

**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..	51 454	52 923	60 502	60 243	63 768	67 597	72 257	80 163
Land in farms ..... acres..	45 525 414	44 393 129	45 305 441	44 961 371	46 113 973	46 172 012	45 833 953	47 792 663
Average size of farm ..... acres..	885	839	749	746	723	683	634	596
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm ..... dollars..	567 468	429 188	344 253	532 741	382 902	192 574	97 931	65 268
Average per acre ..... dollars..	645	514	457	701	523	282	154	109
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	4 348 888	3 651 286	3 549 159	4 088 785	3 461 586	2 018 175	928 666	(NA)
Average per farm ..... dollars..	84 535	69 120	58 799	68 007	54 354	31 084	13 210	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres .....	2 591	3 698	5 090	4 162	3 832	3 350	3 968	2 441
10 to 49 acres .....	4 733	4 302	4 296	4 062	3 592	3 384	3 113	3 911
50 to 179 acres .....	9 764	9 408	11 166	11 100	12 042	13 720	14 468	17 124
180 to 499 acres .....	12 648	14 003	17 320	19 128	22 010	25 117	29 380	35 812
500 to 999 acres .....	10 338	10 966	12 153	11 847	12 369	12 586	12 324	12 198
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	6 717	6 283	6 494	6 036	6 050	5 721	5 495	5 248
2,000 acres or more .....	4 663	4 263	3 983	3 908	3 873	3 719	3 509	3 429
Total cropland ..... farms..	45 191	46 348	53 500	54 475	58 594	63 040	67 197	75 386
..... acres..	22 092 954	22 402 132	23 320 162	22 434 059	22 274 197	22 212 756	22 222 858	22 099 510
Harvested cropland ..... farms..	41 652	43 879	51 175	52 497	56 644	60 660	64 669	73 758
..... acres..	17 551 212	16 146 818	15 276 151	17 075 625	16 371 595	16 309 434	14 022 810	15 229 112
Irrigated land ..... farms..	18 804	19 328	22 596	22 190	23 862	20 331	19 440	18 833
..... acres..	6 939 036	6 311 633	5 681 835	6 039 292	5 682 931	3 966 930	2 857 247	2 169 317
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> ..... \$1,000..	9 831 519	8 209 691	6 667 132	6 625 742	5 149 297	3 732 982	2 147 860	1 334 395
Average per farm ..... dollars..	191 074	155 125	110 197	109 984	80 750	55 224	29 725	16 646
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops ... \$1,000..	3 798 462	2 651 484	2 139 116	2 379 811	1 718 714	1 565 899	536 263	371 444
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..	6 033 057	5 558 208	4 528 016	4 245 931	3 430 583	2 166 946	1 611 460	962 659
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 .....	5 658	3 966	4 694	3 839	3 431	5 459	9 229	12 029
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	2 394	2 664	3 405	2 963	3 550	4 084	6 733	11 322
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	3 497	4 021	5 515	4 615	5 985	7 531	12 114	20 130
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	6 733	8 445	10 923	10 096	13 108	14 452	41 649	35 629
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	6 962	8 362	10 681	11 517	14 083	43 452	41 649	35 629
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	8 005	9 274	11 305	12 508	13 243	6 589	2 271	1 034
\$100,000 to \$499,999 .....	15 703	14 423	12 700	13 370	9 555	453	243	
\$500,000 or more .....	2 502	1 768	1 279	1 301	769			
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	42 313	44 577	51 749	51 323	54 968	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership .....	4 505	4 604	5 212	5 608	6 280	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation .....	4 249	3 430	3 209	3 013	2 330	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....	387	312	332	299	190	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None .....	25 017	27 573	31 491	30 786	35 246	30 560	(NA)	(NA)
Any .....	22 073	20 920	24 403	21 933	23 660	17 251	27 970	26 182
200 days or more .....	13 129	11 927	13 099	10 764	10 531	7 825	10 307	7 588
Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :								
Farming .....	35 742	39 123	45 387	47 549	51 036	56 484	(NA)	(NA)
Other .....	15 712	13 800	15 115	12 694	12 732	9 780	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..	52.5	50.7	49.4	48.5	48.7	50.3	49.3	49.2
Total farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> ..... \$1,000..	7 596 196	6 711 544	5 409 171	(NA)	(NA)	2 845 563	1 759 085	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..	2 405 077	2 502 060	1 904 830	1 760 168	1 500 993	867 435	707 413	372 005
Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..	1 408 802	1 086 234	801 077	843 922	654 728	598 585	308 620	229 791
Commercial fertilizer <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	435 501	344 363	269 359	325 124	267 026	207 795	174 977	46 007
Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..	320 080	288 400	267 854	386 465	222 248	144 214	77 025	70 935
Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..	300 578	254 132	261 094	167 515	129 597	77 077	51 357	37 051
Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	413 076	380 597	368 642	613 708	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	274 565	202 392	154 483	141 128	88 096	52 518	20 923	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..	29 298	30 421	34 701	39 555	42 724	48 818	54 119	66 439
..... number..	6 732 637	5 952 880	5 838 806	6 530 561	6 412 288	6 214 596	6 131 577	5 986 516
Beef cows ..... farms..	23 881	24 270	26 452	30 068	32 557	37 761	(NA)	46 785
..... number..	1 966 105	1 857 347	1 823 591	2 023 618	1 994 191	2 202 496	1 864 064	1 779 653
Milk cows ..... farms..	1 352	2 122	3 339	4 686	5 827	8 292	13 595	29 119
..... number..	68 216	83 295	105 168	117 536	119 068	145 322	158 008	250 068
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..	29 505	30 696	35 491	39 796	43 617	49 854	55 836	66 580
..... number..	7 143 061	6 238 779	5 888 192	6 010 865	5 988 506	5 202 122	5 487 907	4 407 641
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..	6 017	10 826	13 363	15 998	20 532	21 301	29 029	38 978
..... number..	3 452 386	4 187 389	3 944 227	3 963 364	3 723 774	2 740 440	2 914 892	2 981 584
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..	6 296	11 559	14 162	17 132	21 601	23 904	31 157	40 163
..... number..	7 602 587	8 405 466	7 442 810	7 064 612	6 086 452	4 992 209	4 788 158	4 399 002
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms..	1 506	1 993	4 225	5 791	7 788	11 370	19 267	42 393
..... number..	10 469 041	(D)	3 621 152	3 604 279	3 154 767	3 660 561	3 967 498	7 439 522
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..	225	289	524	526	575	634	391	23
..... number..	725 964	1 887 881	910 980	104 105	120 813	112 994	100 140	218 500

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..	29 149	29 679	34 717	34 573	39 326	40 830	44 338	50 587
acres..	8 279 499	7 235 528	6 090 669	6 519 250	6 662 003	5 591 301	4 391 430	3 714 602
bushels..	1 055 193 186	930 758 282	749 231 198	676 484 963	707 687 558	388 143 255	402 649 339	198 724 660
Sorghum for grain or seed . . . . . farms..	5 965	10 513	12 576	15 106	17 976	18 605	22 170	33 224
acres..	720 276	1 412 747	1 300 713	1 657 237	1 802 168	1 765 336	1 461 287	1 944 935
bushels..	56 264 473	122 513 083	101 004 096	116 927 367	127 136 420	59 786 998	105 715 328	88 646 962
Wheat for grain . . . . . farms..	9 826	12 671	18 124	20 182	21 787	28 035	30 859	39 713
acres..	1 772 069	1 800 432	1 962 051	2 585 111	2 393 999	2 823 818	2 455 084	2 728 595
bushels..	61 578 806	53 512 448	76 826 252	87 959 769	72 979 509	90 599 286	71 832 470	64 622 780
Oats for grain . . . . . farms..	2 612	5 234	8 165	10 852	10 452	(NA)	(NA)	20 121
acres..	86 955	176 148	280 502	396 520	372 661	(NA)	(NA)	608 123
bushels..	5 113 274	11 341 781	13 643 509	22 158 999	17 070 757	(NA)	(NA)	16 950 743
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms..	21 072	20 687	25 598	21 487	16 662	17 691	17 300	17 300
acres..	3 346 701	2 274 494	2 291 803	2 105 816	1 209 707	1 048 372	654 958	506 025
bushels..	131 017 170	88 842 343	78 147 991	70 218 107	37 689 210	25 528 000	20 628 698	10 974 198
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) . . . . . farms..	25 215	27 433	30 224	33 840	38 097	43 083	45 698	(NA)
acres..	2 932 880	2 895 217	2 868 789	3 203 713	3 385 943	3 455 199	3 641 081	4 664 565
tons, dry..	6 118 280	6 068 201	5 951 228	6 711 376	6 751 689	5 805 323	6 075 434	6 321 840

<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.