

**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..	31 284	34 057	36 376	37 148	38 741	42 825	45 726	49 703
Land in farms ..... acres..	44 354 880	44 828 124	44 157 503	43 810 988	44 422 328	45 977 776	45 584 164	45 567 263
Average size of farm ..... acres..	1 418	1 316	1 214	1 179	1 147	1 074	997	917
Estimated market value of land and buildings <sup>1</sup> :								
Average per farm ..... dollars..	487 039	360 111	326 333	418 940	295 953	155 415	83 427	56 615
Average per acre ..... dollars..	348	273	269	348	256	145	84	62
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment <sup>1</sup> , \$1,000..	2 852 531	2 398 312	1 996 230	2 248 595	1 799 205	1 168 895	587 743	(NA)
Average per farm ..... dollars..	91 182	70 495	55 005	60 589	46 455	27 985	13 135	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres .....	1 015	1 504	1 881	1 919	1 730	1 780	1 893	1 025
10 to 49 acres .....	2 596	2 622	2 638	2 105	1 626	1 549	1 402	1 594
50 to 179 acres .....	4 844	4 977	5 083	5 248	5 368	5 927	6 019	6 674
180 to 499 acres .....	6 500	7 286	8 625	9 505	10 833	13 109	15 807	19 361
500 to 999 acres .....	5 866	6 917	7 618	8 206	8 962	9 927	10 534	11 077
1,000 to 1,999 acres .....	5 185	5 584	5 728	5 723	5 945	6 089	5 925	5 757
2,000 acres or more .....	5 278	5 167	4 803	4 442	4 277	4 444	4 146	4 215
Total cropland ..... farms..	27 712	30 142	32 451	33 844	36 091	40 015	42 781	47 133
..... acres..	19 355 256	19 582 565	19 641 972	18 838 739	18 732 968	19 191 587	19 837 884	18 707 247
Harvested cropland ..... farms..	25 654	28 430	31 110	32 823	35 172	38 635	41 108	46 230
..... acres..	14 284 741	13 624 006	12 982 611	14 433 490	13 855 939	14 854 873	12 634 488	14 445 400
Irrigated land ..... farms..	1 439	1 674	1 869	1 815	1 776	1 072	1 063	1 005
..... acres..	343 742	371 263	361 796	376 447	334 755	152 203	148 341	130 050
Market value of agricultural products sold <sup>2</sup> , \$1,000..	3 569 951	3 243 554	2 719 498	2 478 111	1 898 159	1 660 167	958 002	628 779
Average per farm ..... dollars..	114 114	95 239	74 761	66 709	48 996	38 766	20 950	12 651
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops, \$1,000..	1 654 044	1 072 895	857 373	842 980	564 177	598 401	212 626	145 239
Livestock, poultry, and their products ..... \$1,000..	1 915 907	2 170 659	1 862 125	1 635 131	1 333 982	1 061 683	745 335	483 174
Farms by value of sales <sup>3</sup> :								
Less than \$2,500 .....	3 338	2 792	2 888	2 633	2 293	3 231	5 529	6 748
\$2,500 to \$4,999 .....	1 605	1 658	2 020	1 841	2 343	2 565	4 215	7 577
\$5,000 to \$9,999 .....	2 273	2 779	3 190	3 144	3 952	4 877	8 109	14 671
\$10,000 to \$24,999 .....	4 516	5 493	6 764	7 043	9 025			
\$25,000 to \$49,999 .....	4 690	5 792	7 026	8 172	9 940	29 496	27 034	20 378
\$50,000 to \$99,999 .....	5 415	6 829	7 706	8 090	7 463			
\$100,000 to \$499,999 .....	8 449	8 043	6 338	5 791	3 410	2 443	741	280
\$500,000 or more .....	998	671	444	338	205	137	42	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	27 133	29 525	31 761	32 396	34 158	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership .....	2 605	3 179	3 394	3 613	3 602	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation .....	1 298	1 104	942	885	776	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc. ....	248	249	279	254	205	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm <sup>4</sup> :								
None .....	16 003	18 373	19 798	19 568	22 075	20 541	(NA)	(NA)
Any .....	13 049	12 540	13 553	12 941	13 928	10 206	16 136	13 975
200 days or more .....	7 289	6 614	6 641	5 616	5 576	4 244	5 309	3 640
Operators by principal occupation <sup>4</sup> :								
Farming .....	22 704	26 141	28 407	30 267	31 673	36 821	(NA)	(NA)
Other .....	8 580	7 916	7 969	6 881	7 068	5 403	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator <sup>4</sup> ..... years..	51.8	51.1	49.7	48.6	48.7	50.1	49.2	48.6
Total farm production expenses <sup>5</sup> ..... \$1,000..	2 733 387	2 563 564	2 138 164	(NA)	(NA)	1 233 024	746 192	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses <sup>1</sup> :								
Livestock and poultry purchased ..... \$1,000..	452 194	632 721	519 803	446 010	402 675	282 483	205 158	120 547
Feed for livestock and poultry ..... \$1,000..	369 705	360 923	277 680	268 944	203 062	233 933	116 466	85 413
Commercial fertilizer <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	185 850	128 044	96 748	79 742	76 202	60 964	21 557	8 921
Petroleum products ..... \$1,000..	159 131	157 432	144 494	214 464	118 281	86 798	54 632	51 078
Hired farm labor ..... \$1,000..	109 897	95 956	94 911	67 414	54 829	39 088	27 513	20 021
Interest <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	226 685	198 194	200 864	296 609	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals <sup>6</sup> ..... \$1,000..	175 778	110 347	77 926	53 836	38 042	19 808	6 244	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory ..... farms..	20 502	22 576	23 998	27 000	28 120	33 895	35 979	42 994
..... number..	3 723 271	3 777 822	3 630 200	3 925 131	3 703 674	4 522 597	3 891 166	4 144 129
Beef cows ..... farms..	17 428	18 597	19 034	21 361	22 319	27 867	(NA)	34 040
..... number..	1 675 000	1 604 838	1 502 927	1 595 688	1 502 830	1 970 524	1 605 420	1 577 953
Milk cows ..... farms..	1 802	2 873	3 940	5 610	6 297	8 843	12 531	21 192
..... number..	95 882	117 454	137 020	158 180	144 506	172 546	170 160	222 556
Cattle and calves sold ..... farms..	20 782	22 802	24 464	27 274	28 658	34 378	37 091	42 991
..... number..	2 448 551	2 500 254	2 398 208	2 419 576	2 274 610	2 608 546	2 605 858	2 159 559
Hogs and pigs inventory ..... farms..	2 899	6 710	7 906	9 336	12 193	14 387	18 143	23 820
..... number..	1 396 326	1 978 195	1 750 236	1 764 654	1 772 827	1 578 264	1 639 767	1 775 757
Hogs and pigs sold ..... farms..	3 067	7 125	8 265	10 022	12 749	16 154	19 366	24 328
..... number..	2 596 164	3 654 082	3 181 008	3 066 751	2 881 114	2 950 064	2 704 669	2 611 723
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) <sup>7</sup> ..... farms..	754	1 110	2 173	3 311	4 892	7 866	13 298	27 674
..... number..	2 347 423	2 136 682	1 752 361	1 795 254	2 267 826	2 880 121	4 038 838	7 310 532
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold ..... farms..	92	130	269	321	383	502	218	9
..... number..	285 735	121 283	237 779	200 262	234 794	93 673	50 268	94 630

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..	14 342	16 427	19 448	18 694	21 138	20 702	25 106	30 024
acres..	3 175 113	3 097 251	2 573 567	2 583 209	2 626 001	2 316 881	2 233 845	2 537 890
bushels..	295 056 391	245 398 567	199 208 883	174 109 203	168 736 099	80 804 068	117 247 947	77 138 798
Wheat for grain . . . . . farms..	9 561	12 014	15 273	13 530	14 655	16 796	17 356	18 197
acres..	3 177 527	3 340 644	3 229 384	3 332 487	3 037 808	3 018 578	1 847 442	2 076 649
bushels..	89 470 811	101 053 975	91 141 128	85 895 594	64 231 362	55 621 567	38 926 173	36 317 731
Oats for grain . . . . . farms..	3 729	9 055	13 558	19 743	22 452	(NA)	(NA)	33 606
acres..	253 972	627 557	919 997	1 807 860	1 957 801	(NA)	(NA)	2 390 039
bushels..	13 726 509	37 228 291	41 997 525	97 763 987	85 325 253	(NA)	(NA)	68 387 083
Soybeans for beans . . . . . farms..	11 700	11 502	10 728	7 460	5 150	5 202	4 803	6 471
acres..	2 939 146	2 053 496	1 289 276	768 554	388 616	340 809	214 964	246 890
bushels..	100 762 163	56 705 835	40 074 670	22 315 924	11 435 996	6 876 227	5 002 104	4 072 470
Sunflower seed . . . . . farms..	2 858	1 571	1 659	2 479	966	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
acres..	740 707	349 668	262 847	487 754	130 927	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
pounds..	1 041 102 232	427 963 785	315 806 323	471 804 227	144 875 797	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) . . . . . farms..	19 298	21 402	23 131	25 732	28 368	32 249	31 898	(NA)
acres..	3 584 798	3 356 484	3 355 299	3 787 135	4 063 576	4 349 478	3 620 636	4 703 836
tons, dry..	6 590 651	5 734 128	5 682 824	6 594 617	6 838 623	5 284 209	4 940 482	4 675 297

<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.