

Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

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INTRODUCTION

Purpose and scope.—The plan for this report developed during discussions of proposals for the analysis of the data from the 1950 Census of Agriculture. As the 1950 Censuses of Population, Housing, and Agriculture were taken simultaneously, there were many requests for the correlation of data from the three censuses for the farm and its associated household, family, and dwelling unit. These requests could be met only by matching individual reports for 1950 Censuses of Population, Housing, and Agriculture. The objectives of this report are to help provide answers to such questions as—What sources and amounts of income do farm-operator families have? How does the distribution of total money income of farm-operator families compare with that of all families? What are the main problems associated with farms producing relatively small amounts of agricultural products? On such farms, what is the income and productivity of farm-operator families when both farm and nonfarm employment and income are taken into consideration? How do the characteristics of the operators, families, and dwellings associated with these farms compare with other farms? What are the major variations in composition and characteristics of farm-operator families by economic class of farm and other farm characteristics? What household facilities and equipment do farm-operator families have and how are they related to the size of the farm business and family income?

Source of data.—The data included in this report represent estimates based upon a sample of approximately 11,000 farms and the associated farm-operator households, families, and dwelling units, or one-fifth of one percent of all such units in the United States. The sample was taken from 5,260 enumeration districts, or 5 percent of the enumeration districts having farms in 1950. Within these enumeration districts, the sample comprised approximately 4 percent of the farms and the associated households, families, and dwelling units. In each enumeration district the farms, households, families, and dwelling units were selected by taking those farms included in the sample for the 1950 Census of Agriculture for which the head of the household was in the 1950 Census of Population 20-percent sample, and, consequently, for whom there was information in regard to income, etc. (For a description of the sample used for the 1950 Census of Agriculture, see page xvi of the Introduction to Volume II, *General Report—Statistics by Subjects*, of the 1950 Census of Agriculture, Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce. For a description of the sample used for the collection of data on income, etc. for the 1950 Census of Population, see page xxiii, of Volume II, *Characteristics of the Population*, of the reports of the 1950 Census of Population.)

The sample used for the 1950 Census of Agriculture was comprised of all large farms and a systematic sample of every fifth nonlarge farm. For the 1950 Census of Population, the sample was a systematic sample of every fifth person enumerated in the census.

In preparing the data for this report, separate estimates were made for large farms and the associated households, families, and dwelling units and for nonlarge farms and their associated households, etc. Estimates were made for each of these two groups for each of the three geographic regions, the North, the West, and the South, by multiplying the totals for farms in the sample by the ratio of farms in the sample to the total number of such farms as shown by the 1950 Census of Agriculture. Data for each region were obtained by adding the estimates for large farms and the remaining farms. Totals for the North and West were obtained by adding data for the two regions and totals for the United States were obtained by adding estimates for all three regions.

Data on presence of kitchen sink, refrigeration equipment, cooking fuel, and age of dwelling unit were available for a sample of one-fifth of the dwelling units for the farm-operator families included in the sample. Estimates for these items were made by multiplying by 5 the estimates made in accordance with the procedure outlined above.

A discussion of the effect of the method of selecting the sample for this report, and a discussion of the comparability of the estimates for this sample with data given in the reports for the 1950 Census of Population, Housing, and Agriculture, appears in the various chapters.

Reliability of the estimates.—As the data given in this report are estimates based upon tabulations of data for a sample of farms and the associated farm-operator families, households, and dwelling units, they are subject to sampling variability. The following table indicates the approximate standard errors for groups of items, according to the magnitude of the estimate. The chances are about two out of three that the estimates would differ from the totals that would have been obtained from a tabulation for all farms, and farm operator households, families, and dwelling units by less than the standard error. The chances are about 19 out of 20 that the differences would be less than twice the standard error and 99 out of 100 that it would be less than two-and-one-half times the standard error.

The estimates are also subject to errors of responses and to nonreporting. The possible effect of these other errors are not included in the table below. The effects of some of these errors are indicated elsewhere in this report.

Table 1.—SAMPLING VARIABILITY BY MAGNITUDE OF ESTIMATES, FOR THE UNITED STATES AND REGIONS: 1950

Magnitude of estimate	Variability of estimates for presence of kitchen sink, refrigeration equipment, cooking fuel, and age of dwelling unit								Variability of all other items*							
	United States		North		South		West		United States		North		South		West	
	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate	Standard error	Percent of estimate
5,000.....	3,600	72.0	3,600	72.0	3,600	72.0	3,600	72.0	1,600	32.0	1,600	32.0	1,600	32.0	1,600	32.0
10,000.....	5,000	50.0	5,000	50.0	5,000	50.0	5,000	50.0	2,200	22.0	2,200	22.0	2,200	22.0	2,200	22.0
25,000.....	7,800	31.2	7,800	31.2	7,800	31.2	7,900	31.6	3,500	14.0	3,500	14.0	3,500	14.0	3,500	14.0
50,000.....	11,400	22.8	11,300	22.6	11,400	22.8	10,800	21.6	5,000	10.0	5,000	10.0	5,000	10.0	4,700	9.4
100,000.....	16,000	16.0	15,800	15.8	15,900	15.9	14,400	14.4	7,000	7.0	7,000	7.0	7,000	7.0	6,300	6.3
250,000.....	25,000	10.0	24,200	9.7	24,400	9.8	17,400	7.0	10,000	4.0	10,600	4.2	10,700	4.3	7,600	3.0
500,000.....	34,000	6.8	32,000	6.4	36,700	7.3	.....	.....	15,100	3.0	14,000	2.8	14,300	2.9	.....	.....
1,000,000.....	45,300	4.5	37,400	3.7	40,500	4.1	.....	.....	20,200	2.0	16,800	1.7	17,700	1.8	.....	.....
1,250,000.....	50,200	4.0	37,500	3.0	41,700	3.3	.....	.....	22,000	1.8	16,800	1.3	18,200	1.5	.....	.....
1,500,000.....	53,400	3.6	36,700	2.4	41,400	2.8	.....	.....	23,300	1.6	16,000	1.1	18,100	1.2	.....	.....
2,000,000.....	57,500	2.9	25,000	1.2	36,000	1.8	.....	.....	25,100	1.3	10,900	0.5	15,700	0.8	.....	.....
2,500,000.....	59,300	2.4	.....	.....	19,400	0.8	.....	.....	26,000	1.0	.....	.....	8,500	0.3	.....	.....
3,000,000.....	59,100	2.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25,900	0.9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4,000,000.....	52,000	1.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22,700	0.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
5,000,000.....	30,400	0.6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13,400	0.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

* The chances are 2 out of 3 that the estimated total obtained by a complete tabulation for all farms, households, families and dwelling units would differ from the estimate for the item by less than the standard error or percent shown.

DEFINITIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Definitions and explanations are presented only for those items for which table descriptions are considered inadequate. Qualifications or limitations of the data are discussed in later chapters. The descriptive terms and explanations given below are taken largely from the reports of the 1950 Censuses of Population, Housing, and Agriculture. For more detailed descriptions and explanations of terms, reference may be made to the following reports of the 1950 Census:

1950 Census of Agriculture—Volume II, *General Report—Statistics by Subjects*.

1950 Census of Population—Volume II, Part 1, Chapter B.

1950 Census of Housing—Volume III, *Farm Housing Characteristics*.

A farm.—For the 1950 Census of Agriculture, places of 3 or more acres were counted as farms if the value of agricultural products in 1949, exclusive of home gardens, amounted to \$150 or more. The agricultural products could have been either for home use or for sale. Places of less than 3 acres were counted as farms only if the value of sales of agricultural products in 1949 amounted to \$150 or more. Places operated in 1949 for which the value of agricultural products in 1949 was less than these minima because of crop failure or other unusual situation, and places operated in 1950 for the first time were counted as farms if normally they could be expected to produce these minimum quantities of farm products.

Farm operator.—A "farm operator" is a person who operates a farm either performing the labor himself or directly supervising it. He may be an owner, a hired manager, or a tenant, renter, or share cropper. If he rents land to others or has land cropped for him by others, he is listed as the operator of only that land which he retains. In the case of a partnership, one member was included as the operator. The number of farm operators is considered the same as the number of farms.

Residence of farm operator.—Farm operators were classified by residence on the basis of whether or not they lived on the farm operated.

A summary of the data from the tabulations for this report regarding the residence on the farm operated is as follows:

	<i>Farm operators reporting</i>
Total.....	5,380,127
Residing on farm operated.....	5,084,961
Not residing on farm operated.....	169,310
Residence not reported.....	125,856

However, many of the farm operators not residing on the farm resided in the same enumeration district in which their farm was located. For these nonresident operators, data were obtained regarding the characteristics of the household, family, and dwelling unit. Data on population and most data on dwelling units were not included in the tabulations for 38,937 farm operators not residing on the farm operated and not living in the enumeration district in which their farm was located, because of the cost of locating reports regarding the household, family, and dwelling unit of such farm operators.

Age of operator.—The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday as of the date of his enumeration, that is, the age of the person in completed years.

CLASSIFICATION OF FARMS

Farms by economic class.—The same classification of farms by economic class as used in other tabulations from the 1950 Census of Agriculture is also used in this report. This classification was made in order to present an accurate description of the farms in each class and in order to provide basic data for an analysis of the organization of United States agriculture.

The classification of farms by economic class was made on the basis of three factors, namely, total value of all farm products sold, number of days the farm operator worked off the farm, and the relationship of the income received from nonfarm sources by the operator and members of his family to the value of all

farm products sold. Institutions, experimental farms, grazing associations, and other community projects were classified as abnormal, regardless of any of the above-mentioned factors.

In making the classification of farms by economic class, farms have been grouped into two major groups, namely, commercial farms and other farms. In general, all farms with a value of sales of farm products amounting to \$1,200 or more were classified as commercial. Farms with a value of sales of \$250 to \$1,199 were classified as commercial only if the farm operator worked off the farm less than 100 days and the income of the operator and members of his family received from nonfarm sources was less than the total value of all farm products sold. Farms with a value of sales of all farm products of less than \$250, as well as county, State, private institutional, and experimental farms, were classified as "other."

Commercial farms have been divided into six groups on the basis of the total value of farm products sold, as follows:

<i>Class</i>	<i>Value of farm products sold in 1949</i>
I.....	\$25,000 or more
II.....	10,000 to \$24,999
III.....	5,000 to 9,999
IV.....	2,500 to 4,999
V.....	1,200 to 2,499
VI.....	*250 to 1,199

*Provided the farm operator worked off the farm less than 100 days and provided the income the farm operator and members of his family received from nonfarm sources was less than the value of all farm products sold.

Other farms have been grouped into three classes as follows:

Part-time farms.—Farms with a value of sales of farm products of \$250 to \$1,199 were classified as part time provided the farm operator reported (1) 100 or more days of work off the farm in 1949, or (2) the nonfarm income received by him and members of his family was greater than the value of farm products sold.

Residential farms.—Residential farms include all farms except abnormal farms with a total value of sales of farm products of less than \$250. Some of these represent farms on which the operator worked off the farm more than 100 days in 1949. Some represent farms on which the income from nonfarm sources was greater than the value of sales of agricultural products. Others represent subsistence and marginal farms of various kinds. Some farms are included here which, under normal conditions, may have qualified as commercial farms.

Abnormal farms.—Insofar as it was possible to identify them, abnormal farms include public and private institutional farms, community enterprises, experiment station farms, grazing associations, etc. In most of the tables, data for abnormal farms are included with those for part-time farms.

Tenure of operator.—Farm operators are classified according to the tenure under which they hold their land on the basis of the total land owned, total land rented from others, and total land managed for others.

Full owners own land but do not rent land from others.

Part owners own land and rent land from others.

Managers operate farms for others and are paid a wage or salary for their services. Persons acting merely as caretakers or hired as laborers are not classified as managers.

Tenants rent from others or work on shares for others all the land they operate.

Croppers are crop-share tenants whose landlords furnish all the work power. The landlords either furnish all the work animals or furnish tractor power in lieu of work animals. Croppers usually work under the close supervision of the landowners or their agents and the land assigned them is often merely a part of a larger enterprise operated as a single unit.

Farms by type.—The classification of farms by type was made on the basis of the relationship of the value of sales from particular source or sources to the total value of all farm products sold from the farm. In some cases, the type of farm was determined on the basis of the sale of an individual farm

product, such as cotton, or on the basis of closely related products, such as dairy products. In other cases, the type was determined on the basis of sales of a broader group of products such as corn, sorghums, all small grains, field peas, field beans, cowpeas, and soybeans. Part-time, residential, and abnormal farms were not classified by type. In order to be classified as a particular type, sales or anticipated sales of a product or a group of products had to represent 50 percent or more of the total value of products of the farm.

The types of farms for which data are shown, together with the product or group of products that had to represent 50 percent or more of the total sales in order for the farm to be so classified, are as follows:

Type of farm	Product or group of products amounting to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold.
Cotton.....	Cotton.
Cash-grain.....	Corn, sorghum, small grains, field peas, field beans, cowpeas, and soybeans.
Other field-crop	Peanuts, Irish potatoes, sweetpotatoes, tobacco, sugarcane, sugar beets for sugar, and other miscellaneous crops.
Vegetable.....	Vegetables.
Fruit-and-nut....	Berries and other small fruits, and tree fruits and nuts.
Dairy.....	Milk and other dairy products. The criterion of 50 percent of the total sales was modified in the case of dairy farms. A farm for which the value of sales of dairy products represented less than 50 percent of the total value of farm products sold was classified as a dairy farm if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Milk and other dairy products accounted for 30 percent or more of the total value of products, and (b) Milk cows represented 50 percent or more of all cows, and (c) Sales of dairy products, together with the sales of cattle and calves, amounted to 50 percent or more of the total sales.
Poultry.....	Chickens, eggs, turkeys, and other poultry products.
Livestock farms other than dairy and poultry.	Cattle, calves, hogs, sheep, goats, wool, mohair, goat milk, and products from animals slaughtered on the farm, provided the farm did not already classify as a dairy farm.
General.....	Farms were classified as general when the value of products from one source or group of sources did not represent as much as 50 percent of the total of the value of all farm products sold. Separate figures are given for three types of general farms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Primarily crop. (b) Primarily livestock. (c) Crop and livestock.

Primarily crop farms are those for which the sale of one of the following crops or groups of crops—vegetables, fruits and nuts, cotton, cash grains, or other field crops—did not amount to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold, but for which the value of sales for all these groups of crops represented 70 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold.

Primarily livestock farms are those which could not be classified as dairy farms, poultry, farms, or livestock farms other than dairy and poultry, but on which the sale of livestock and poultry and livestock and poultry products amounted to 70 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold.

General crop and livestock farms are those which could not be classified as either crop

Type of farm	Product or group of products amounting to 50 percent or more of the value of all farm products sold.
General—Con.....	farms or livestock farms, but on which the sale of all crops amounted to at least 30 percent but less than 70 percent of the value of all farm products sold.
Miscellaneous....	This group of farms includes those which had 50 percent or more of the total value of products accounted for by sale of horticultural products; or sale of horses; or sale of fur animals; or sale of forest products; or sale of bees, wax, and honey.

Value of farm products sold.—The value of farm products sold, as obtained in the 1950 Census of Agriculture, represents the approximate total of the gross cash income.

Off-farm work and other income.—Many farm operators receive a part of their income from sources other than their farms. The questionnaire for the 1950 Census of Agriculture included several inquiries relating to work off the farm and nonfarm income. These inquiries called for work off the farm by the farm operator; work off the farm by other members of the operator's family; and income from other sources, such as sale of products from land rented out, cash rent, boarders, old age assistance, pensions, veterans' allowances, unemployment compensation, interest, and help from other members of the operator's family. Another inquiry asked whether the income from off-farm work and other sources was greater than the total value of all agricultural products sold from the farm in 1949. Off-farm work includes work at nonfarm jobs, businesses, or professions, whether performed on the farm premises or elsewhere; also work on someone else's farm for pay or wages. Exchange work was not to be included.

The purposes of these four inquiries were (1) to obtain information in regard to the extent that farm operators performed off-farm work and their dependence on other income, and (2) to provide a basis for the classification of farms by economic class. The intent of the inquiry in regard to whether or not a member of the family had a nonfarm job, and the inquiry regarding income of the farm operator from nonfarm sources was to obtain more accurate replies to the inquiry regarding the relationship of the income from off-farm work and other sources to the total value of all agricultural products sold.

Residence on a farm.—The 1950 Census of Population included all persons living on farms as farm population, without regard to occupation. The determination as to whether or not the house or dwelling unit was located on a farm was made on the basis of the inquiry, "Is this house on a farm?", made for every house or dwelling unit. However, persons living on what was considered farm land were to be classified as nonfarm if they paid cash rent for their house and yards only.

However, not all farm operators were reported as living on a farm, as indicated by the following data from tabulations made for this report:

	Farm operators reporting
Total.....	5,380,127
House on a farm.....	5,022,329
House not on a farm.....	281,057
Location of house not reported.....	76,741

Moreover, some of the farm operators reporting their house on a farm did not live on the farm operated as indicated by the following figures:

	Farm operators reporting		Residence of farm operator not reported
	Residence on farm operated	Residence not on farm operated	
Total.....	5,380,127	5,084,961	125,856
House on a farm....	5,022,329	4,788,114	110,175
House not on a farm	281,057	230,665	12,894
Location of house not reported.....	76,741	66,182	2,772

FARMS AND FARM PEOPLE

INCOME

Income is the sum of the money received from wages or salaries, net income (or loss) from self-employment in a business, profession, or farm, and income other than earnings. This last category includes net income (or loss) from rents, or receipts from roomers or boarders; royalties; interest, dividends, and periodic income from estates and trust funds; pensions; veterans' payments, armed forces allotments for dependents, and other governmental payments or assistance; and other income such as contributions for support from persons who are not members of the household, alimony, and periodic receipts from insurance policies or annuities. The figures in this report represent the amount of income received before deductions for personal income taxes, social security, bond purchases, union dues, etc.

Receipts from the following sources were not included as income: the value of income "in kind," such as food produced and consumed in the home, free living quarters, etc.; withdrawals of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; gifts; and lump-sum inheritances or insurance payments; money received from the sale of property such as stocks, bonds, a house, or a car, unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling such property.

Source of the income data.—Information was requested of persons 14 years of age and over in the sample on the following income categories: (a) the amount of money wages or salary received in 1949; (b) the amount of net money income received from self-employment, including farm or business, in 1949; and (c) the amount of other income received in 1949, such as interest, dividends, veterans' allowances, pensions, or rents. If the person was the head of a family, these three questions were repeated for the other family members as a group in order to obtain income of the whole family.

The figures in this census, as in all field surveys of income, are subject to errors of response and nonreporting. In most cases, the schedule entries for income are based not on records but on memory. The memory factor in data derived from field surveys of income probably produces underestimates, because the tendency is to forget minor or irregular sources of income. Other errors of reporting are due to misunderstanding of the income questions or to misrepresentation. For a more detailed appraisal of the data on income, reference should be made to Chapter 3 of this report.

OCCUPATION

In the 1950 Census of Population, information on occupation, industry, and class of worker was collected for persons in the experienced civilian labor force. All three items related to one specific job held by the person. For an employed person, the information referred to the job he held during the census week (April 1950). If he was employed at two or more jobs, the job at which he worked the greatest number of hours during the census week was reported. For an experienced unemployed person, the information referred to the last job he had held.

The occupation information presented here was derived from answers to the question, "What kind of work was he doing?" The data given in this report are usually for 12 major occupation groups. The composition of each major occupation group is indicated by the following illustrated list:

Professional, technical, and kindred workers.—Includes Accountants; Architects; Artists; Auditors; Authors; Chemists; Chiropractors; Clergymen; College presidents, professors, and instructors; Conservationists; Dentists; Draftsmen; Editors; Embalmers; Farm management advisors; Foresters; Funeral directors; Home management advisors; Judges; Lawyers; Librarians; Personnel workers; Pharmacists; Physicians; Professional nurses; Radio operators; Recreation workers; Religious workers; Reporters; Social workers; Surveyors; Teachers; Technical engineers; Veterinarians.

Farmers and farm managers.—Includes tenant farmers and croppers.

Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm.—Includes Buyers; Building superintendents; Credit men; Postmasters; Public administration officials; Purchasing agents; Railroad conductors; Ship officers, pilots, pursers, and engineers; Shippers of farm products; Union officials.

Clerical and kindred workers.—Includes Bank tellers; Bill and account collectors; Bookkeepers; Cashiers; Dentist's office attendants; Express agents; Express messengers; Library assistants and attendants; Mail carriers; Messengers; Office boys; Office machine operators; Physician's office attendants; Railway mail clerks; Receiving clerks; Secretaries; Shipping clerks; Station agents; Stenographers; Telegraph messengers; Telegraph operators; Telephone operators; Ticket agents; Typists.

Sales workers.—Includes Advertising agents and salesmen; Auctioneers; Demonstrators; Hucksters; Insurance agents and brokers; Newsboys; Peddlers; Real-estate agents and brokers; Stock and bond salesmen.

Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers.—Includes Bakers; Blacksmiths; Boilermakers; Bookbinders; Brickmasons; cabinetmakers; Carpenters; Die makers; Electricians; Engravers; Excavating machinery operators; Forgemen; Goldsmiths; Lithographers; Locomotive engineers; Locomotive firemen; Log and lumber scalers and graders; Loom fixers; Machinists; Mechanics; Metal molders; Opticians; Painters (construction and maintenance); Paperhangers; Photoengravers; Pipe fitters; Plasterers; Plumbers; Road machinery operators; Roofers; Sheet metal workers; Stationary engineers; Stereotypers; Stonemasons; Structural metal workers; Tailors; Telegraph and telephone linemen and servicemen; Tile setters; Tinsmiths; Tool makers; Typesetters; Watchmakers.

Operatives and kindred workers.—Includes Apprentices; Auto service attendants; Bus conductors and drivers; Chauffeurs; Deliverymen; Dressmakers; Dry cleaning operatives; Dyers; Fruit, nut, and vegetable graders and packers; Laundry operatives; Meat cutters; Metal grinders and polishers; Milliners; Mine operatives and laborers; Motormen; Painters (except construction and maintenance); Railroad brakemen and switchmen; Routemen; Sailors; Sawyers; Seamstresses; Stationary firemen; Street railway conductors; Surveying chainmen, rodmen, and axmen; Taxicab drivers; Textile spinners; Textile weavers; Tractor drivers; Truck drivers; Welders.

Private household workers.—Includes housekeepers and laundresses in private households.

Service workers, except private household.—Includes Attendants and ushers in amusement places; Barbers; Bartenders; Beauticians; Boarding house keepers; Bootblacks; Bridge tenders; Charwomen; Cooks, except in private households; Detectives; Doorkeepers; Elevator operators; Firemen (fire protection); Guards; Hospital attendants; Janitors; Manicurists; Midwives; Policemen; Porters; Practical nurses; Sextons; Stewards; Waiters; Watchmen.

Farm laborers and foremen.—Includes both paid and unpaid family farm laborers, and self-employed farm service laborers.

Laborers, except farm and mine.—Includes Car washers; Fishermen; Garage laborers; Groundskeepers; Longshoremen; Oystermen; Raftsmen; Stevedores; Teamsters; Woodchoppers.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Years of school completed.—Education by years of school refers to time in "regular" schools. Vocational, trade, and business schools were excluded unless such schools were graded and considered a part of the regular school system. Persons had to complete a grade in order to be counted as completing that grade.

Marital status.—Data on marital status are based on the replies to the question, "Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?" The classification refers to the status at the time of enumeration of all persons 14 years old and over. Three groups are shown in these tables—single, married, and widowed or divorced. Single persons include all who have never married. Persons classified as married comprise those who have been married once and those who remarried after having

been widowed or divorced. Persons reported as separated are also included in the "married" group. In the third group are all persons reported as either widowed or divorced.

Labor force.—The labor force includes all persons classified as employed or unemployed, and also members of the armed forces.

Employed persons comprise all civilians 14 years old and over who, during the census week, were either (a) "at work"—those except unpaid family farm laborers who did any work for pay or profit, or worked without pay for 15 hours or more on a family farm or in a family business (the number of persons in the labor force includes approximately 93,000 unpaid family farm laborers who worked less than 15 hours during the census week); or (b) "with a job but not at work"—those who did not work and were not looking for work but had a job or business from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff with definite instructions to return to work within 30 days of layoff.

Unemployed persons 14 years old and over are those not at work during the census week but were either looking for work or would have been looking for work except that (a) they were temporarily ill, (b) they expected to return to a job from which they had been laid off for an indefinite period, or (c) they believed no work was available in their community or in their line of work.

FAMILIES AND HOUSEHOLDS

Family.—A family is a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, and living together.

In this report the farm operators living alone or living with persons not related to them are shown in some tables and usually are treated as families rather than as single individuals.

The total number of persons in families was not tabulated but counts of each family size were obtained in single person intervals in twelve groups. Families consisting of more than 12 members are counted in the "12 or more" group. In computing the average size of family, it has been assumed that the average number of persons in families of 12 or more was 12. The effect on the average size of family because of this assumption is slight.

Family head.—A family head is defined in the 1950 Census as either (a) head of household with related persons present in household or (b) person unrelated to household head but with persons related to him comprising a family of which he is the head.

Household.—A household includes all the persons who occupy a house, an apartment or other group of rooms, or a room, that constitutes a dwelling unit. In general, a group of rooms occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or a separate entrance; a single room occupied as separate living quarters is a dwelling unit if it has separate cooking equipment or if it constitutes the only living quarters in the structure. A household includes the related family members and also the unrelated persons, if any, such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees, who share the dwelling unit. A person living alone in a dwelling unit or a group of unrelated persons sharing the same living accommodations as partners is also counted as a household.

One person in each household is designated as "head." Hence, by definition a count of heads of households is the same as a count of households which, in turn, is the same as a count of occupied dwelling units.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS AND HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Dwelling unit.—A dwelling unit is a group of rooms or a single room occupied, or intended for occupancy, as separate living quarters by a family or other group of persons living together or by a person living alone. In this study the count of dwelling units (farm operators' dwellings) is the same as the count of farms. Approximately 39,000 of the dwelling units included in the tabulations for this report were vacant dwellings.

Tenure of dwelling unit.—A dwelling unit is "owner-occupied" if the owner was one of the persons living in the unit even if the dwelling unit was not fully paid for or had a mortgage on it. When the owner of the unit was a member of the household but was temporarily away from home, as in the case of military service or temporary employment away from home, the unit was still classified as "owner-occupied."

All occupied dwelling units that are not "owner-occupied" were classified as "renter-occupied" whether or not any money rent was paid for the living quarters.

Condition of dwelling unit.—To measure condition, the dwelling units were classified as "not dilapidated" or "dilapidated." A dwelling unit was reported as dilapidated when it had serious deficiencies, was run-down or neglected, or was of inadequate original construction, so that it did not provide adequate shelter or protection against the elements or endangered the safety of the occupants. A dwelling unit was reported as dilapidated if, because of either inadequate original construction or deterioration, it was below the generally accepted minimum standard for housing and should be torn down or extensively repaired or rebuilt.

Specifically, a dwelling unit was to be reported as dilapidated if—

1. It had one or more critical deficiencies, as for example:
 - a. Holes, open cracks, rotted, loose, or missing materials over a considerable area of the foundation, outside walls, roof, or inside walls, floors, or ceilings.
 - b. Substantial sagging of floors, walls, or roof.
 - c. Extensive damage by storm, flood, or fire.
2. It had a combination of minor deficiencies which were present in sufficient number and extent to give evidence that the unit did not provide adequate shelter or protection against the elements or was physically unsafe. Examples of these deficiencies are—
 - a. Holes, open cracks, rotted, loose, or missing materials over a small area.
 - b. Shaky or unsafe porch, steps, or railings.
 - c. Broken or missing window panes.
 - d. Rotted or loose window frames which are no longer rain-proof or windproof.
 - e. Damaged, unsafe, or makeshift chimney.
 - f. Broken, loose, or missing inside stair treads or risers, balusters, or railings.
 - g. Deep wear on doorsills, doorframes, outside or inside steps, or floors.
3. It was of inadequate original construction. Examples of inadequate original construction are—
 - a. Makeshift walls.
 - b. Lack of foundation.
 - c. Dirt floors.
 - d. Inadequately converted cellars, garages, barns, and similar places.

Water supply.—A dwelling unit has "piped running water" if water is piped to it from a pressure or gravity system. "No piped running water" includes water from a hand pump or from a well or stream or where no piped running water is available within the structure.

A dwelling unit is counted as having hot piped running water whether it is available the year round or only part of the time. For example, hot running water may be available only during the heating season or at various times during the week.

Toilet facilities.—A dwelling unit is reported as having a flush toilet if the toilet is inside the structure and is operated by means of water piped to it.

Bathing facilities.—A dwelling unit has a bathtub or shower if either type of equipment, supplied with piped running water (not necessarily hot water), is available inside the structure for the use of the occupants of the dwelling unit.

Cooking fuel.—The fuel used most for cooking was reported. Where the fuel used most was not readily ascertainable for combination stoves, the fuel listed first was reported.

Kitchen sink.—A dwelling unit is reported as "with kitchen sink" if a sink, located within the structure and with a drain-pipe leading to the outside, is available for use by occupants of the unit. The sink need not have running water piped to it.

FARMS AND FARM PEOPLE

Refrigeration equipment.—The principal refrigeration equipment available to the dwelling unit was reported, whether or not it was in use at the time of enumeration. "Mechanical" refrigeration includes any type of refrigerator operated by electricity, gas, kerosene, gasoline, or other source of power. "Ice" refrigeration includes a refrigerator, box, or chest cooled by ice supplied from an outside source. "Other" refrigeration includes other devices or methods used to refrigerate food, such as a spring house, cooler, well cooler, an ice house in which storage space is provided for perishable food, and any evaporative cooler which is operated by application of water.

Telephone.—The data in regard to telephone relate to the farm and not necessarily to the dwelling of the farm operator as the telephone may not have been located in the dwelling of the farm operator.

Electricity.—If the farm had electricity, it was counted as a farm reporting electricity, although electricity may not have been installed in the dwelling of the farm operator. Electricity could have been either from a power line or from a home plant.

HOME FOOD-PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Gardens for home use.—Farms on which any vegetables, sweet corn or melons were harvested in 1949 for home use were counted as farms reporting gardens for home use.

Farm slaughter.—Farms reporting farm slaughter include those on which hogs, calves, cattle, sheep, or lambs were butchered by or for the farm operator in 1949.