2 402	2 643	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation .....	1 164	1 105	905	724	748	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....	176	205	197	247	166	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None .....	8 851	10 555	11 078	10 888	12 434	11 283	(NA)	(NA)
Any .....	13 128	13 024	14 388	17 721	17 290	15 564	23 387	30 911
200 days or more .....	8 550	8 594	9 202	11 312	11 281	10 129	13 941	20 254
Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :								
Farming .....	11 281	12 931	13 496	14 629	15 283	17 967	(NA)	(NA)
Other .....	12 542	12 721	13 854	16 999	16 087	14 703	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..	53.7	53.5	52.0	50.5	50.4	51.7	51.4	52.1
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	1 466 483	1 309 012	1 022 931	(NA)	(NA)	738 916	422 827	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..	73 786	63 257	55 167	64 469	57 480	47 653	35 994	18 182
Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..	247 019	171 376	135 012	169 501	140 153	116 567	68 723	53 406
Commercial fertilizer <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	128 104	121 097	86 079	95 050	81 354	71 007	32 799	23 793
Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..	85 572	91 578	74 326	122 494	77 103	46 347	30 745	24 678
Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..	163 558	146 667	121 984	107 345	101 312	79 639	59 485	46 237
Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	75 495	70 931	72 918	133 823	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	173 185	170 327	112 347	117 109	76 231	47 717	22 500	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..	14 589	15 036	16 033	20 049	19 532	23 482	29 647	52 147
number.....	877 124	844 260	813 295	1 003 833	1 052 216	1 515 509	1 417 300	1 866 859
Beef cows ..... farms..	12 669	13 112	13 551	16 936	16 869	17 801	(NA)	39 834
number.....	490 437	441 725	422 604	480 918	523 342	746 592	680 192	957 241
Milk cows ..... farms..	982	1 279	1 581	2 652	3 134	5 181	9 029	24 332
number.....	64 888	78 976	83 381	100 159	112 316	125 302	138 333	187 102
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..	13 953	14 131	15 248	17 994	18 823	22 077	25 802	36 164
number.....	418 642	375 903	402 235	434 781	539 157	583 538	681 745	646 875
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..	633	844	1 262	2 188	3 047	3 335	6 908	17 810
number.....	20 338	37 519	51 857	55 657	73 475	72 365	122 438	180 667
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..	373	534	807	1 259	1 877	1 591	3 768	4 782
number.....	28 527	57 244	72 940	71 260	92 607	108 316	155 970	160 426
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms..	860	1 344	2 382	3 891	4 429	5 856	10 268	32 694
number.....	2 354 044	2 111 789	1 504 057	2 679 741	3 875 182	3 657 907	4 476 114	3 865 939
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..	319	313	312	379	336	352	353	410
number.....	123 132 021	115 258 369	96 147 369	91 851 892	62 414 721	44 248 794	37 836 499	27 980 166

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 . . .	1 462	1 452	1 663	1 506	2 376	3 920	7 611	18 704
acres . . .	411 072	269 642	189 772	33 792	34 668	43 937	111 390	189 483
bushels . . .	47 951 435	31 066 973	19 097 307	2 769 934	1 991 356	2 069 625	4 077 434	5 832 915
Wheat for grain . . . . . farms . . .	528	682	1 067	1 962	132	170	334	845
acres . . .	98 911	119 304	151 251	379 289	13 030	15 092	23 878	62 628
bushels . . .	3 755 759	4 432 764	4 654 627	13 515 660	400 487	372 834	564 412	1 568 876
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms . . .	3 511	3 903	5 017	8 047	9 777	7 180	8 224	5 075
acres . . .	1 260 523	1 112 815	1 540 372	2 638 249	2 969 049	1 608 070	1 490 089	446 728
bushels . . .	36 152 458	33 360 521	40 524 474	67 702 197	74 258 151	42 871 889	30 337 683	8 942 449
Rice . . . . . farms . . .	1 736	2 197	2 273	2 508	2 690	(NA)	(NA)	3 290
acres . . .	579 299	589 752	417 411	572 919	599 432	(NA)	(NA)	513 571
cwt . . .	26 474 660	26 906 404	17 970 394	23 487 541	22 442 049	(NA)	(NA)	17 550 800
Cotton . . . . . farms . . .	1 586	2 599	2 675	2 371	2 531	4 486	10 281	16 184
acres . . .	647 257	827 792	590 257	562 581	510 107	584 816	453 805	511 219
bales . . .	970 097	1 219 599	921 867	788 360	470 675	519 427	516 087	570 640
Sugarcane for sugar . . . . . farms . . .	705	755	687	709	1 013	(NA)	(NA)	1 939
acres . . .	395 588	356 349	264 466	251 237	297 361	(NA)	(NA)	318 177
tons . . .	12 187 651	9 131 174	6 877 798	7 572 128	6 808 988	(NA)	(NA)	7 404 472

<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.