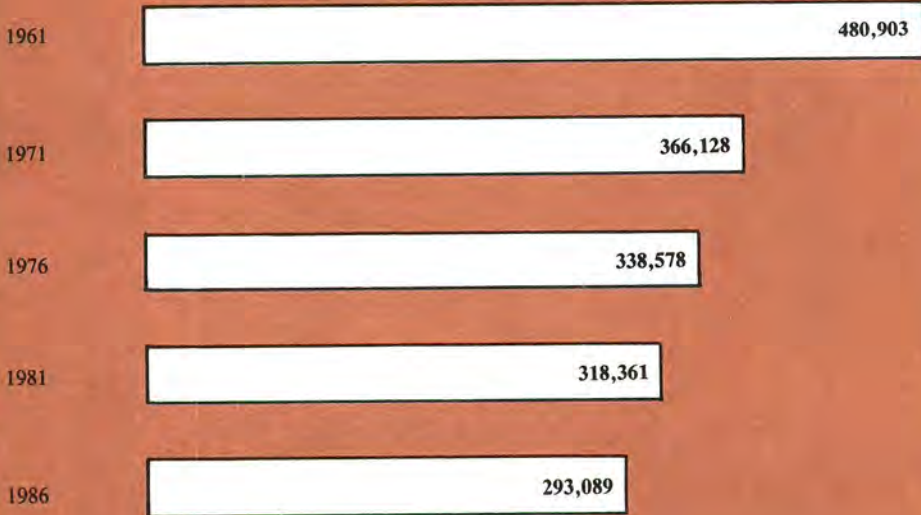


Chart 9.2
Number of Census-farms



Census, statistics are compiled on crops, livestock, farm land, labour, capital and many other variables that are significant to the public and private sectors. In 1986, there were 293,089 Census-farms, down from 318,361 in 1981.

Age of Census-farm operators. The proportion of operators by major age groups in 1986 was as follows: under 35 years, 19.2%; 35-54 years, 46.6%; and 55 years and over, 34.2%. Since 1971, the proportion of operators under 35 years of age had increased to 21.4% in 1981 from 15.3% in 1971 but the proportion declined to 19.2% in 1986.

The proportion of operators between 35 and 54 years of age had been steadily declining through the 1960s and 1970s, and that trend continued in 1986. The proportion of operators aged 55 years or older, which had been declining from 1966 to 1981, increased by 3.5% between 1981 and 1986. This was the first Census in decades in which the number of older operators increased in absolute terms.

Type of organization. In 1986, 99.1% of Census-farms were controlled by farm families. This group included farms that were: individual or family holdings, 82.2%; partnerships with a written agreement, 4.1%; partnerships without a written agreement, 7.6%; and family corporations, 5.2%.

The remaining farms were comprised of non-family corporations, 0.4% and other types, 0.5%. The other types include institutions, community pastures and miscellaneous farms. In 1986, the family controlled farms contributed 94.6% and the non-family corporations, 4.4% of aggregate gross sales.

Use of farm land. Although total land stayed basically unchanged, the area under crops increased. This was partly due to the decline in summerfallow acreage in the Prairies. However, area under crops plus summerfallow acreage also increased at the national level. Each Prairie province registered an increase in 1986 area under crops compared to the 1981 levels. In Ontario, Quebec and the three Maritime provinces, the 1986 area under crops was lower than 1981 levels. In Ontario, the decline was nearly 5%. In 1986, area under crops in Ontario was 3.5 million hectares (8.5 million acres) which was slightly below the level of area under crops reported in 1976. In British Columbia, the area under crops increased 0.5% to 0.57 million hectares (1.4 million acres) in 1986. In Newfoundland, the area under crops in 1986 was 2.8% above the 1981 level.

Land tenure of operator. Over one-third of farm land in Canada was rented in 1986. Farm operators