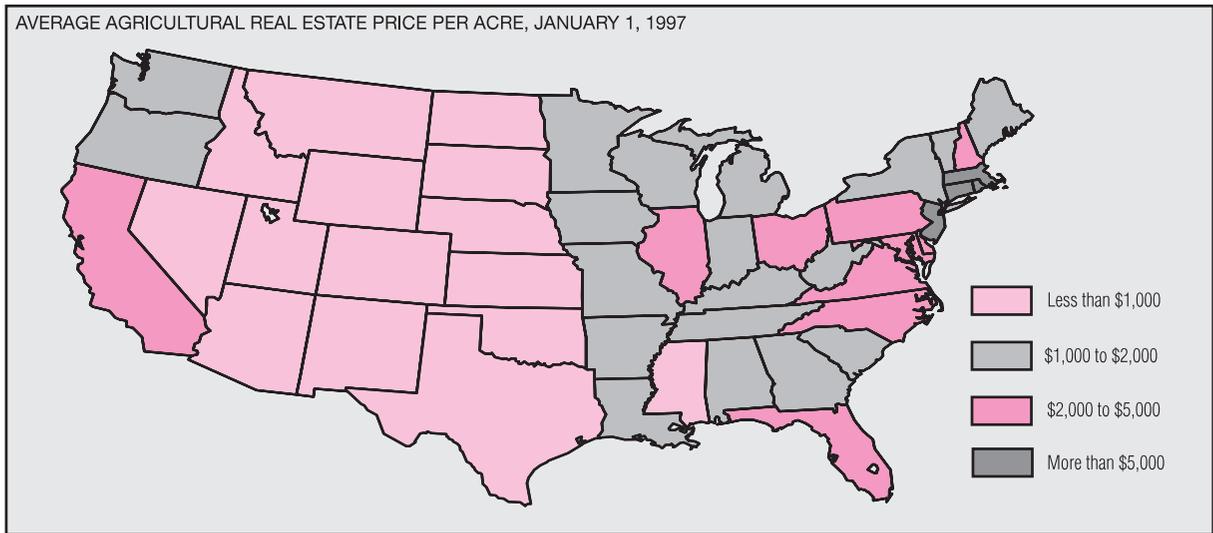
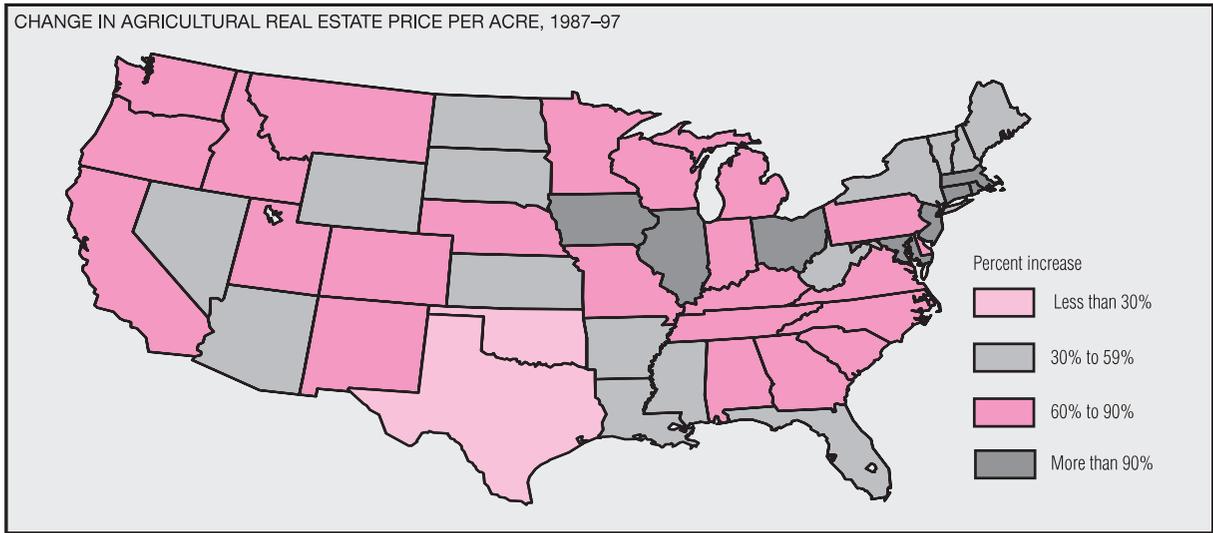


Ohio Farmland Prices



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, *Agricultural Outlook*, December 1997.

Over the last 10 years, the price of Ohio farmland has shot up approximately 90%, substantially more than in neighboring states and well above the national increase of 57%. Over the same period, Ohio's housing price index advanced 77%.

At \$2,110 per acre, the cost of Ohio farmland ranked twelfth in the nation last year. The highest prices were found in the industrial states on the eastern seaboard: New Jersey (\$8,290), Rhode Island (\$7,900),

Connecticut (\$7,500), and Massachusetts (\$6,200). Farmland in the Fourth District states ranged from \$1,000 per acre in West Virginia to \$2,630 in Pennsylvania. The national average was \$942.

Geographical differences are not the only influence on farmland prices: Shifts in the market for specific agricultural products also play a role. According to the USDA, the increase in Corn Belt land values can be traced in part to a strong

and growing foreign demand for grains. Population growth and densities also seem key, as evidenced by the nationwide pattern of land values. Anecdotal reports indicate that urban sprawl in Ohio has greatly contributed to the state's rapidly rising farmland prices. Regional variations in government agricultural payments and subsidies may also have had an effect, albeit a smaller one.