

# POTATO STOCKS

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## TOTAL POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT DECEMBER 1, 1976

Stocks of potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled 198.4 million cwt. on December 1, 1976, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is 15.1 million cwt. (8 percent) above the 183.3 million cwt. on hand a year earlier and is 10.7 million cwt. (6 percent) above 1974.

Stocks in the eight Eastern States on December 1, 1976 totaled 31.7 million cwt., down 1 percent from the 32.1 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Maine's stocks of 20.6 million cwt. compare with 21.4 million on hand December 1, 1975.

Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 36.5 million cwt., 5 percent above the 34.7 million on hand a year earlier. Stocks were lower in North Dakota but higher in Minnesota and Wisconsin. A report on "Stocks Quality" in the Red River Valley is shown on page 4 of this release.

December 1 stocks in the eight Western States totaled 130.2 million cwt., up 13.7 million cwt. (12 percent) from the 116.5 million cwt. on hand a year ago. Stocks were up significantly in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Disappearance of the 1976 fall crop to December 1, 1976 totaled 99.1 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), 12 percent above the 88.6 million cwt. moved during the comparable period a year earlier.

The quantity of potatoes processed to December 1, 1976 in seven major States totaled 39.6 million cwt., an increase of 8.1 million or 26 percent from the quantity processed in the comparable period a year earlier.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1966-76 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS				
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1
1,000 CWT						
1966	228,442	153,550	128,050	103,630	79,632	
1967	231,656	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,405	
1968	221,906	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	239,460	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	253,525	175,145	150,030	122,830	96,780	
1971 <sup>1/</sup>	266,686	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480	
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305	<sup>2/</sup> 58,185
1973	253,866	157,802	133,585	106,600	81,150	55,865
1974	288,674	187,715	162,900	133,245	104,051	75,865
1975 <sup>3/</sup>	276,055	183,305	156,995	129,065	102,485	70,560
1976	302,818	198,440				

<sup>1/</sup> BEGINNING WITH 1971 LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR NEW YORK-LONG ISLAND, WISCONSIN AND WASHINGTON HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

<sup>2/</sup> APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

<sup>3/</sup> REVISED AUGUST 1976 POT 6(76).

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING <sup>1/</sup>, SEVEN STATES 1975 AND 1976 CROPS <sup>2/</sup>

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT							
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1975-76	14,360	19,270	24,360	30,195	36,635	57,000
	1976-77	18,030					
MAINE <sup>3/</sup>	1975-76	1,735	2,350	2,950	3,640	4,415	5,965
	1976-77	2,610					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1975-76	12,945	16,355	19,635	23,400	27,820	39,090
	1976-77	16,440					
OTHER STATES <sup>4/</sup>	1975-76	2,456	3,045	3,660	4,315	5,165	5,940
	1976-77	2,515					
TOTAL	1975-76	31,496	41,020	50,605	61,550	74,035	107,995
	1976-77	39,595					

<sup>1/</sup> TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICHIGAN OR MINNESOTA.

<sup>2/</sup> 1975-76 REVISED.

<sup>3/</sup> INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.

<sup>4/</sup> MICH, MINN AND N DAK.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON DECEMBER 1, 1975 AND DECEMBER 1, 1976

STATE	CROP OF 1975		CROP OF 1976	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1975	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1976
	1,000 CWT			
CALIF	6,365	4,400	6,475	4,100
COLO	8,613	6,150	9,075	6,500
CONN	552	240	494	230
IDAHO	76,865	60,500	85,175	65,000
IND	1,440	360	1,403	165
MAINE	26,840	21,400	27,440	20,600
MASS	718	410	704	295
MICH	6,670	3,800	8,330	5,000
MINN	9,690	8,000	11,055	9,000
MONT	1,748	1,610	1,806	1,600
NEBR	1,225	950	1,274	980
N H	92	60	104	75
N Y - L I	6,058	2,750	6,931	2,850
- UPSTATE	6,120	3,300	6,101	2,900
N DAK	17,600	12,800	16,940	11,500
OHIO	2,024	900	2,499	1,150
OREG	24,408	13,500	28,913	17,700
PA	6,815	3,660	7,140	4,500
R I	987	130	1,029	85
S DAK	598	440	286	165
UTAH	1,508	1,160	1,248	900
VT	212	135	205	135
WASH	48,300	27,900	55,800	33,200
WIS	14,850	7,500	15,370	8,550
WYO	1,632	1,250	1,701	1,260
24 STATE TOTAL	271,930	183,305	297,498	198,440
NEV	4,125	1/	5,320	1/
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	276,055	183,305	302,818	198,440

1/ NOT INCLUDED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY

The quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. A total of 219 samples selected on a random basis were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Subsequent reports will be issued each month during the 1976-77 storage season indicating cumulative average grade and weight loss for the potato samples removed from storage at the time of shipment.

Potatoes placed in warehouses in the Red River Valley for the 1976-77 season show an improvement in quality compared to a year earlier. The percentage of No. 1's at time of harvest this year for red and russet varieties was up 5 points from a year ago while white varieties were up 3 points. There was a corresponding decline in the proportions of No. 2's and culls.

Averages after storage shown in the table for the 1975-76 storage season reflect the quality and weight loss of all potato samples recovered during the entire season. For the 1976-77 storage season, an insufficient number of samples had been removed from storage by December 1, to provide an indication of current changes in quality.

NOTE: Size and grade data obtained from potato objective yield surveys conducted in 12 States are published in the December 10, 1976 Crop Production Report.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1976-77  
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES SHIPPED <sup>1/</sup>

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S	WEIGHT LOSS <sup>3/</sup>
	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE <sup>3/</sup>	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE <sup>3/</sup>	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE <sup>3/</sup>	AT HARVEST <sup>2/</sup>	
PERCENT 1976-77 STORAGE SEASON								
RED	93		4		3		8	
WHITE	87		7		6		9	
RUSSET	85		8		7		7	
ALL SAMPLES 1975-76 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL								
RED	88	81	6	9	6	10	10	4
WHITE	84	77	8	9	8	14	9	4
RUSSET	80	73	13	12	7	15	13	3

<sup>1/</sup> MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

<sup>2/</sup> NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U S NO. 1 GRADE BUT DID NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA; RED AND WHITE VARIETIES 1 1/2 - 2 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR WEIGHT LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

<sup>3/</sup> DATA NOT AVAILABLE FOR 1976-77 SEASON. INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1.