

Index Numbers of Illinois Farmland Values

Date	Index numbers (1979= 100) ¹	Date	Index numbers (1979= 100)	Date	Index numbers (1979= 100)
1912	5.7				
1913	5.9	1946	7.2		
1914	6.1	1947	8.4	1979	100
1915	6.1	1948	8.8	1980	110
		1949	9.3	1981	118
1916	6.1	1950	9.4	1982	109
1917	6.6			1983	99
1918	7.0	1951	11.0	1984	99
1919	7.7	1952	11.9	1985	74
1920	9.5	1953	12.2		
		1954	12.4	1986	66
1921	9.1	1955	12.6	1987	62
1922	7.5			1988	68
1923	7.2	1956	13.3	1989	75
1924	6.8	1957	14.8	1990	76
1925	6.8	1958	15.2		
		1959	16.7	1991	79
1926	6.6	1960	17.0	1992	83
1927	5.9			1993	83
1928	5.7	1961	16.5	1994	90
1929	5.7	1962	17.0	1995	98
1930	5.4	1963	17.9		
		1964	18.8	1996	102
1931	4.8	1965	20.0	1997	107
1932	3.9			1998	115
1933	3.2	1966	22.6	1999	119
1934	3.4	1967	24.2	2000	122
1935	3.6	1968	25.3		
		1969	26.5	2001	123
1936	3.8	1970	26.4	2002	126
1937	4.1			2003	131
1938	4.3	1971	26.6	2004	138
1939	4.3	1972	28.1	2005	173
1940	4.5	1973	30.5		
		1974	38.8	2006	193
1941	4.5	1975	45.5	2007	216
1942	5.2			2008	245
1943	5.4	1976	57.2	2009	244
1944	6.1	1977	78.5	2010	264
1945	6.6	1978	87.5	2011	307

¹ Index numbers are calculated from data taken from USDA sources. Index numbers are based on 1979 = 100. This data is provided by Dr. John T. Scott, Jr., Professor Emeriti of Land Economics, was updated by Dale H. Lattz, Retired Extension Specialist, Farm Management, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is now updated by Bradley L. Zwilling, Extension Specialist, Farm Business Analyst, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Some years are revised due to updates from the Census of Agriculture.

How to Use Index Numbers of Illinois Farmland Values

1. Index numbers can be used to estimate what farmland values were in past years. Some people use this to establish a basis in farmland.

To estimate farmland values from past years use the following formula:

$$\text{Current land value} \times \frac{\text{Past year's index}}{\text{Current year's index}}$$

Example: Current land values are \$6,500 per acre. What was the value of this land in 1975?

$$\begin{array}{r} \$6,500 \times \frac{45.5}{307} \\ \leftarrow (1975 \text{ index value}) \\ \leftarrow (2011 \text{ index value}) \end{array}$$

Equals \$963 per acre.

2. Index numbers can be used to estimate current values of farmland.

To estimate farmland values from past years use the following formula:

$$\text{Past land value} \times \frac{\text{Current year's index}}{\text{Past year's index}}$$

Example: I paid \$850 per acre for land in 1975. What is an estimated value of this land today?

$$\begin{array}{r} \$850 \times \frac{307}{45.5} \\ \leftarrow (2011 \text{ index value}) \\ \leftarrow (1975 \text{ index value}) \end{array}$$

Equals \$5,735 per acre.