

POTATO STOCKS



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TWO PERCENT MORE POTATO STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1977

An estimated 205.3 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on December 1, 1977. This was 2 percent above a year earlier and 10 percent more than 1975.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The eight Eastern States had 34.9 million cwt. in storage, up 7 percent from a year earlier. Maine's stocks of 23.3 million cwt. compare with 20.6 million cwt. in 1976. New York and Pennsylvania recorded stocks below last year's level. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 45.4 million cwt., 26 percent above last year. Stocks were larger in all the central States except Indiana and Ohio. The eight Western States had 125.1 million cwt. in storage, down 6 percent from 1976 due to significant reductions in Oregon and Washington. Stocks in Idaho were recorded at 67.5 million cwt., unchanged from last year.

Disappearance of the 1977 fall crop to December 1, 1977 was 93.8 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), a decrease of 6 percent from last year.

The quantity of potatoes processed to December 1 in the seven major States amounted to 36.5 million cwt., 6 percent less than last year.

See page 4 for comments on storage quality in Northeastern States.

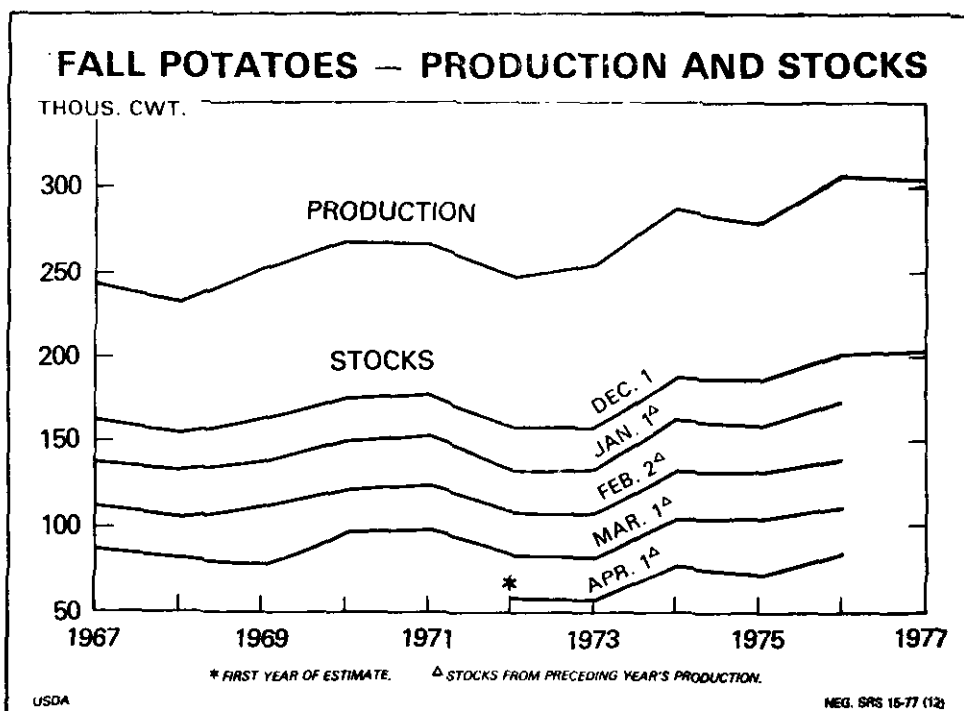


TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1967-77 IN THE FALL STATES

YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS				
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
		JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	
1,000 CWT						
1967	243,849	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,465	
1968	234,832	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940	
1969	252,561	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620	
1970	267,827	175,145	150,030	122,230	96,780	
1971 ^{1/}	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485	
1972 ^{2/}	249,320	158,565	134,420	107,310	83,380	58,250
1973	254,379	157,837	133,665	106,615	81,165	55,870
1974	289,342	187,935	163,095	133,425	104,116	75,905
1975	278,391	185,965	159,140	131,685	104,050	71,640
1976	307,427	201,980	174,775	143,925	114,140	81,875
1977	304,427	205,330				

^{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.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING, ^{1/}, SEVEN STATES 1976 AND 1977 CROP ^{2/}

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	1976-77	18,125	24,215	30,070	36,380	43,575	68,030
	1977-78	16,675					
MAINE ^{3/}	1976-77	2,575	3,380	4,235	5,105	6,055	7,275
	1977-78	2,315					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1976-77	16,005	19,550	23,435	27,960	32,190	45,535
	1977-78	14,210					
OTHER STATES ^{4/}	1976-77	2,385	3,355	4,470	5,550	6,780	7,600
	1977-78	3,300					
TOTAL	1976-77	39,090	50,500	62,210	74,995	88,600	128,440
	1977-78	36,500					

^{1/} 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.

^{2/} 1976-77 REVISED.

^{3/} INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY.

^{4/} 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, 1976 AND DECEMBER 1, 1977

STATE	CROP OF 1976		CROP OF 1977	
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1976	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS DEC 1, 1977
	1,000 CWT			
CALIF	6,475	4,200	5,950	4,300
COLO	9,257	6,700	9,490	6,700
CONN	494	230	466	265
IDAHO	88,455	67,500	88,200	67,500
IND	1,530	210	1,128	185
MAINE	27,440	20,600	28,320	23,300
MASS	770	325	888	355
MICH	8,330	5,200	8,800	5,600
MINN	11,055	9,000	12,960	10,100
MONT	1,806	1,700	2,016	1,810
NEBR	1,274	980	1,380	1,050
N H	104	75	71	55
N Y-LI	7,409	3,200	6,726	3,000
-UPSTATE	6,101	3,200	5,356	3,000
N DAK	16,940	11,500	20,800	16,000
OHIO	2,933	1,200	2,744	1,050
OREG	28,913	17,700	25,774	14,500
PA	7,140	4,750	6,375	4,500
R I	1,050	85	943	210
S DAK	286	165	1,062	900
UTAH	1,248	950	1,296	1,025
VT	226	150	235	165
WASH	55,800	33,200	48,685	28,200
WIS	15,370	7,900	18,038	10,500
WYO	1,701	1,260	1,474	1,060
24 STATE TOTAL	302,107	201,980	299,177	205,330
NEV	5,320	1/	5,250	1/
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	307,427	201,980	304,427	205,330

1/ NOT INCLUDED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATION

NOTE: Stock 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

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY

The potato stocks quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. A total of 129 samples selected on a random basis were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Subsequent reports will be issued each month during the 1977-78 storage season showing the cumulative average grade and weight loss for the potatoes removed from storage at the time of shipment.

At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected this year only for processing potatoes. Since few Red type potatoes are used for processing, there will be no data for Red type potatoes this year.

The cooperation of the many potato growers and storage operators who assisted on this project is greatly appreciated.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1977-78
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES 1/

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S	WEIGHT LOSS 3/
	AT HARVEST	AFTER HARVEST 3/	AT HARVEST	AFTER HARVEST 3/	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE 3/	AT HARVEST 2/	
PERCENT 1977-78 STORAGE SEASON								
WHITE	86		7		7		6	
RUSSET	84		7		9		4	
ALL SAMPLES 1976-77 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL								
RED	93	82	4	8	3	10	9	5
WHITE	87	68	7	14	6	18	9	7
RUSSET	85	70	8	12	7	18	6	8

1/ THE QUALITY OF POTATOES AT HARVEST IS COMPARED WITH THE QUALITY AFTER STORAGE ON MATCHED SAMPLES.

2/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO 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 LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

3/ DATA NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE 1977-78 SEASON. INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1, 1977.

* STORAGE QUALITY *
*
* Due to the extremely wet conditions during potato harvest in the northeast region*
of the U.S., there is major concern about the condition of potatoes in storage in this
area.
*
* In Maine, growers are reporting higher than usual shrink and grading losses with *
*some breakdown in storages. Storage problems are due primarily to water rot and *
*blight. Potatoes going into storage on Long Island, New York during the rainy period *
have some quality problems. Continued rainfall during most of Upstate New York's har-
*vest period resulted in substantial loss of the potato crop. Nearly 7,000 acres were *
*abandoned and a portion of the crop went into storage wet. Shrinkage is expected to *
*be high. The storage condition of stocks in Pennsylvania are good to variable for *
*table stock. Storage problems are being reported for the chipping stocks, especially *
*in the western area of the State. In Michigan, many tubers were left in saturated *
*fields for an extended period of time and suffered deterioration. A frost during *
this period also increased damage. Grading losses are expected to be higher than nor-
mal this season.
