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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Economic Research Service

CHANGING OCCUPATIONS AND LEVELS OF LIVING
OF RURAL PEOPLE

Talk by Louis J. Ducoff*
Economic and Statistical Analysis Division
at the 40th Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference
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In this Centennial Year of the establishment of the Department of Agriculture, we cannot help but reflect on the great changes that our Nation has undergone. A century ago the United States reached what W. W. Rostow in his book, "The Stages of Economic Growth" has characterized as the "take-off" stage -- "The great watershed in the life of modern societies ... the interval when the old blocks and resistances to steady growth are finally overcome [and] the forces making for economic progress ... expand and come to dominate the society." In 1860 we were a nation of only 31 million people, 20 percent urban and 80 percent rural. Occupationally we were divided into 60 percent in farming activities and 40 percent in nonagricultural pursuits. We were a young and vibrant and exuberant nation and we had, by 1860, raced through those preceding stages in man's history that Rostow characterizes as the "traditional society" and the stage of "preconditions for take-off" -- epochs that many countries of the world have not yet emerged from and in which countless generations of our forebears in other lands had spent their lives.

Between 1860 and 1920 we forged ahead and achieved full economic maturity and entered the highest of Rostow's five stages -- that of "high mass consumption." We reached this stage earlier than any other nation, we have been in it for the longest period, and are in the process of emerging from it into an as yet unnamed era of the highest level of living attained by any people in the history of mankind.

The process of economic development during the past century is well-reflected in the transformation of the occupational structure of our labor force and of the rural-urban composition of our population. The major pervasive trend with which we are all familiar was from a predominantly rural society to a highly urbanized and industrialized nation. While our agricultural labor force continued to grow the first 50 years of the last century (1860-1910) and nearly doubled by 1910, its growth was at a much slower rate than the nonagricultural labor force, which experienced a six-fold increase from 1860 to 1910. In the last 50 years employment in the nonagricultural sector climbed to two and one-half times that of 1910, while agricultural employment declined, first gradually and in more recent decades, at a greatly accelerated rate with the result that by 1961 agricultural employment amounted to 5.5 million and represented only eight percent of the nation's employed civilian labor force.

*Samuel Baum and James D. Cowhig contributed respectively to the analysis of rural labor force and level-of-living trends.

Accompanying these changes in the labor force were the parallel changes in our population with the decline in the relative size of the rural population and decrease in both the absolute and relative size of the farm population. By 1960 the urban population of the United States accounted for 70 percent and the rural population the remaining 30 percent. Within the rural population there has been a marked shift of an increasing proportion residing in rural-nonfarm areas and a declining proportion living on farms.

These tremendous changes that have been part of our historical economic development process could not have taken place without the revolutionary changes in the productivity and efficiency characterizing our modern agricultural plant which, year by year, has set new records in productivity per man-hour of labor and in aggregate production, more than sufficient to meet the needs of our rapidly increasing population.

It is well, however, to take a closer look at what the impact of our economic development has been on the occupational structure and levels of living of our rural population. In doing so we need also ask ourselves to what extent have all sectors of our population shared in the gains in level of living brought about by our highly developed and affluent economy.

First, we need to bring into focus the fact that the rapid growth of our urban population has meant a relative but not an absolute decline in the size of our rural population. In 1910 we had 50 million people in the rural population, both rural farm and rural nonfarm combined. As of 1960, the rural population numbered 54.5 million (Figure 1). It is in the farm component of the total rural population that the sharp decrease has occurred, from 32 million in 1910 to 14.8 million in 1961, with 86 percent of this decrease having occurred only in the last 20 years.

The Rural Labor Force

In discussing trends in the rural labor force, we shall summarize these with respect to the workers' occupational and type of industry attachments. The occupational classification relates to the kind of work people do (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, farming, etc.) and the industry classification relates to the type of establishment in which the worker is employed (e.g., furniture factory, clothing store, construction firm, etc.). We shall do so for the rural population as a whole and within it distinguish the trends in the two major sectors - the rural farm and the rural nonfarm. The rural farm part relates, of course, to the occupations being followed by people living on farms, and the rural nonfarm relates to those who live in the open country but not on farms and in villages and small towns of less than 2500 population.

Among the 54 million people living in rural areas in 1960, 18.2 million were in the civilian labor force (the employed and those who were unemployed and looking for work). The size of the rural labor force in 1960 was not very different from that in 1950, but due to the substantial increase in the urban labor force the proportion that the rural comprised of the total labor force declined from 31.6 percent in 1950 to 27.2 percent in 1960.

With the sharp decline in farm population and agricultural employment the occupation and industry "mix" of the rural labor force has been substantially altered. Farmers and farm laborers are no longer the largest occupational group among the rural labor force. In 1940 nearly one-half of the rural employed were either farm operators, farm managers or farm laborers. By 1960 only one-fifth were in the agricultural occupations. Since 1950 the blue-collar workers (skilled and semi-skilled) have surpassed the farm occupations as the most numerous class. (Figure 2.) By April 1960 there were more than 5.5 million Craftsmen, Foremen, and Operatives resident in rural areas as compared to a little more than 3.5 million farmers and farm laborers. The white-collar occupations numbered 4.8 million workers and thus also were more numerous among rural than were the number of rural persons in farm occupations.

From the standpoint of industries in which rural people are employed, we might note that manufacturing is now the single most important industry group, accounting for 4.2 million persons or 24 percent of the total as compared to 3.8 million persons or 22 percent in agriculture in 1960. A decade earlier, agriculture accounted for twice as large a proportion of the rural labor force as did manufacturing - 36 percent and 18 percent, respectively. Wholesale and retail trade establishments comprised the third most important industry group of the rural labor force, and establishments engaged in professional and related services constituted the fourth largest group.

Manufacturing industries increased their employment of rural persons by nearly 900,000 during the 1950-60 decade, a gain of 27 percent. (Figure 3.) This percentage increase was one and one-half times as great as occurred in manufacturing employment among urban residents. Large absolute and relative increases during the decade also occurred among rural people employed in professional and related services, wholesale and retail trade, in finance, insurance and real estate and in other industry categories. Employment in agriculture, as has been indicated, decreased sharply between 1950 and 1960. Decreases also occurred in employment in the other two extractive industries, mining, and forestry and fisheries--industries which predominantly employ rural residents. The drop in mining was quite substantial, 234,000 rural persons or a 40 percent decline from 1950 to 1960, due mainly to the decrease in coal mining.

The occupational and type of industry changes during the 1950-60 decade observed for the rural labor force were parallel to that which occurred among urban residents where the greatest relative gains occurred in the white-collar occupations connected with services of a professional, technical or distributive nature. (Figure 4.) Nevertheless, rural people are still relatively more numerous in the blue-collar groups among occupations which require less education and formal training, but the differences between urban and rural occupational profiles are decreasing.

With heavy decreases in agricultural employment among rural residents, and the largely counterbalancing increases in a wide variety of non-agricultural occupations and industries, it is obvious that we are developing an increasingly more urban-like occupational structure among rural people. (Table 1.) In view of the generally higher incomes obtained in non-agricultural occupations than in agriculture, the effect of these shifts has been to increase average income among rural families and to raise their levels of living.

Rural Farm vs. Rural Nonfarm Labor Force

One of the significant trends in the rural population during the 1950-60 decade has been the growth of the labor force living in the rural-nonfarm areas as contrasted to the decline of the labor force living on farms. This, of course, follows from the fact that the farm population has decreased sharply while the rural-nonfarm population has increased. The civilian labor force in the rural-nonfarm population increased from 10.4 million in 1950 to 13.4 million in 1960, but the labor force in the farm population decreased from 8.1 million in 1950 to 4.8 million in 1960, according to the last Census of Agriculture. ^{1/} A part of this large drop in size of the farm labor force is due to the more restrictive definition of farm population adopted in 1960, but a large part of it is also due to the actual decline in number of farms, farm population and agricultural employment.

The major distinction in the occupational distribution of the rural-nonfarm as compared with the rural-farm labor force is the preponderance of employment in agriculture among farm residents and the very small percentage engaged in agriculture among rural-nonfarm residents. Only about seven percent of the rural-nonfarm labor force in 1960 were engaged in farming occupations and this percentage is not very different from what it was in 1950 and in 1940. (Table 2.) Thus, more than 90 percent of the labor force living in rural-nonfarm areas have customarily been employed in occupations other than agriculture. In the case of the farm population, the great majority of the gainfully occupied have traditionally been engaged in farming, but this situation has been changing over some decades and the changes have become progressively more rapid in recent years. Thus, of the employed population living on farms in 1960, only 60 percent were engaged in agriculture and 40 percent in nonagricultural occupations. In 1950, agriculture accounted for 70 percent and in 1940 nearly 80 percent. Thus, the proportion of the employed population living on farms and working in nonagricultural occupations nearly doubled between 1940 and 1960.

Trends in Agricultural Employment

We may now examine a little more closely what has been happening to agricultural employment. From 1950 to 1960, the number of persons employed in agriculture has dropped from 7.5 to 5.7 million, a decrease of twenty-four percent according to the labor force estimates of the Department of Labor. ^{2/} (Figure 5.) In 1961 and again in 1962, there were further decreases, bringing

^{1/} Note should be taken of the substantial and as yet largely unexplained differences between the 1960 Census of Population results on the size of the rural farm population, the labor force resident on farms and employment in agriculture and the corresponding estimates from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) for April 1960. Although the same definitions and concepts were used, the CPS results are consistently much higher than the Population Census. The labor force living on farms, for example, is 6.3 million in the April 1960 CPS compared with 4.8 million shown by Population Census and agricultural employment is 5.4 million compared with 4.3 million in the Population Census.

^{2/} Derived from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey.

agricultural employment to an estimated annual average of about 5.3 million. The agricultural labor force is now no larger than it was shortly after 1850, more than 100 years ago. The decrease during the past decade has been greatest among farm operators themselves, following the sharp decrease in the number of farms. The decrease in unpaid family workers has been roughly proportional to the decline in total agricultural employment. In the case of the hired farm workers, however, there has been no clear persistent trend in either direction since the end of World War II. Thus, with farm operators and unpaid family workers declining, the relative importance of hired farm workers has increased, rising from approximately a fifth of the total agricultural employment shortly after World War II to one-third by 1961. Agricultural employment has decreased in every region of the country. The South, however, experienced the largest absolute and relative drop, with the result that by 1960 the South accounted for only 40 percent of total agricultural employment in the United States as compared with 52 percent in 1940. (Table 3.)

In view of the extensive mechanization that has occurred on farms during the past two decades and the sharp decrease in labor requirements and labor input in agriculture, it is at first rather surprising to observe that employment of hired farm workers has shown very little change in numbers since the end of World War II. Apparently the effects of mechanization and other labor-saving practices on the employment of hired farm workers have been counter-balanced by the increase in the number of farms with a value of sales of \$10,000 and over. These farms are the principal employers of hired labor and they increased from 484,000 in 1949 to 795,000 in 1959. Farms of this size accounted for 83 percent of the total expenditures for hired labor in the United States in 1959.

Rural Levels of Living

We have described some of the significant changes in occupational structure of the rural population. Now, let us discuss some of the changes in the level of living of farm and nonfarm families which, to a substantial degree, are a result of these differences and changes in occupational patterns.

We shall examine changes in level of living by noting various indicators that influence or reflect the economic and social well-being of rural families. Income, the possession of certain goods, the extent of educational attainments and the availability of health services are factors that influence the quality or content of level of living.

A comparison of the money income of urban and rural families shows that between 1949 and 1959, median family income increased about 80 percent in each of the three residence categories. (Table 4.) ^{3/} In 1959 the median money income of rural-farm families of \$3,228 was about two-thirds (68 percent) of rural-nonfarm and just over half (52 percent) of urban families. These relationships were practically the same in 1949, though at lower income levels.

^{3/} Rising living costs absorbed a part of this increase. The real increase in median family income for the United States was 50 percent, after adjusting for changes in the BLS Consumer Price Index from 1949 to 1959.

Nearly a third of all rural-farm families had incomes of less than \$2,000 compared with less than a fifth (18.4 percent) for rural-nonfarm and only one-tenth (9.4 percent) of the urban families. The proportions of families with less than \$2,000 income had declined by half or more in the urban and rural-nonfarm sectors between 1949 and 1959. For rural-farm families the proportion of low-income families did not decline as much. While rural-farm families comprised in 1959 only seven percent of all families in the United States they had 18 percent of all families with less than \$2,000 income. Thus, while substantial economic progress was made by all sectors of the population, farm and nonfarm during the past decade, the wide differentials between the farm and nonfarm sectors have continued to persist.

We should note that family income in the South in 1959 was substantially below that of the other regions--about \$4,500 compared with \$6,000 for the rest of the United States. In both 1950 and 1959, about one-third of all families but over 45 percent of all low-income families lived in the South.

In view of our interest in occupational patterns, we might also note the income differentials among major occupational groups. Data for 1961 show that of the 11 major occupation groups, farmers ranked the third lowest, farm laborers next to the lowest and private household workers (mostly domestic servants) the lowest (Table 5.)

In addition to current income, measures of level of living usually include data on the facilities available to families. The possession of such items as television, telephones, automobiles, home freezers, hot and cold water in the housing structure, are types of items that serve as partial indicators of level of living. The remarkable growth of television ownership between 1950 and 1960 has been widely diffused among all residence groups in the population--the rural as well as the urban. Whereas in 1950 only three percent of the rural-farm households had television sets, by 1960 eighty percent had them (Table 6.) The proportion of housing units with hot and cold water continues to be the item on which there remains the greatest difference between rural-farm and urban residents. In 1960, almost all urban housing units but only two-thirds of the farm homes had hot and cold water. Nevertheless, the proportion of rural-farm housing units equipped with hot and cold water more than doubled between 1950 and 1960.

When we concentrate on farm-operator families and compare the proportion of farms with various facilities, we note that by 1959 almost all farms were electrified: 80 percent had automobiles; two-thirds telephones, and well over one-half had home freezers--almost five times the proportion reporting home freezers in 1950 (Table 7.) Thus, insofar as the possession of these facilities reflects level of living, marked improvement can be seen over the past decade. In part, of course, this improvement reflects more money available to families to purchase such units.

For many years, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has worked on the development of a summary measure which would indicate--albeit only partially--variations in the level of living of farm operators. A major purpose of this index is to show variations on as detailed a geographic basis as possible -- namely, by counties for each State. In 1959, a new formula was developed for the farm operator level-of-living index. ^{4/} The index is necessarily limited

^{4/} See James D. Cowhig, Farm Operator Level-of-Living Indexes 1950 and 1959, Econ. Res. Serv., USDA Stat. Bul. 321, Sept. 1962.

to information obtained every five years in the Census of Agriculture, the only source of county data obtained quinquennially. Two major conclusions stem from this work. First, there has been a substantial rise in the index, from a U. S. county average of 59 in 1950 to 100 in 1959. Second, the index shows, as do other measures, marked geographic variations. (Figures 6 and 7.) For example, in both 1950 and 1959, the South ranked lowest on the index and the West ranked highest.

An examination of the educational attainment of the adult population (persons 25 years old and over), suggests that the differences favoring the urban population in 1950 had persisted and in some cases, widened by 1960. For example, in 1960 half of the adults in the rural-farm population had completed 8.8 years of school - a gain since 1950 of only 0.4 of a year in the median grade completed; whereas the median years of school completed by the urban adult population of 11.1 in 1960 rose by practically a full year since 1950. (Table 8.) In both 1950 and 1960, the adult rural-farm population contained the highest proportion of individuals who may be characterized as functionally illiterate (those with fewer than five years of school completed) and the lowest proportion of high school graduates. The proportion of rural-farm high school graduates in 1960 was considerably below that for urban residents 10 years earlier. Nevertheless, the decade did record educational progress in the farm as well as in the nonfarm population. The proportion of adults with at least a high school education has increased and the proportion with very little schooling has decreased. Moreover, the future picture looks still more promising. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that the proportion of rural-farm youths of high school age enrolled in school increased substantially between 1950 and 1960 and reached the level characteristic of the urban population.

A few comments on health facilities: Despite the rapid acceptance of health insurance programs, the proportion of the rural-farm population covered by health insurance is substantially below that of both the urban and rural-nonfarm. Only about four out of ten rural-farm persons but over seven out of ten urban persons were covered by hospitalization insurance in 1959. (Table 9.) Also, proportionately fewer health facilities are available to rural residents than to persons in or near metropolitan areas. This situation may be illustrated by examining the number of physicians per 100,000 population. Partly because of rapid population growth, there was little difference in the physician-population ratio in 1949 and in 1959, but in both years the rural areas were at a substantial disadvantage compared with metropolitan areas. (Table 10.)

Outlook and Implications

In discussing occupational and level-of-living changes in the rural population we are dealing with the effects of extremely broad and pervasive forces concerning which short range projections are not very meaningful while long range projections are hazardous.

Science and technology in agriculture have brought about a sharp polarization in income and competitive position between farms that are of adequate size to permit efficient family management and an adequate level of family income and farms of inadequate size. In the readjustments that have been occurring in agriculture, the adequate size family commercial farms have

been increasing at an accelerated rate during the past decade. 5/ Farms with less than \$10,000 and particularly those with less than \$5,000 gross sales have been steadily decreasing in numbers and their rate of decrease has also accelerated in recent years. Such adjustments will continue, and bring further sharp reductions in the total number of farms but with an increasing number and sharp gain in the relative importance of the adequate size family farm.

Aside from hired farm employment which is concentrated very heavily on the farms with \$10,000 and over gross sales, the size of the total agricultural labor force and of the farm population is determined principally by what happens to the nearly 80 percent of the farms which in 1959 had less than \$10,000 of sales. There can be little doubt as to the continuing decrease in their number with a consequent downward movement of farm population and agricultural employment. By 1965 agricultural employment as measured by the labor force series of the U. S. Department of Labor, may decline to about 4.8 million and by 1970 to around 4.3 million, if trends of the last ten years continue.

Between now and 1965 the number of hired farm workers may not change much from current levels as the increase in the number of large or adequate commercial family farms will require additional hired workers. This increased demand for hired labor may about offset the reduction in hired labor needs resulting from further adoption of mechanical harvest machines and other manual labor-saving practices.

It should also be recognized that future decreases in agricultural employment as measured by the Monthly Report on the Labor Force will, as in the past, reflect increasing prevalence of part-time farming. The proportion of farm operators with over 100 days of off-farm work has risen steadily, until in 1959 thirty percent of all farm operators were in this category. (Many of these do not report farming as their chief occupation and therefore are not counted in agricultural employment). The trend toward more part-time farming will probably continue.

While our focus in this paper has been on the rural occupational and level-of-living changes, some general observations are in order. As has been indicated in the previous paper, we can be fairly sure of a continued high rate of total population increase for some decades to come. The trend toward further urbanization is, for all practical purposes, irreversible and a further shrinkage of the proportion rural is quite certain. The absolute size of the rural population, however, may not differ greatly from the current level. Thus, for example, should the proportion rural decline at the rate of the past 40 years, then by 1980 we may have only 20 percent of the population rural (compared with 30 percent in 1960). But this 20 percent would still be equal to at least 50 million people under the several total population projections.

5/ See H. L. Stewart, Changes in Farms and Farming, 39th Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference, U.S.D.A., Nov. 16, 1961; see also N. M. Koffsky, "Farms and Farmers: Changes Induced by Technologic and Economic Developments." Jour. of Farm Economics, May 1962, pp. 625-632

If our assumption as to the future size of the rural population is tenable, the decrease foreseeable in the farm population and its labor force will be offset by increases in the rural-nonfarm population. The occupational and type-of-industry attachments of the rural-nonfarm population has characteristically been much more like those of the urban population than of the rural-farm population. With declines that have occurred in mining and some other industries that have typically employed rural dwellers the rural-nonfarm and urban labor forces are tending to become ever more similar.

As we have indicated, the rural-farm population has also become increasingly diversified in its occupational and industrial attachments. Nonfarm occupations already claim 40 percent of the farm population who are gainfully occupied and this proportion has shown a steady upward trend which is likely to continue. The national trend of greater labor force participation by women has also reflected itself in the case of women living on farms. Thus, of all females 14 years of age and over living on farms the proportion who are in the labor force has risen from 12 percent in 1940 to 16 percent in 1950 and to 23 percent in 1960, with an increasing proportion of them being employed in non-farm occupations (75 percent in 1960 compared with 60 percent in 1950). The labor force participation by women in farm areas in 1960 is still considerably lower than by urban (37 percent) and by rural nonfarm women (29 percent). Should employment opportunities available to rural-farm women expand an increasing number of them would undoubtedly avail themselves of such employment. The technological revolution in agriculture that has so drastically reduced labor requirements and increased productivity per worker is thus freeing an increasing proportion of individuals in farm families for employment outside of agriculture. For some it has meant migration to rural-nonfarm or urban areas. For others it has increasingly become a matter of commuting to their jobs, while continuing to live on farms. Thus, occupational and patterns of living distinctions between the rural and urban population and between the rural-farm and rural-nonfarm segments are rapidly diminishing.

The adjustments that still need to take place with respect to half or more of the farms and the people on those farms with units that are too small to provide a minimum adequate living from agriculture are of great magnitude and involve a long-term process of development of human and physical resources. The same thing may be said for substantial segments of the rural-nonfarm population. Some of these rural-nonfarm people were previously classified in the farm population under a somewhat less restrictive definition of farm population used prior to 1960. It is therefore well that the Rural Areas Development program does not draw sharp distinctions between rural-farm and rural-nonfarm low-income people experiencing common problems of inadequate employment opportunities, and, under existing conditions, an inadequate potential for development of their human and physical resources.

Nevertheless, it is well to recognize the more acute and special nature of the problem confronting the low-income farm families and their heavy concentration in the South. The information presented indicates that while progress has been achieved in the improvement of levels of living of farm families generally and further progress may be anticipated, there are still wide discrepancies not only in income between farm and nonfarm families but also in educational preparation, health facilities and other measures of general well-being. The farm population has a disproportionate number of its people among the poorly remunerated, the poorly educated and among the underprivileged. The agricultural wage workers, by and large, have a more precarious and less adequate level of living than many low-income farm-operator

families. The importance of agricultural wage workers to the operation of our highly productive sector of commercial agriculture, is too obvious to need any special reiteration. Hence their needs and well-being should be fully considered in such programs as Rural Areas development, manpower training and development or other programs designed to expand opportunities and raise the level of living of low-income sectors of the population.

We know that the requirements of the economy in years ahead will place a premium on a well-trained and well-educated labor force. Those with limited education will be at a considerable disadvantage. The importance of increased investments in basic education and the continuous raising of the level of education of rural youth cannot be overstressed. While progress has been achieved for the rural population as a whole, it has not kept pace with the educational progress made by the urban population and the discrepancies have not narrowed. For some segments of agriculture educational attainment has lagged considerably behind not only the urban situation but also that of the rural-farm population as a whole. For agricultural wage workers for example, no real progress in the average level of educational attainment has been recorded over the past two decades. The meeting of the pressing needs for higher levels of basic educational attainment and for training and retraining of workers in skills that are currently and prospectively in demand are problems of national proportions that are receiving increasing attention. The Manpower Development and Training Act of 1962 represents an important step forward in equipping workers with needed skills and its provisions apply to workers in farm families as well as to nonfarm workers.

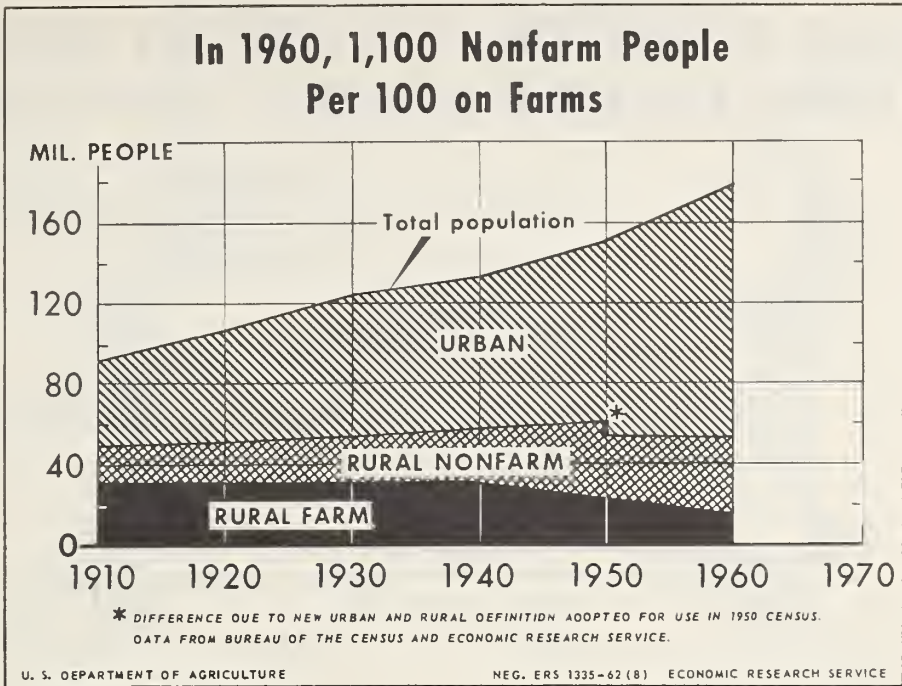


Figure 1

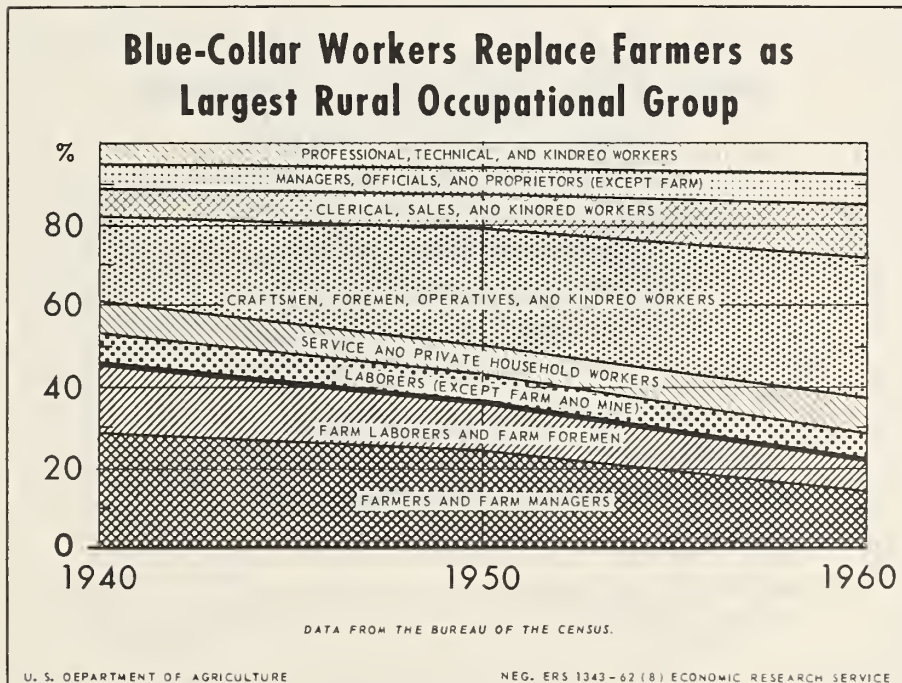
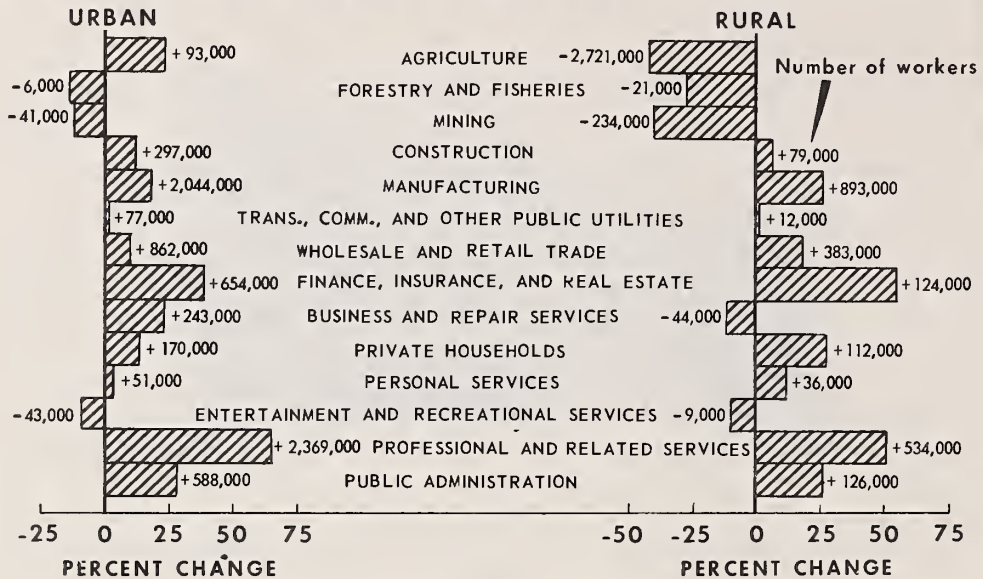


Figure 2

CHANGE IN EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY GROUPS OF URBAN AND RURAL RESIDENTS, 1950 TO 1960



DATA FROM U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

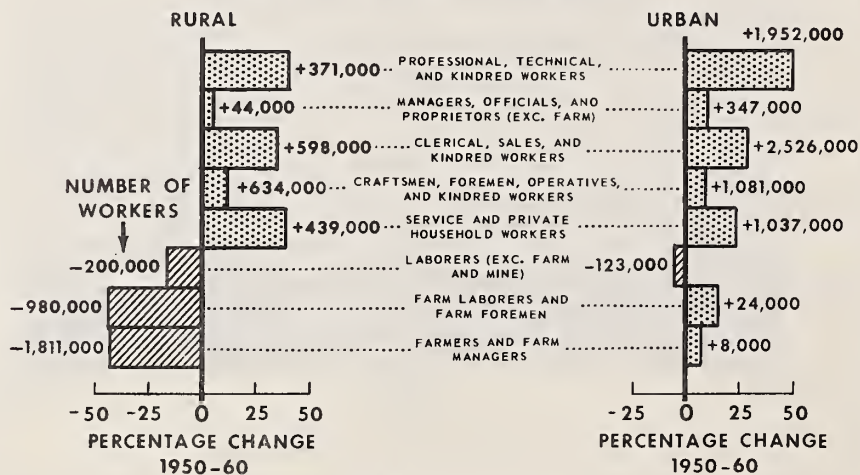
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Figure 3

White Collar and Service Occupations Increase Most in Decade



DATA FROM BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

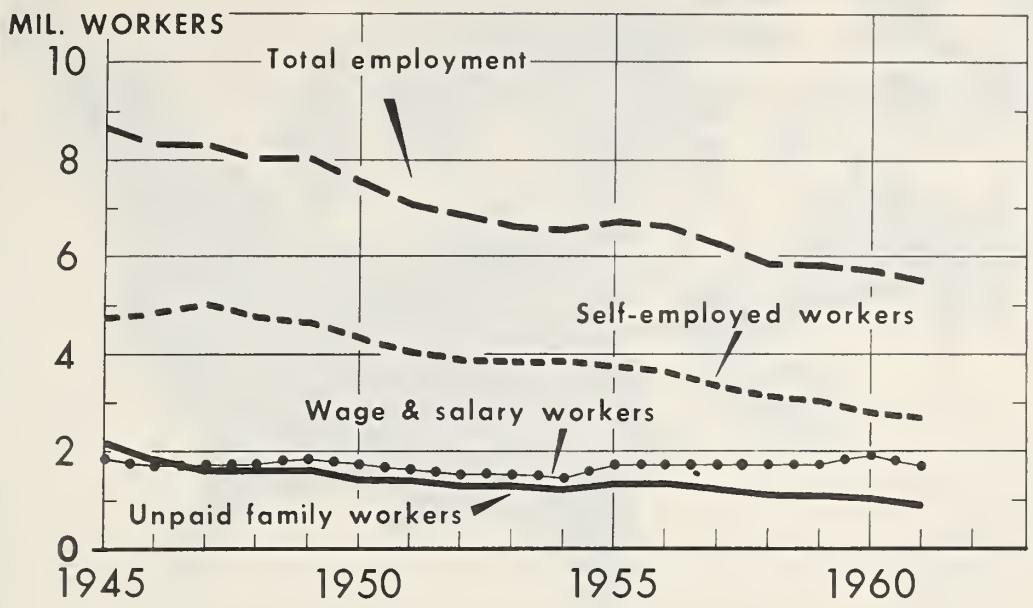
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Figure 4

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT



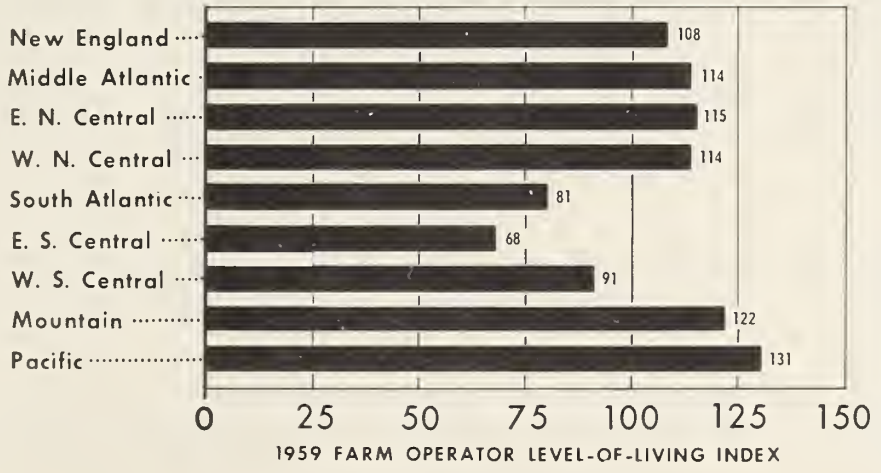
DATA FROM MONTHLY REPORT ON THE LABOR FORCE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Figure 5

Pacific Farm Operators Have Highest Level-of-Living Index



U. S. AVERAGE FOR ALL COUNTIES WAS 100 IN 1959.

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Figure 6

FARM OPERATOR LEVEL-OF-LIVING INDEXES, 1959

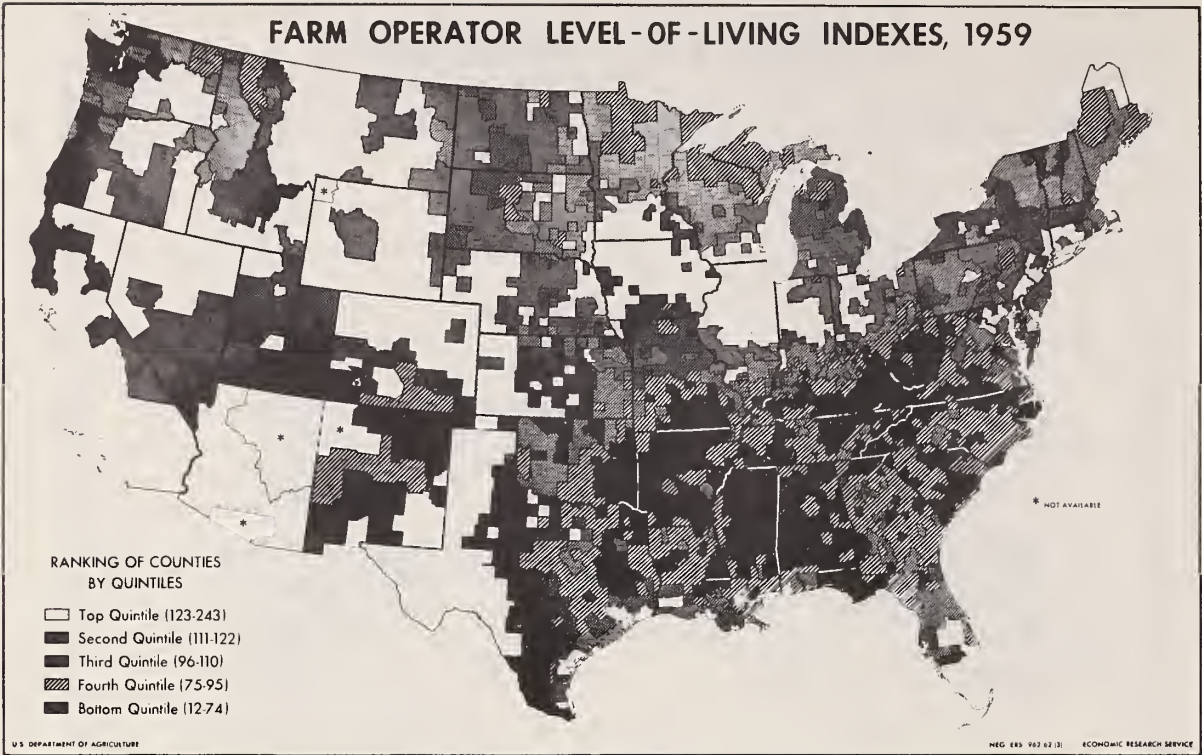


Figure 7

Table 1.--Industry of employed workers, by urban and rural residence, United States, 1950 and 1960

Industry group	Urban		Rural					
	1950 : 1960		Total rural		Rural nonfarm		Rural farm	
	Pct.	Pct.	1950	1960	1950	1960	1950	1960
Total employed (thousands)	38,406	47,390	17,834	17,249	9,860	12,756	7,974	4,673
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Agriculture	1.0	1.0	36.4	21.8	8.5	7.6	70.8	60.2
Monocultural industries	97.5	94.5	61.7	75.4	89.5	89.4	27.4	37.7
Forestry and fisheries	.1	.1	.4	.3	.7	.4	.2	.2
Mining	.9	.6	3.3	2.1	4.9	2.6	1.3	.7
Construction	6.0	5.5	6.3	7.0	8.9	8.2	3.1	3.7
Manufacturing	29.4	28.2	18.3	24.1	25.6	28.7	9.4	12.0
Transportation, communication, and other public utilities	9.0	7.5	5.0	5.3	7.4	6.2	2.1	2.4
Wholesale and retail trade	21.9	19.6	11.9	14.5	18.0	17.4	4.3	6.9
Finance, insurance, and real estate	4.4	4.9	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.4	.5	1.0
Business and repair services	2.7	2.7	2.0	1.9	3.1	2.3	.8	.7
Private households	3.2	3.0	2.3	3.0	3.1	3.3	1.2	2.0
Other personal services	4.0	3.4	1.8	2.0	2.8	2.5	.5	.8
Entertainment and recreational services	1.2	.9	.5	.5	.8	.6	.1	.2
Professional and related services	9.5	12.6	5.9	9.1	8.4	10.6	2.7	5.2
Public administration	5.2	5.5	2.7	3.6	4.0	4.2	1.2	1.9
Industry not reported	1.3	4.5	1.9	2.8	1.9	3.0	1.8	2.1

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. Censuses of Population, 1950 and 1960.

Table 2.--Percent distribution of employed persons residing in rural nonfarm and rural farm areas, by major occupation group, 1940 to 1960

Occupation group	Rural nonfarm				Rural farm			
	1940	1950	1960	1940	1950	1960		
Total employed	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Farm occupations <u>1/</u>	6.3	7.9	6.7	78.2	70.4	59.1		
Professional, technical, officials, and proprietors, except farm	19.3	17.3	17.2	3.8	4.4	6.5		
Clerical and sales workers	12.3	13.9	15.6	2.3	3.9	6.9		
Craftsmen, operatives and kindred workers	36.9	40.6	39.2	8.3	13.4	16.9		
Service workers <u>2/</u>	13.2	9.4	10.6	3.4	2.6	4.9		
Laborers, except farm and mine	10.9	9.2	6.7	3.4	3.6	3.2		
Occupation not reported	1.1	1.7	4.0	.6	1.7	2.5		

1/ Farmers, farm managers, farm laborers and foremen.

2/ Includes private household workers.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Censuses of Population.

Table 3.--Regional distribution of agricultural employment,
United States, 1940-1960

Region	1940	1950	1960
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United States	100.0	100.0	100.0
Northeast	7.0	7.4	8.1
North Central	32.2	35.5	36.8
South	52.2	47.3	40.9
West	8.7	10.8	14.2

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Decennial Censuses of Population.

Table 4.--Family money income for the United States, urban and rural
1959 and 1949

Residence	Percent of families with incomes:				Median family income	
	Under \$2,000		\$10,000 and over		1959	1949
	1959	1949	1959	1949		
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Total	13.1	29.3	15.1	3.1	\$5,660	\$3,073
Urban	9.4	21.2	17.7	3.9	\$6,166	\$3,431
Rural nonfarm	18.4	36.9	9.0	1.7	\$4,750	\$2,560
Rural farm	32.2	56.1	6.8	1.8	\$3,228	\$1,729

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population, 1960. General Social and Economic Characteristics, United States Summary. Final Report PC (1) 1 C. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1962. Tables 95 and 96.

U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population, 1950. Vol. II, Characteristics of the Population, Part I, United States Summary. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1953. Table 57.

Table 5.--Median money income of workers in 1961,
by occupation of longest job during year,
United States

Occupation groups	All workers		Year-round full-time workers 1/	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Total with earnings	4,605	1,751	5,595	3,315
Professional, technical and kindred workers	6,740	3,552	7,468	4,875
Farmers and farm managers	1,806	--	2,155	--
Managers, officials, and proprietors, except farm	6,554	2,563	6,977	3,411
Clerical and kindred workers	4,790	2,835	5,355	3,719
Sales workers	4,878	1,038	6,021	2,391
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred workers	5,404	2,750	6,005	--
Operatives and kindred workers	4,341	2,118	5,150	2,951
Private household workers	--	387	---	1,140
Service workers, except private household	3,114	1,069	4,322	2,302
Farm laborers and foremen	493	284	1,944	--
Laborers, except farm and mine	2,044	--	4,250	--

1/ Persons who worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 weeks or more during the year.

Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Consumer Income, Series P-60, No. 38, August 28, 1962, Table 6.

Table 6.--Percent of occupied housing units with selected facilities,
United States, 1960 and 1950

Residence	Television		Radio		Hot and cold water in structure	
	1960	1950	1960	1950	1960	1950
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	87	12	91	96	96	70
Urban	89	16	92	97	99	86
Rural nonfarm	82	6	88	93	88	50
Rural farm	80	3	91	92	65	29

Source: Data for 1950 from U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Housing: 1950, Vol. I, General Characteristics. Chapter 1, U. S. Summary. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1953. Tables 8 and 12.

Data for 1960 from advance data U. S. Census of Housing: 1960.

Table 7.--Facilities on farms, United States, 1959 and 1950

	Percent of farms reporting:			
	Electricity	Telephones	Home Freezers	Automobiles
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1959	96	65	56	80
1950	78	38	12	63

Source: Data for 1959 from Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1962. Table 881, page 636, and from Rural Electrification Administration release of January 5, 1960.

Data for 1950 from Trends and Patterns in Levels of Living of Farm Families in the United States. USDA Agr. Inf. Bull. 181, 1958.

Table 8.--Years of school completed by persons 25 years old and over and percent enrolled in school, by age, for the United States, urban and rural, 1960 and 1950

Year and residence	Years of school completed			Percent enrolled in school				
	Percent completing:	Median years completed	No.	Age				
	Less than 5 years	12 years or more		7-13	14-15	16-17	18-19	20-24
	Pct.	Pct.		Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1960								
Total	8.4	41.1	10.6	97.5	94.1	80.9	42.1	14.6
Urban	7.3	44.3	11.1	97.8	94.9	82.0	45.2	17.2
Rural nonfarm	10.9	34.4	9.5	97.1	92.6	77.8	33.9	8.2
Rural farm	11.3	29.5	8.8	97.2	93.0	81.8	38.9	7.1
1950								
Total	10.8	33.4	9.3	95.7	92.9	74.4	32.2	12.9
Urban	9.1	37.8	10.2	96.1	94.8	78.8	36.5	15.8
Rural nonfarm	12.5	27.8	8.8	95.5	92.1	70.2	25.6	8.0
Rural farm	16.5	19.6	8.4	94.7	89.1	67.2	25.1	5.5

Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1960. General Social and Economic Characteristics. United States Summary. Final Report PC (1)-1 C. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1962. Tables 73 and 76.

U. S. Bureau of the Census. U. S. Census of Population: 1950. Vol. II. Characteristics of the Population, Part I. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1953. Tables 42 and 44.

Table 9.--Percent of population with health insurance coverage,
United States, 1959

Residence	Type of coverage		
	Hospital	Surgical	Doctor visits outside hospital
Total	67	62	19
Urban	72	66	20
Rural nonfarm	68	64	21
Rural farm	45	40	12

Source: United States National Health Survey. Health Statistics
Series B, No. 26, Washington, D. C., Dec. 1960, p. 2.

Table 10.--Physicians per 100,000 population, United States,
by type of area, 1959 and 1949

Area	1959 rate	1949 rate
United States	119.4	118.8
Metropolitan and adjacent	132.6	135.9
Greater Metropolitan	158.4	171.9
Lesser Metropolitan	129.5	130.1
Adjacent to Metropolitan	77.2	77.4
Isolated	74.7	73.7
Isolated semi-rural	81.1	79.6
Isolated rural	47.4	50.0

Source: Health Manpower Source Book. Physician's Age, Type of Practice
and Location. Public Health Service Publ. 263, Section 10,
U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare. U. S. Government
Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1960. p. 11.