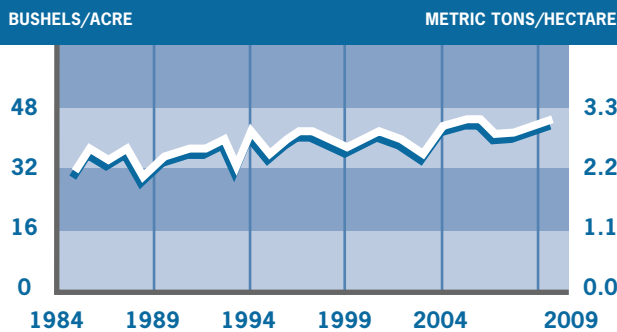




Soybean Farming Pays *the* BILLS

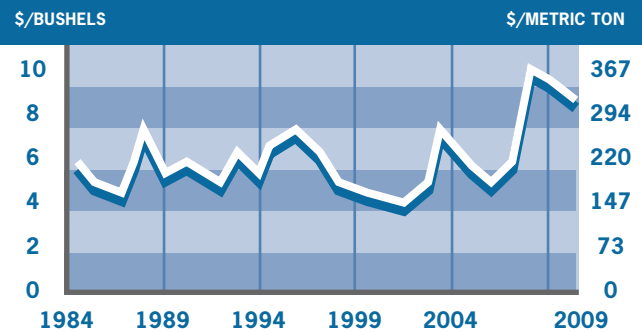
Farmer Joe is an average Illinois Soybean Farmer. His farm has 368 acres for soybean planting. Soybeans are weighed by the bushel. The crop yield is how many bushels Joe can grow per acre. Joe sells his bushels of soybeans at the grain elevator. The price for a bushel of soybeans varies from year to year. The crop yield can also vary. The charts below show the average soybean crop yields and the average price per bushel for the years 1984-2009. Use these charts to answer the questions about Joe's 368-acre farm.

U.S. SOYBEAN YIELD 1984 - 2009



BUSHELS/ACRE (METRIC TONS/HECTARE)		
1984	28.1 (1.89)	1993 32.6 (2.19)
1985	34.1 (2.29)	1994 41.4 (2.78)
1986	33.3 (2.24)	1995 35.3 (2.37)
1987	33.9 (2.26)	1996 37.6 (2.53)
1988	27.0 (1.81)	1997 38.9 (2.62)
1989	32.3 (2.17)	1998 38.9 (2.62)
1990	34.1 (2.29)	1999 36.6 (2.46)
1991	34.2 (2.30)	2000 38.1 (2.56)
1992	37.6 (2.53)	2001 39.6 (2.66)
		2002 38.0 (2.56)
		2003 33.9 (2.28)
		2004 42.2 (2.84)
		2005 43.0 (2.89)
		2006 42.7 (2.87)
		2007 41.2 (2.77)
		2008 41.7 (2.80)
		2009 44.0 (2.96)

U.S. SOYBEAN PRICES PAID TO FARMERS 1984 - 2009



\$/BUSHELS (\$/METRIC TON)		
1984	5.85 (215)	1993 6.40 (235)
1985	5.05 (186)	1994 5.48 (201)
1986	4.78 (176)	1995 6.72 (247)
1987	5.88 (216)	1996 7.35 (270)
1988	7.42 (273)	1997 6.47 (238)
1989	5.69 (209)	1998 4.93 (181)
1990	5.74 (211)	1999 4.63 (170)
1991	5.58 (205)	2000 4.54 (167)
1992	5.56 (204)	2001 4.38 (161)
		2002 5.53 (203)
		2003 7.34 (270)
		2004 5.74 (211)
		2005 5.66 (208)
		2006 6.43 (236)
		2007 10.40 (382)
		2008 10.10 (371)
		2009 9.45 (347)

WORKSHEET QUESTIONS

Joe's first year of farming his soybean field was 1992. On average, how many bushels did Joe produce and how much money did he make that year?

Did Joe have a better year in 1997 than 1992? What was the difference?

Between 2002-2009, which year was the best year for Joe? How much money did he make?

Between 2002-2009, which year was the worst year for Joe? How much less did he make than his best year?