

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..	65 602	67 959	75 131	82 199	86 505	89 479	98 973	118 816
Land in farms acres..	14 900 205	15 463 551	16 606 567	17 234 127	17 838 982	17 624 826	18 109 273	20 377 572
Average size of farm acres..	227	228	221	210	206	197	183	172
Estimated market value of land and buildings ¹ :								
Average per farm dollars..	282 135	210 179	182 950	232 606	175 095	85 560	42 448	26 765
Average per acre dollars..	1 244	925	826	1 113	853	434	232	155
Estimated market value of all machinery and equipment ¹ , \$1,000..	4 375 650	4 481 945	4 053 360	4 410 681	3 475 058	2 074 183	1 046 308	(NA)
Average per farm dollars..	66 731	66 001	54 037	53 698	40 204	23 751	10 742	(NA)
Farms by size:								
1 to 9 acres	3 142	3 605	4 012	4 254	3 117	2 392	2 311	2 600
10 to 49 acres	9 673	8 655	8 778	10 256	9 447	8 176	8 118	10 117
50 to 179 acres	24 546	24 121	27 498	31 202	35 701	41 160	50 084	63 930
180 to 499 acres	22 228	25 570	28 828	30 855	32 997	33 612	35 205	39 250
500 to 999 acres	4 573	4 790	4 923	4 682	4 437	3 527	2 841	2 572
1,000 to 1,999 acres	1 121	1 014	921	778	672	494	333	270
2,000 acres or more	319	204	171	172	134	118	81	77
Total cropland farms..	61 166	64 229	71 320	78 060	83 666	87 263	96 133	116 432
Harvested cropland farms..	10 353 300	10 948 614	11 618 876	11 769 183	12 088 709	11 668 509	11 564 178	12 043 283
..... acres..	54 369	61 125	69 141	75 734	81 708	84 970	92 197	112 963
..... acres..	8 625 011	8 843 649	9 335 007	10 062 154	9 863 051	9 340 375	8 133 848	9 038 263
Irrigated land farms..	2 025	2 146	1 850	1 695	1 645	1 165	1 252	813
..... acres..	341 813	330 838	284 637	259 270	234 557	127 881	105 526	62 302
Market value of agricultural products sold ² , \$1,000..	5 579 861	5 259 670	4 909 869	4 854 582	3 444 600	2 352 996	1 455 482	1 097 457
Average per farm dollars..	85 056	77 395	65 351	59 059	39 820	26 297	14 706	9 237
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse crops... \$1,000..	1 640 283	1 126 566	936 624	943 422	671 094	478 736	195 840	174 032
Livestock, poultry, and their products \$1,000..	3 939 578	4 133 103	3 973 245	3 911 160	2 773 506	1 867 277	1 255 675	915 645
Farms by value of sales ³ :								
Less than \$2,500	14 007	9 932	9 838	10 768	11 653	15 233	22 796	28 553
\$2,500 to \$4,999	5 161	5 355	6 039	6 472	8 119	7 602	10 460	20 033
\$5,000 to \$9,999	6 177	6 576	7 505	7 884	9 901	11 517	17 056	32 162
\$10,000 to \$24,999	8 841	8 995	10 678	12 178	15 877			
\$25,000 to \$49,999	6 826	7 872	10 491	12 995	18 018	52 714	47 935	37 657
\$50,000 to \$99,999	8 818	11 916	15 223	18 022	16 463			
\$100,000 to \$499,999	14 325	16 471	14 750	13 389	6 211	2 250	640	358
\$500,000 or more	1 447	842	607	465	231	124	35	
Farms by type of organization:								
Individual or family (sole proprietorship).....	56 598	58 298	64 642	70 842	76 016	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Partnership	5 746	6 930	7 909	8 937	8 749	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Corporation	2 870	2 502	2 322	2 193	1 555	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Other—cooperative, estate or trust, institutional, etc.	388	229	258	227	185	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Operators by days worked off farm ⁴ :								
None	31 334	36 175	40 587	43 143	44 825	38 627	(NA)	(NA)
Any	31 303	28 081	30 014	33 440	38 202	33 542	45 617	50 546
200 days or more	21 088	18 307	18 776	20 200	23 036	20 947	25 869	25 223
Operators by principal occupation ⁴ :								
Farming	39 030	46 180	53 342	57 939	59 222	64 805	(NA)	(NA)
Other	26 572	21 779	21 789	24 260	27 283	23 619	(NA)	(NA)
Average age of operator ⁴ years..	52.2	50.6	50.3	48.4	49.0	50.2	49.7	49.7
Total farm production expenses ¹ \$1,000..	4 202 802	4 029 737	3 638 957	(NA)	(NA)	1 680 806	1 027 337	(NA)
Selected farm production expenses ¹ :								
Livestock and poultry purchased \$1,000..	306 830	349 520	294 202	261 923	233 653	138 150	111 561	54 597
Feed for livestock and poultry \$1,000..	847 206	785 140	675 221	667 669	450 562	380 336	206 574	161 540
Commercial fertilizer ⁵ \$1,000..	258 450	248 410	236 568	262 517	181 264	126 706	50 289	38 532
Petroleum products \$1,000..	187 629	183 421	175 966	264 315	141 420	97 613	59 720	59 724
Hired farm labor \$1,000..	409 009	362 356	312 325	279 154	181 536	93 914	68 468	51 677
Interest ⁶ \$1,000..	356 573	346 096	400 274	531 636	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Agricultural chemicals ⁷ \$1,000..	169 356	135 926	104 934	90 030	59 702	35 460	18 102	(NA)
Livestock and poultry:								
Cattle and calves inventory farms..	39 593	46 052	53 315	62 836	64 192	71 092	78 162	100 811
..... number..	3 440 300	3 866 998	4 138 221	4 458 683	3 971 214	4 218 103	3 969 412	4 383 753
Beef cows farms..	11 642	10 394	10 355	14 386	15 185	19 252	(NA)	16 271
..... number..	222 522	195 810	180 276	236 967	229 258	328 144	257 900	185 827
Milk cows farms..	22 576	30 156	37 325	44 093	45 518	51 655	60 634	85 407
..... number..	1 336 626	1 521 969	1 743 427	1 852 784	1 699 839	1 728 670	1 723 000	2 083 336
Cattle and calves sold farms..	38 832	45 227	52 816	61 246	62 894	69 642	77 933	98 210
..... number..	1 547 935	1 808 889	1 982 183	1 806 185	1 743 443	1 621 155	1 818 774	2 002 363
Hogs and pigs inventory farms..	3 686	6 760	8 737	11 940	15 713	17 816	25 294	38 808
..... number..	738 339	1 173 783	1 312 818	1 479 028	1 473 818	1 240 808	1 676 978	1 735 176
Hogs and pigs sold farms..	3 591	6 776	8 899	12 059	15 396	17 978	25 542	36 059
..... number..	1 523 490	2 244 673	2 515 246	2 658 032	2 558 847	2 345 238	3 018 324	3 164 459
Layers and pullets 13 weeks old and older inventory (see text) ⁷ farms..	2 534	2 860	4 658	7 373	9 284	13 170	18 109	41 611
..... number..	4 117 078	3 734 208	5 156 407	4 926 499	4 499 970	4 397 849	5 365 466	7 348 023
Broilers and other meat-type chickens sold farms..	587	504	674	897	995	1 097	361	164
..... number..	27 607 761	13 686 548	10 761 742	8 803 544	8 721 401	9 463 734	12 125 398	9 910 566

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 . . .	34 315	36 674	48 665	52 645	56 602	52 645	50 345	64 373
acres	2 877 971	2 830 496	2 787 734	3 257 104	2 975 928	2 271 002	1 655 803	1 421 801
bushels	362 498 739	283 709 848	311 689 830	332 327 822	288 060 992	161 241 513	145 785 434	101 146 378
Oats for grain farms . . .	14 925	22 195	31 065	40 594	50 851	(NA)	(NA)	89 344
acres	314 722	488 332	679 203	890 503	1 092 308	(NA)	(NA)	1 919 162
bushels	18 623 580	27 900 172	37 458 060	46 411 629	60 582 588	(NA)	(NA)	98 172 508
Soybeans for beans farms . . .	12 028	8 957	5 628	5 667	4 587	5 182	4 681	5 599
acres	990 531	575 087	297 226	332 235	222 157	194 962	145 876	129 821
bushels	42 681 842	17 659 688	11 491 031	10 619 901	6 602 755	3 813 422	3 100 055	2 134 465
Hay—alfalfa, other tame, small grain, wild, grass silage, green chop, etc. (see text) farms . . .	44 115	51 238	60 404	64 770	71 292	74 237	76 243	(NA)
acres	3 554 932	3 911 258	4 784 417	4 491 368	4 771 840	4 105 994	3 512 233	4 130 456
tons, dry	8 606 243	8 621 168	12 407 639	11 846 550	12 908 132	10 168 458	9 449 373	9 005 575
Vegetables harvested for sale (see text) ⁸ farms . . .	3 288	4 269	4 177	4 262	5 188	6 264	7 092	9 978
acres	270 130	347 581	328 902	280 326	319 090	337 959	310 210	265 991

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.

⁸Data for 1974 were from land area used.