

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..	49 406	51 854	59 284	72 792	81 706	91 280	119 386	148 202
Land in farms acres..	9 122 379	8 936 015	9 447 705	10 320 832	10 998 652	11 243 933	12 733 751	14 381 724
Average size of farm acres..	185	172	159	142	135	123	107	97
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	375 895	269 000	199 781	187 840	141 464	72 672	35 551	24 442
Average per acre dollars..	2 081	1 573	1 263	1 314	1 038	590	333	252
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	2 425 402	1 991 218	1 799 492	2 097 628	1 818 315	1 185 798	624 023	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	49 106	38 452	30 403	28 932	22 331	14 761	5 580	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	3 968	4 651	5 253	6 682	7 837	7 467	10 346	14 138
10 to 49 acres	15 601	15 852	18 088	23 286	25 567	30 195	42 911	57 199
50 to 179 acres	18 259	19 366	22 680	28 120	32 667	38 221	49 180	58 723
180 to 499 acres	7 506	8 007	9 337	10 914	11 887	12 103	13 836	14 976
500 to 999 acres	2 461	2 564	2 676	2 690	2 667	2 323	2 306	2 361
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 133	1 054	938	823	839	734	602	579
2,000 acres or more	478	360	312	277	242	237	205	226
Total cropland farms..	44 502	47 497	54 972	68 439	77 836	87 862	113 506	143 134
Harvested cropland farms..	5 608 388	5 578 191	5 716 256	5 950 155	6 049 163	5 752 767	5 967 294	5 781 785
Irrigated land farms..	38 241	42 135	50 108	63 392	73 870	82 844	102 316	137 737
..... acres..	4 233 693	3 998 685	3 779 164	4 659 283	4 467 045	4 075 221	3 472 307	3 985 904
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	7 676 523	4 834 218	3 541 419	3 500 750	2 980 078	2 121 226	1 195 069	1 067 567
Average per farm dollars..	155 376	93 227	59 737	48 093	36 473	23 239	10 010	7 203
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	2 595 213	1 996 452	1 436 988	1 898 109	1 669 769	1 300 627	669 281	750 484
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	5 081 310	2 837 765	2 104 430	1 602 642	1 310 309	804 396	513 671	305 074
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	13 653	12 616	16 758	19 845	19 912	29 213	54 675	64 997
\$2,500 to \$4,999	6 642	7 250	8 461	9 958	11 725	11 432	17 598	23 901
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6 261	6 968	8 344	9 720	11 806	13 861	18 710	28 870
\$10,000 to \$24,999	6 470	7 641	8 515	11 056	14 425	14 425	18 710	28 870
\$25,000 to \$49,999	3 470	4 397	4 817	6 948	9 290	32 589	27 192	29 950
\$50,000 to \$99,999	2 764	3 640	4 271	6 246	7 536	32 589	27 192	29 950
\$100,000 to \$499,999	6 321	7 254	7 034	8 237	6 492	3 942	1 127	447
\$500,000 or more	3 825	2 088	1 084	741	468	189	38	447
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship)	42 887	45 273	52 398	64 150	71 388	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	4 166	4 750	5 238	7 092	8 520	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	2 126	1 589	1 355	1 225	1 559	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	227	242	293	325	239	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	19 960	21 464	23 261	27 579	34 538	33 330	(NA)	(NA)
Any	25 856	25 958	31 914	37 303	41 917	37 945	63 808	63 707
200 days or more	18 028	17 989	21 702	24 717	26 675	24 242	35 741	32 372
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	24 355	27 376	30 687	39 795	46 637	57 583	(NA)	(NA)
Other	25 051	24 478	28 597	32 997	35 069	32 909	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	55.2	54.7	53.3	51.7	51.1	52.9	52.4	50.9
Total farm production expenses ¹ \$1,000..	5 673 379	3 817 833	2 779 353	(NA)	(NA)	1 452 743	893 187	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	916 191	431 873	323 978	229 516	188 501	121 616	89 439	49 560
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	2 262 032	1 288 719	921 654	702 666	610 405	411 934	226 257	147 106
Commercial fertilizer ⁵ \$1,000..	243 960	233 479	179 396	238 315	209 537	177 589	88 738	88 513
Petroleum products \$1,000..	198 201	184 299	143 686	235 621	161 702	97 912	71 062	65 293
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	487 395	388 338	287 037	245 364	222 451	133 835	116 823	94 017
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	205 129	143 502	130 580	206 549	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁵ \$1,000..	188 784	151 341	107 655	111 631	83 869	47 444	25 639	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	22 632	22 718	24 985	30 485	30 099	36 619	43 972	70 466
..... number..	941 311	901 980	784 136	890 480	839 293	1 021 554	858 548	905 999
Beef cows farms..	19 616	19 531	20 630	24 286	23 632	26 231	(NA)	29 708
..... number..	435 672	385 428	320 641	342 296	331 700	424 055	274 950	260 675
Milk cows farms..	1 092	1 552	2 336	4 353	5 716	9 523	15 388	41 918
..... number..	78 400	99 291	110 127	125 832	125 412	129 958	143 089	197 678
Cattle and calves sold farms..	21 286	20 771	22 682	25 272	25 691	28 259	32 325	42 478
..... number..	443 147	399 035	395 732	378 660	426 554	384 044	418 690	410 953
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	2 986	4 311	6 921	11 390	18 846	22 975	35 271	73 083
..... number..	9 624 860	5 100 979	2 547 127	2 047 098	1 901 227	1 414 751	1 393 393	1 046 354
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	2 666	4 012	6 290	9 436	15 737	17 383	26 248	28 995
..... number..	36 431 039	10 776 400	5 180 960	3 907 278	3 389 145	2 616 555	2 301 048	1 359 760
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	1 726	2 064	3 330	5 348	7 486	11 215	19 621	63 422
..... number..	16 162 563	18 133 946	20 070 337	18 823 538	18 556 105	15 670 429	17 223 353	13 763 213
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	2 086	2 116	2 153	2 195	2 434	2 520	3 243	3 287
..... number..	591 248 423	499 071 743	408 721 082	348 434 068	296 848 126	225 566 077	252 003 506	172 734 036

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 . .	8 862	13 052	21 000	30 193	38 850	49 134	57 871	95 144
acres . .	821 039	1 019 871	1 056 000	1 393 496	1 489 546	1 327 640	1 128 723	1 217 650
bushels . .	74 423 999	96 617 840	71 795 021	133 576 411	113 677 738	100 057 145	77 787 866	71 077 106
Wheat for grain farms . .	5 949	6 883	7 747	11 950	6 517	12 557	16 110	22 947
acres . .	616 397	490 214	378 744	597 539	132 445	248 308	180 368	232 537
bushels . .	30 357 728	23 164 935	15 091 015	20 682 804	4 312 796	8 667 399	7 326 994	6 381 737
Soybeans for beans farms . .	9 933	13 080	17 409	26 324	29 577	33 248	27 466	33 672
acres . .	1 280 412	1 287 573	1 273 278	1 746 774	1 512 294	1 208 924	740 654	621 219
bushels . .	35 785 336	34 176 793	31 368 069	42 285 536	35 093 482	26 751 021	18 705 519	14 218 665
Cotton farms . .	2 320	2 035	981	620	434	2 405	7 937	29 562
acres . .	677 541	357 766	94 186	68 760	43 394	143 782	163 430	367 384
bales . .	916 278	445 466	93 720	92 248	47 261	131 611	115 388	369 563
Tobacco farms . .	12 095	17 625	22 260	29 489	37 971	44 023	64 006	87 576
acres . .	320 599	283 900	239 343	337 696	409 857	366 841	372 122	408 052
pounds . .	703 559 462	604 014 807	478 051 423	690 142 724	820 615 121	714 135 918	674 932 186	877 729 569
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . .	19 761	18 268	20 733	21 046	23 174	23 690	26 981	(NA)
acres . .	602 755	466 944	456 360	375 940	391 331	331 539	304 599	452 293
tons, dry . .	1 218 338	922 347	795 954	647 953	673 400	561 691	471 945	577 872

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.