

Farms in Canada were generally larger in 1956 than in 1951. The average size of farm increased from 279.3 acres in 1951 to 302.5 acres in 1956. The number of farms 400 acres or more in size increased nearly 4 p.c., while the number of farms under 400 acres in size decreased over 10 p.c. In Canada, 21.4 p.c. of the farms were 400 acres or more in size, but it was only in the Prairie Provinces that these large farms formed a significant proportion of the total—in Saskatchewan 58.7 p.c., in Alberta 43.3 p.c., and in Manitoba 33.7 p.c. In the other provinces the proportion of farms with 400 or more acres ranged from less than 1 p.c. in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island to 8.2 p.c. in British Columbia.

50.—Farm Holdings classified by Size of Farm, by Province, Census 1956

Size of Farm	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Under 3 acres.....	77	9	78	62	196	688
3 — 9 acres.....	1,073	217	1,255	861	1,976	5,988
10 — 69 “.....	986	2,372	5,870	5,530	18,897	24,997
70 — 239 “.....	225	6,312	11,002	12,718	89,131	90,133
240 — 399 “.....	2	433	2,001	2,058	10,042	13,882
400 — 559 “.....	2	70	580	590	1,826	3,318
560 — 759 “.....	2	13	181	172	385	1,012
760 — 1,119 “.....	2	5	83	95	123	431
1,120 — 1,599 “.....	—	1	17	24	24	112
1,600 acres or over.....	1	—	8	6	17	41
Totals, Farms.....	2,387	9,432	21,075	22,116	122,617	140,602
	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Canada ¹	
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
Under 3 acres.....	114	45	78	705	2,052	
3 — 9 acres.....	1,052	442	884	5,664	19,415	
10 — 69 “.....	2,900	1,208	2,073	10,573	75,409	
70 — 239 “.....	13,803	14,549	19,559	4,357	261,799	
240 — 399 “.....	14,755	26,496	22,438	1,424	93,551	
400 — 559 “.....	7,860	19,996	12,069	686	46,997	
560 — 759 “.....	4,815	16,553	8,228	462	31,825	
760 — 1,119 “.....	2,753	14,191	6,877	397	24,958	
1,120 — 1,599 “.....	823	6,364	3,551	188	11,104	
1,600 acres or over.....	326	3,547	3,667	292	7,905	
Totals, Farms.....	49,201	103,391	79,424	24,748	575,015	

¹ Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.

Economic Classification of Farms.—The Economics Division, Department of Agriculture, developed a classification of farms for the 1956 Census based on the productive capacity of farms as reflected in the inventory data shown by the Census. This classification differs from the 1951 Census economic classification of farms, which was based on income data as reported by the farm operators, and is not comparable.

For the 1956 Census, three classes of farms were delineated:—

COMMERCIAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK FARMS.—Farms having a potential production of \$1,200 or more (based on average production and price series) are classified as commercial crop and livestock farms. Commercial farms thus defined delineate that segment of the total number of farms on which the operators devoted most of their time to farming with a view to selling on the market. The selection of the \$1,200 benchmark is an arbitrary one but is believed to represent the lower limit of those farms which provide substantial employment to the operator. While an income of \$1,200 is clearly below desirable living standards it does represent a farm unit which has passed the subsistence stage.

INSTITUTIONAL FARMS, ETC.—This classification includes Indian reserve farms, experimental farms, community pastures, Hutterite colonies, and farms operated by penitentiaries, hospitals, etc.

OTHER FARMS.—This is a miscellaneous category including not only those units producing crops and livestock worth less than \$1,200 but also acreages devoted to greenhouses, nurseries, apiaries, forest products, fur production and goats.