

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..	31 318	31 998	34 074	42 415	44 104	53 620	72 577	109 141
Land in farms acres..	10 124 822	10 188 362	10 746 190	12 421 651	13 210 879	14 300 498	16 039 665	17 751 607
Average size of farm acres..	323	318	315	293	300	267	221	163
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	337 081	248 479	215 209	257 819	200 646	101 102	51 611	24 322
Average per acre dollars..	1 052	777	697	894	673	379	234	150
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	1 621 991	1 294 742	1 187 399	1 485 514	1 318 947	876 988	540 376	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	51 801	40 616	34 900	35 083	29 953	17 432	8 053	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	1 108	1 122	1 387	1 627	1 396	1 699	2 842	6 689
10 to 49 acres	5 863	5 796	6 240	8 674	7 918	10 351	17 060	38 623
50 to 179 acres	12 443	12 797	13 506	17 342	18 644	24 116	32 330	42 646
180 to 499 acres	7 356	7 606	7 789	9 031	10 042	11 253	13 814	14 668
500 to 999 acres	2 415	2 524	2 884	3 100	3 354	3 393	3 773	3 867
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 284	1 365	1 445	1 739	1 785	1 870	1 864	1 770
2,000 acres or more	849	788	823	902	965	938	894	878
Total cropland farms..	25 289	27 625	29 785	37 476	40 373	49 530	66 853	96 998
Harvested cropland farms..	5 947 311	6 518 288	6 747 639	7 745 113	8 119 065	8 039 574	8 189 006	6 565 301
..... acres..	19 198	22 245	24 305	31 122	34 189	40 007	53 266	88 229
Irrigated land farms..	1 769	2 127	2 012	1 462	1 139	673	987	857
..... acres..	1 076 231	882 976	636 842	430 901	308 694	161 611	149 920	123 398
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	3 127 383	2 336 737	1 862 903	1 918 486	1 663 830	1 229 033	685 178	724 031
Average per farm dollars..	99 859	73 028	54 672	45 231	37 725	22 921	9 440	6 634
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	1 291 365	1 146 450	913 913	1 122 471	947 397	716 676	306 758	469 277
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	1 836 018	1 190 287	948 989	796 015	716 433	496 986	369 687	247 345
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	11 511	9 860	11 109	16 384	15 578	28 619	46 590	73 083
\$2,500 to \$4,999	4 954	5 417	5 985	6 911	7 748	6 527	8 922	16 336
\$5,000 to \$9,999	4 387	5 049	5 012	5 445	6 310	5 278	5 935	8 468
\$10,000 to \$24,999	3 666	4 119	4 070	4 377	4 973			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	1 265	1 681	1 771	2 308	2 661	10 138	9 965	10 014
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1 014	1 248	1 710	2 148	2 499			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	2 613	3 489	3 723	4 185	3 892	2 811	1 091	1 213
\$500,000 or more	1 908	1 135	694	635	416	215	46	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	27 452	28 263	30 326	38 255	39 516	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	2 753	2 754	2 770	3 046	3 522	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	917	850	823	886	922	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	196	131	155	228	144	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	11 554	12 246	12 581	14 255	15 823	17 272	(NA)	(NA)
Any	17 989	17 241	19 421	24 263	25 855	26 923	41 342	52 060
200 days or more	13 004	12 119	13 518	16 747	17 739	18 263	24 132	28 998
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	12 753	14 463	15 111	18 236	19 523	26 681	(NA)	(NA)
Other	18 565	17 535	18 963	24 179	24 581	26 347	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	55.6	55.3	53.8	52.5	51.8	53.6	54.1	52.8
Total farm production expenses ⁵ \$1,000..	2 458 575	1 954 337	1 465 201	(NA)	(NA)	1 031 529	650 977	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	229 688	170 363	138 882	134 197	112 632	91 230	73 222	42 947
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	845 628	458 354	328 167	288 860	302 415	255 841	144 482	115 176
Commercial fertilizer ⁶ \$1,000..	114 194	124 296	90 795	114 525	99 915	84 572	44 746	41 119
Petroleum products \$1,000..	100 997	101 058	86 016	142 899	90 845	59 344	41 320	36 105
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	169 897	168 464	142 341	137 400	129 264	91 583	79 064	62 638
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	108 338	97 991	90 636	163 851	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁶ \$1,000..	199 962	216 262	130 399	140 183	112 975	75 877	40 684	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	19 319	21 070	22 482	29 407	30 446	40 583	50 796	83 415
..... number..	1 127 442	1 152 331	1 147 219	1 488 148	1 543 877	2 270 177	1 940 930	2 350 984
Beef cows farms..	17 151	18 855	19 008	25 227	26 659	30 302	(NA)	58 868
..... number..	590 402	588 920	579 312	713 119	791 234	1 151 003	904 274	1 085 634
Milk cows farms..	688	1 216	1 843	3 082	3 929	7 046	13 397	37 567
..... number..	45 540	64 510	71 834	96 224	94 891	110 780	159 231	247 636
Cattle and calves sold farms..	18 912	20 282	22 087	27 466	29 677	37 610	44 693	59 774
..... number..	590 771	580 526	638 685	704 606	854 318	860 921	969 088	864 142
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	662	1 270	2 237	4 081	6 389	9 023	17 002	43 070
..... number..	215 936	160 917	179 063	223 274	280 950	239 438	384 013	381 067
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	425	934	1 622	2 547	4 423	4 628	10 033	12 031
..... number..	756 595	278 764	284 630	356 868	389 729	378 061	536 222	380 699
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	941	1 453	2 550	4 631	5 796	9 828	16 399	55 407
..... number..	6 537 982	6 841 469	7 027 574	6 841 117	8 475 971	11 740 676	12 724 885	10 813 781
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	1 393	1 211	1 129	1 212	1 404	1 519	1 469	1 677
..... number..	554 915 961	388 128 497	276 652 292	247 236 533	223 309 303	178 822 643	176 261 498	150 857 318

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 . .	2 497	3 377	4 020	5 510	8 345	13 179	22 421	55 562
acres . .	405 393	269 080	120 361	80 914	107 669	132 033	250 984	599 004
bushels . .	43 851 007	23 869 788	9 369 093	4 757 736	4 935 672	5 170 773	7 943 014	21 917 696
Wheat for grain farms . .	697	1 064	1 991	4 297	593	1 047	1 029	1 882
acres . .	155 049	180 840	283 477	809 015	54 242	104 818	73 598	138 778
bushels . .	6 547 211	6 749 633	9 674 702	29 185 697	1 853 571	2 630 717	1 978 135	3 990 095
Soybeans for beans farms . .	3 851	4 644	6 475	11 131	13 018	11 161	12 580	8 690
acres . .	1 964 202	1 652 840	2 006 263	3 459 091	3 628 845	2 075 772	2 428 685	1 231 977
bushels . .	59 370 926	53 569 740	41 329 519	81 944 364	73 505 537	40 921 774	48 247 190	22 785 466
Rice farms . .	530	748	803	714	579	(NA)	(NA)	214
acres . .	234 244	270 497	195 505	240 303	215 892	(NA)	(NA)	50 597
cwt . .	13 330 366	15 630 876	10 466 632	10 106 176	9 161 237	(NA)	(NA)	1 922 850
Cotton farms . .	1 701	3 344	4 225	3 710	4 860	11 277	28 584	50 796
acres . .	966 443	1 332 855	1 028 249	978 496	1 193 677	1 695 728	1 222 017	1 447 831
bales . .	1 714 762	2 075 048	1 654 648	1 641 939	1 338 394	1 587 075	1 383 067	2 181 773
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . .	13 999	15 121	15 501	18 257	19 468	21 346	21 882	(NA)
acres . .	648 809	639 152	585 346	607 011	592 152	566 258	510 196	628 794
tons, dry . .	1 486 117	1 317 502	1 092 059	1 148 110	960 499	967 863	816 065	937 923
Land in orchards farms . .	902	1 196	1 326	1 548	1 618	1 528	2 705	6 415
acres . .	13 428	17 817	17 982	18 413	18 677	21 677	43 094	85 165

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.