

POTATO STOCKS

Released: February 11, 1977
3:00 P.M. ET



Statistical Reporting
Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

TOTAL POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT

Stocks of potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled a record high 139.7 million cwt. on February 1, 1977, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This is 10.6 million cwt. (8 percent) above the 129.1 million cwt. on hand a year earlier and 6.5 million cwt. (5 percent) more than February 1, 1975.

Stocks in the eight Eastern States on February 1, 1977 totaled 20.2 million cwt., down 6 percent from the 21.8 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. In Maine, stocks totaled 14.5 million cwt., down 1.9 million from a year earlier.

Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 22.0 million cwt., up 5 percent from the 21.0 million cwt. on hand a year earlier. Stocks were 8 percent lower in North Dakota but 7 percent higher in Wisconsin and 6 percent above a year ago in Minnesota.

Stocks in the eight Western States totaled 97.5 million cwt., up 13 percent from the 86.3 million cwt. on hand February 1, 1976. Most of the increase in stocks occurred in Washington (up 5.3 million) and Oregon (up 3.5 million).

Disappearance of the 1976 fall crop to February 1, 1977 totaled 157.8 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), up 10 percent from the 142.9 million cwt. moved during the comparable period a year earlier.

The accumulated quantity of potatoes processed in seven major States to February 1, 1977 totaled 62.4 million cwt., an increase of 11.8 million or 23 percent over the quantity processed during the same period a year ago.

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 ^{1/}	266,586	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480	
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305	^{2/} 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 ^{3/}	276,055	183,305	156,995	129,065	102,485	70,560
1976	302,818	198,440	169,235	139,715		

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

^{2/} APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

^{3/} REVISED AUGUST 1976 POT 6(76).

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING ^{1/}, SEVEN STATES 1975 AND 1976 CROPS ^{2/}

STATE	STORAGE	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	ENTIRE
	SEASON	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	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	24,135	29,960			
MAINE ^{3/}	1975-76	1,735	2,350	2,950	3,640	4,415	5,965
	1976-77	2,610	3,370	4,225			
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1975-76	12,945	16,355	19,635	23,400	27,820	39,090
	1976-77	16,440	^{5/} 19,935	23,620			
OTHER STATES ^{4/}	1975-76	2,456	3,045	3,660	4,315	5,165	5,940
	1976-77	2,515	3,485	4,600			
TOTAL	1975-76	31,496	41,020	50,605	61,550	74,035	107,995
	1976-77	39,595	^{5/} 50,925	62,405			

^{1/} TOTAL QUANTITY 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.

^{2/} 1975-76 REVISED.

^{3/} INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.

^{4/} MICH, MINN, N DAK.

^{5/} REVISED.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL
 POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS,
 AND LOCAL DEALERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1976
 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1977

STATE	CROP OF 1975		CROP OF 1976	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1976	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1977
	1,000 CWT			
CALIF	6,365	2,450	6,475	2,100
COLO	8,613	3,850	9,075	4,000
CONN	552	1/	494	3/75
IDAHO	76,865	47,500	85,175	50,200
IND	1,440	130	1,403	80
MAINE	26,840	16,400	27,440	14,500
MASS	718	150	704	145
MICH	6,670	1,900	8,330	2,900
MINN	9,690	5,400	11,055	5,700
MONT	1,748	1,500	1,806	1,520
NEBR	1,225	640	1,274	690
N H	92	1/	104	50
N Y - L I	6,058	1,250	6,931	1,150
- UPSTATE	6,120	1,900	6,101	1,500
N DAK	17,600	7,900	16,940	7,300
OHIO	2,024	350	2,499	420
OREG	24,408	9,800	28,913	13,300
PA	6,815	1,870	7,140	2,750
R I	987	1/	1,029	3/
S DAK	598	790	286	705
UTAH	1,508	570	1,248	440
VT	212	1/	205	70
WASH	48,300	19,900	55,800	25,200
WIS	14,850	4,500	15,370	4,800
WYO	1,632	750	1,701	720
OTH STS		165		
24 STATE TOTAL	271,930	129,065	297,498	139,715
NEV	4,125	2/	5,320	2/
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	276,055	129,065	302,818	139,715

1/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN "OTHER STATES".

2/ NOT INCLUDED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE.

3/ R I STOCKS INCLUDED IN CONN.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

The information contained in this report is based on a potato stocks quality survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. A total of 230 samples selected on a random basis were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Reports will continue to be issued through April for the 1976-1977 storage season indicating accumulated average grade and weight loss for potato samples removed from storage for shipment.

Samples recovered before February 1, 1977 indicate that although quality of Red and White varieties at harvest was higher this year, after storage quality was lower than on the comparable date a year earlier. The percent of Red, White and Russet varieties that graded U.S. No. 1 (including B's) was 83, 69 and 68 percent, respectively, and compares with 86, 83 and 68 percent up to February 1 a year earlier. The decline in U.S. No. 1 grade while in storage is greater for Red and White varieties and is indicated at 11 percent (10 points) for Reds and 22 percent (20 points) for Whites for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with 5 percent decline for both varieties during the same period a year earlier. Russet varieties, U.S. No. 1, reflect a 17 percent change in grade compared with 22 percent a year earlier.

The percent graded as Culls was above a year ago for all varieties. The percent Culls for samples removed from storage by February 1, 1977 and February 1, 1976 respectively are as follows: Reds 9 and 7; Whites 19 and 10; and Russets 21 and 17. Total weight loss while in storage this season for recovered samples, was slightly higher for Russets, unchanged for Whites and lower for Red varieties. Weight loss ranges from 3 to 4 percent.

Final data for the 1975-76 storage season are provided and show the average grade at harvest and after storage for all samples which were recovered from storage.

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

ITEM	NO. 1		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S	WEIGHT LOSS
	INCLUDING B'S						AFTER	
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	STORAGE	
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	2/	
PERCENT								
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1977								
RED	93	83	4	8	3	9	10	3
WHITE	89	69	6	12	5	19	9	4
RUSSET	82	68	10	11	8	21	6	4
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1976								
RED	91	86	5	7	4	7	10	5
WHITE	87	83	6	7	7	10	12	4
RUSSET	87	68	7	15	6	17	13	3
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

1/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.
2/ 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.