to be appreciably greater than on January 1, due to advance-
ment of the farm season. More detailed definitions and a dis-
cussion of the comparability of the data for the various cen-
sus years are given in the 1940 Population Reports. Trends in the rural population of the United States since 1860 and in the farm population since 1820, and their relation to the total population are shown graphically in the accompany-
ing chart. These data are also shown in table 1. Note that although the rural population has increased steadily, its growth has not been nearly as rapid as that of the total popu-
lation. In 1850 about 85 percent of the population was rural and only 16 percent urban. By 1920 less than half of the popu-
lation lived in rural areas and by 1930 the proportion had fur
ther decreased until it was slightly less than 44 percent. The 1940 Census shows that, although the general trend conti-
ued, the rural population represented only a slightly smaller proportion of the total population than in 1930.

TOTAL, RURAL, AND FARM POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES: 1850-1940

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1850</th>
<th>1860</th>
<th>1870</th>
<th>1880</th>
<th>1890</th>
<th>1900</th>
<th>1910</th>
<th>1920</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1940</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>185</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farms, for census purposes, is all the land on which some agri-
cultural operations are performed by one person, either by his own
labor alone or with the assistance of members of his household, or
hired employees. The land operated by a partnership is likewise con-
sidered a farm. A 'farm' may consist of a single tract of land, or a
number of separate tracts, and the several tracts may be held under
different tenures, as when one tract is owned by the farmer and an-
other tract is rented by him. When a landowner has one or more ten-
ants, renters, croppers, or managers, the land operated by each is
considered a separate farm. Thus, one landowner may operate a land-
operated by each cropper, renter, or tenant should be reported as a separate farm, and the
land operated by the owner or manager by means of wage labor
(take into account either exports or imports. The ratios based on the farm population give rough
measures of the per capita agricultural production. In general, farm practices are becoming more efficient, so many fewer and
still fewer farm workers are required. The rather short series for which the numbers of farm population are available coupled
with the "back-to-the-farm" movement in the fore part of the past decade, and rather pronounced changes in land utilization,
turns of the 1935 census of Agriculture showed a rather pro-
gressively the 1930 level. In 1940 less than 1

Farms.—The definition of a farm as used for the 1940 Census was revised and redefined. In
the 1930 Census, as in previous enumerations, a farm was defined as all the land on which some agri-
cultural operations were performed by one person, either by his own
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In the enumerators' handbook the following instruction was given:

Do not report as a farm a tract of land of less than 3 acres, unless its agricultural products in 1939 were valued at $500 or more.

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