

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..	74 214	66 937	70 228	72 523	72 237	69 719	83 037	88 726
Land in farms acres..	33 218 677	32 143 030	31 541 977	32 369 206	33 737 292	33 082 848	36 007 719	36 077 472
Average size of farm acres..	448	480	449	446	467	475	434	407
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	271 996	235 359	215 024	311 642	235 858	143 320	74 838	49 212
Average per acre dollars..	610	496	480	699	503	302	173	121
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	2 741 400	2 134 331	2 063 371	2 323 995	1 718 075	1 066 350	594 131	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	36 936	31 943	29 465	32 109	23 850	16 693	7 597	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	2 505	2 832	3 666	3 244	2 749	2 264	3 276	1 883
10 to 49 acres	12 673	9 614	10 134	10 651	7 894	6 001	7 655	11 879
50 to 179 acres	24 681	21 099	22 331	23 558	23 643	22 733	26 617	28 894
180 to 499 acres	18 288	17 234	18 006	18 670	20 352	21 280	26 156	27 138
500 to 999 acres	8 155	8 202	8 405	8 850	10 038	10 247	12 129	12 262
1,000 to 1,999 acres	4 973	5 133	5 132	5 124	5 181	5 003	5 180	4 734
2,000 acres or more	2 939	2 823	2 554	2 426	2 380	2 191	2 024	1 936
Total cropland farms..	58 741	53 197	55 783	57 562	59 471	59 105	68 888	67 174
..... acres..	14 843 823	14 520 063	14 443 459	14 213 548	14 365 738	14 667 029	15 658 206	13 010 066
Harvested cropland farms..	44 786	42 015	43 522	45 825	48 168	47 123	52 940	59 360
..... acres..	8 462 079	8 272 889	7 319 193	8 961 353	8 585 011	8 989 832	8 264 787	8 343 588
Irrigated land farms..	2 710	2 581	3 029	3 069	3 770	3 454	3 809	2 673
..... acres..	506 459	512 487	478 437	492 077	601 723	515 104	524 065	302 081
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	4 146 351	3 562 646	2 714 892	2 530 061	2 330 408	1 594 913	969 271	600 790
Average per farm dollars..	55 870	53 224	38 658	34 886	32 261	22 876	11 672	6 771
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	907 865	778 813	610 050	827 694	617 737	670 301	268 164	255 694
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	3 238 485	2 783 832	2 104 842	1 702 366	1 712 670	923 879	700 622	344 335
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	20 476	15 902	18 501	20 261	16 150	23 360	32 471	46 742
\$2,500 to \$4,999	11 713	10 189	11 073	11 282	12 354	9 817	15 024	13 263
\$5,000 to \$9,999	12 341	11 208	11 999	11 490	12 887	10 399	14 252	12 822
\$10,000 to \$24,999	12 869	12 543	12 805	12 348	14 199			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	6 234	6 493	6 300	6 845	7 798	23 723	20 464	15 586
\$50,000 to \$99,999	4 285	4 609	4 479	5 217	5 116			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	5 252	5 260	4 606	4 678	3 426	2 259	720	276
\$500,000 or more	1 044	733	465	360	260	116	66	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	67 226	60 304	64 099	65 745	65 551	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	4 963	4 985	4 711	5 541	5 795	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	1 416	1 196	1 049	886	675	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	609	452	369	351	216	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	26 047	25 434	25 405	22 354	25 383	21 407	(NA)	(NA)
Any	43 859	36 697	40 839	43 879	43 819	34 702	50 472	48 601
200 days or more	31 803	25 827	28 495	30 961	30 245	23 607	31 628	29 828
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	33 060	33 279	33 052	32 847	32 053	37 165	(NA)	(NA)
Other	41 154	33 658	37 176	39 676	40 184	32 068	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	55.1	55.0	53.6	51.9	51.4	52.6	51.7	51.7
Total farm production expenses ¹ \$1,000..	3 576 456	3 117 869	2 359 468	(NA)	(NA)	1 321 717	850 252	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	1 100 066	1 103 395	745 844	626 108	679 962	366 642	281 066	106 451
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	900 546	628 412	439 530	396 650	417 136	311 019	147 319	102 411
Commercial fertilizer ⁵ \$1,000..	163 334	140 995	102 292	116 377	113 512	86 881	36 702	24 436
Petroleum products \$1,000..	156 445	146 709	128 203	181 287	111 338	70 001	44 646	36 219
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	183 170	144 750	124 732	98 335	80 082	53 428	43 628	33 407
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	224 537	195 857	189 200	263 323	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁵ \$1,000..	65 621	57 080	54 052	31 075	33 421	12 209	7 441	(NA)
Livestock and poultry: Cattle and calves inventory	58 023	52 241	53 544	58 236	58 604	58 244	68 765	79 509
..... number..	5 321 161	4 736 594	4 537 774	4 673 900	4 940 392	4 943 568	4 812 495	4 199 872
Beef cows	49 284	44 115	44 130	49 090	49 510	47 128	(NA)	68 614
..... number..	1 931 805	1 728 273	1 630 425	1 830 253	1 870 791	2 077 075	1 930 743	1 878 279
Milk cows	1 921	2 297	2 828	4 504	5 425	6 641	10 075	23 120
..... number..	87 647	90 312	90 499	108 021	101 843	102 061	128 772	168 055
Cattle and calves sold farms..	56 600	51 240	53 577	57 030	60 077	58 712	68 817	73 792
..... number..	4 346 420	3 953 960	3 630 285	3 374 886	4 164 215	3 271 120	3 467 326	2 441 020
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	3 002	3 415	3 710	4 225	6 984	5 819	9 187	14 616
..... number..	1 689 700	260 682	187 351	212 510	307 527	225 189	319 224	253 945
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	2 082	2 776	3 090	3 865	6 240	5 014	8 217	9 905
..... number..	3 943 563	500 299	346 686	355 782	480 881	385 742	527 289	420 836
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	3 293	3 224	5 703	7 577	8 149	9 383	14 349	35 373
..... number..	5 059 373	5 051 662	5 826 714	4 810 418	3 381 695	2 351 832	2 769 167	3 124 081
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	632	529	556	462	407	344	281	249
..... number..	169 292 948	138 607 293	89 704 380	49 399 727	39 514 824	26 273 352	17 635 753	13 218 885

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:								
Sorghum for grain or seed	farms.. 2 557	2 076	2 961	3 337	4 676	5 556	7 509	10 290
	acres.. 417 872	281 244	339 368	468 269	516 245	470 023	597 912	541 341
	bushels.. 18 863 920	13 933 273	15 114 650	18 714 432	17 993 503	16 017 147	25 366 530	13 354 150
Wheat for grain	farms.. 13 935	16 716	18 644	22 999	22 589	26 483	30 247	31 200
	acres.. 4 825 074	5 197 545	4 276 344	5 972 135	5 039 915	5 935 050	4 253 753	4 099 760
	bushels.. 141 302 977	138 121 986	113 464 955	171 665 099	124 604 327	127 202 490	112 784 552	90 794 159
Oats for grain	farms.. 676	1 006	1 114	2 264	2 654	(NA)	(NA)	7 915
	acres.. 30 391	37 838	40 105	82 169	88 925	(NA)	(NA)	218 045
	bushels.. 1 159 885	1 278 578	1 277 283	3 111 780	2 964 658	(NA)	(NA)	6 139 589
Cotton	farms.. 849	1 726	2 913	2 848	4 279	6 089	9 783	10 621
	acres.. 176 962	296 484	360 299	414 312	548 619	502 239	468 039	559 285
	bales.. 190 186	212 041	306 388	235 262	336 710	302 685	293 039	275 882
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text)	farms.. 35 751	32 299	32 196	31 688	33 661	28 965	32 307	(NA)
	acres.. 2 478 944	2 112 710	1 920 000	1 684 013	1 763 400	1 337 133	1 455 176	1 533 067
	tons, dry.. 4 651 859	3 992 843	3 430 874	3 044 714	2 907 928	2 465 205	2 850 610	2 390 615

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.