

PROFILE OF FARMERS REPORTING OFF-FARM INCOME

While off-farm work has always been a source of cash income to farmers it has become an increasingly more important factor.

The table below shows the overall change in this regard for farm operators reporting off-farm work over the 1961-1981 period.

	1961	1971	1981	% change 1961-81
No. of farms in Canada	480,903	366,128	318,136	-33.8
Operators reporting off-farm work	153,675	129,287	123,136	-19.8
% reporting off-farm work	32.0	35.3	38.7	

While the number of farms decreased by about 34% over the 20 year period, the number of operators reporting off-farm work decreased by about 20%. In 1961 some 32% reported off-farm work and by 1981 the proportion had increased to almost 39%.

Looking more closely at the composition of the 1981 census data, we have carried out some preliminary analysis concerning time worked off-farm and the differences between age groups.