

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..	73 367	75 079	85 079	94 382	98 671	98 537	110 747	131 163
Land in farms acres..	25 994 621	25 666 944	26 573 819	27 708 456	28 459 790	27 605 228	28 785 240	30 804 980
Average size of farm acres..	354	342	312	294	288	280	260	235
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	407 863	310 612	218 808	342 593	261 096	120 311	58 714	39 075
Average per acre dollars..	1 164	910	700	1 165	898	429	226	166
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	6 208 376	5 239 930	4 736 828	5 719 009	4 578 958	2 772 939	1 346 881	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	84 613	69 859	55 741	60 671	46 432	29 042	12 349	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	3 090	3 517	4 613	4 547	3 472	2 652	2 983	2 433
10 to 49 acres	10 104	8 927	9 481	10 461	8 775	6 846	6 459	8 237
50 to 179 acres	21 535	20 967	24 947	29 258	32 267	34 443	40 973	52 544
180 to 499 acres	23 365	26 395	30 963	35 897	40 461	42 356	49 482	58 948
500 to 999 acres	9 781	10 497	10 814	10 602	10 593	9 637	8 915	7 737
1,000 to 1,999 acres	4 251	3 913	3 619	2 935	2 529	2 160	1 630	1 084
2,000 acres or more	1 241	863	642	682	574	443	305	180
Total cropland farms..	67 545	69 866	79 461	88 399	94 255	95 160	106 665	127 259
..... acres..	21 491 743	21 387 063	21 876 066	22 189 292	22 577 389	21 320 870	22 260 500	22 243 431
Harvested cropland farms..	60 726	66 549	76 537	85 948	92 257	92 776	102 876	124 424
..... acres..	18 968 607	18 201 061	16 635 264	19 722 645	19 122 640	17 896 490	15 649 057	17 514 799
Irrigated land farms..	2 193	2 368	2 425	2 172	2 031	853	575	470
..... acres..	380 394	370 404	353 504	315 376	271 704	77 823	36 365	17 510
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	8 290 264	6 477 004	5 676 376	5 939 629	4 523 148	3 469 923	1 747 892	1 375 606
Average per farm dollars..	112 997	86 269	66 719	62 932	45 841	35 214	15 782	10 488
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	4 200 970	3 054 747	2 500 827	2 671 482	2 075 014	1 757 546	558 568	468 725
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	4 089 293	3 422 257	3 175 549	3 268 146	2 448 134	1 710 584	1 187 951	903 763
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	14 647	9 725	11 915	11 987	11 852	13 625	22 556	30 064
\$2,500 to \$4,999	5 260	5 387	6 509	6 764	8 209	7 564	13 282	20 968
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6 179	7 028	8 293	8 655	10 827	12 068	20 976	33 872
\$10,000 to \$24,999	9 207	11 187	13 588	15 430	19 619			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	8 033	10 168	12 983	16 203	20 122	59 098	52 676	45 695
\$50,000 to \$99,999	9 402	12 482	15 385	18 286	18 069			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	17 885	17 774	15 546	16 262	9 543	5 921	1 182	537
\$500,000 or more	2 754	1 328	860	785	412	239	47	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	64 428	66 068	75 105	83 010	87 652	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	6 174	6 800	7 952	9 530	9 458	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	2 442	1 982	1 755	1 582	1 396	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	323	229	267	260	165	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	30 237	35 995	40 625	44 804	49 144	43 722	(NA)	(NA)
Any	37 550	33 932	39 567	40 289	43 387	32 600	49 805	48 383
200 days or more	23 115	19 826	22 006	21 334	22 745	17 183	22 503	17 867
Operators by principal occupation ⁵ :								
Farming	44 047	51 021	58 519	67 742	71 086	77 635	(NA)	(NA)
Other	29 320	24 058	26 560	26 640	27 585	20 058	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	51.2	49.6	48.5	47.2	47.7	49.8	49.2	48.9
Total farm production expenses ¹ , \$1,000..	6 362 110	5 244 708	4 427 445	(NA)	(NA)	2 365 111	1 368 547	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	639 336	607 096	541 852	557 597	478 298	316 383	237 344	148 861
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	1 301 623	919 271	747 728	711 701	496 206	415 271	234 705	207 382
Commercial fertilizer ⁶ \$1,000..	491 584	405 097	328 661	374 854	317 597	256 096	84 911	54 868
Petroleum products \$1,000..	306 292	298 913	249 831	424 167	219 952	150 199	91 008	87 998
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	334 790	261 649	244 055	207 615	158 571	90 350	60 020	43 872
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	499 899	449 417	446 200	712 786	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁶ \$1,000..	406 227	301 155	218 630	224 044	123 394	73 083	28 385	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	30 913	34 501	40 222	51 589	54 088	61 811	71 366	100 386
..... number..	2 395 456	2 543 373	2 700 095	3 377 956	3 271 602	3 665 505	3 632 990	4 281 480
Beef cows farms..	15 745	15 101	15 528	20 435	21 997	26 342	(NA)	28 170
..... number..	409 184	381 869	360 153	467 732	490 976	657 260	513 923	411 090
Milk cows farms..	9 603	13 380	17 454	24 178	25 911	32 227	42 442	70 303
..... number..	541 650	609 034	709 832	839 302	766 494	827 699	894 405	1 236 983
Cattle and calves sold farms..	30 320	33 852	39 972	50 186	53 369	60 460	72 157	97 980
..... number..	1 339 902	1 388 581	1 474 577	1 759 452	1 850 780	1 804 408	2 099 605	2 205 472
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	7 512	13 125	16 042	20 813	25 703	27 538	37 495	55 455
..... number..	5 722 460	4 668 590	4 236 500	4 473 181	4 089 987	2 991 801	3 295 731	3 396 494
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	7 717	13 749	16 652	21 802	26 253	29 584	39 058	54 549
..... number..	12 943 053	9 141 699	8 073 029	8 007 312	6 624 072	5 398 595	5 488 114	5 810 108
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	1 964	2 310	4 003	6 468	8 555	12 507	19 565	47 904
..... number..	13 047 875	14 324 989	12 124 965	12 928 376	11 697 301	9 751 990	11 110 929	14 648 678
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	621	1 000	1 000	1 411	1 485	1 516	669	163
..... number..	28 456 532	36 828 542	27 356 247	22 556 750	11 253 054	6 057 267	8 917 267	8 320 064

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:								
Corn for grain or seed farms . .	37 630	42 961	51 355	57 612	62 696	60 791	66 738	83 677
acres . .	6 227 640	6 123 731	4 756 348	5 904 579	5 777 316	5 122 623	3 830 004	4 365 263
bushels . .	783 739 207	669 550 546	567 384 166	610 113 278	569 665 483	320 003 959	329 550 806	248 509 144
Wheat for grain farms . .	9 518	12 753	20 238	21 070	23 577	27 264	24 927	30 204
acres . .	2 391 598	2 609 161	2 444 294	2 972 376	2 479 152	2 586 938	829 809	939 410
bushels . .	74 531 074	126 255 763	97 967 169	111 500 972	80 968 259	74 728 537	24 770 473	21 133 273
Oats for grain farms . .	10 122	16 658	25 984	38 907	47 103	(NA)	(NA)	87 757
acres . .	296 188	465 846	730 864	1 290 191	1 665 246	(NA)	(NA)	3 043 468
bushels . .	16 179 495	29 142 473	39 554 088	78 684 380	89 529 688	(NA)	(NA)	135 362 127
Soybeans for beans farms . .	31 292	33 581	36 348	38 867	39 129	41 009	43 372	58 785
acres . .	6 174 563	5 078 066	4 384 981	4 501 543	3 730 704	3 323 124	2 664 288	2 780 559
bushels . .	233 714 926	162 137 215	166 025 760	151 240 357	122 566 278	73 735 439	65 148 454	55 052 307
Sunflower seed farms . .	588	1 131	683	2 747	3 020	(NA)	(NA)	268
acres . .	99 245	202 025	82 278	467 408	598 062	(NA)	(NA)	15 377
pounds . .	106 405 806	278 550 934	117 623 254	516 667 385	845 914 201	(NA)	(NA)	10 522 288
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . .	35 500	38 336	46 531	53 227	59 708	64 244	73 134	(NA)
acres . .	2 168 932	2 098 145	2 418 800	2 504 795	2 712 400	2 772 029	2 726 569	3 540 771
tons, dry . .	5 033 905	5 082 391	5 920 884	6 623 748	7 292 173	6 512 436	6 907 951	6 856 348

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.