

# POTATO STOCKS



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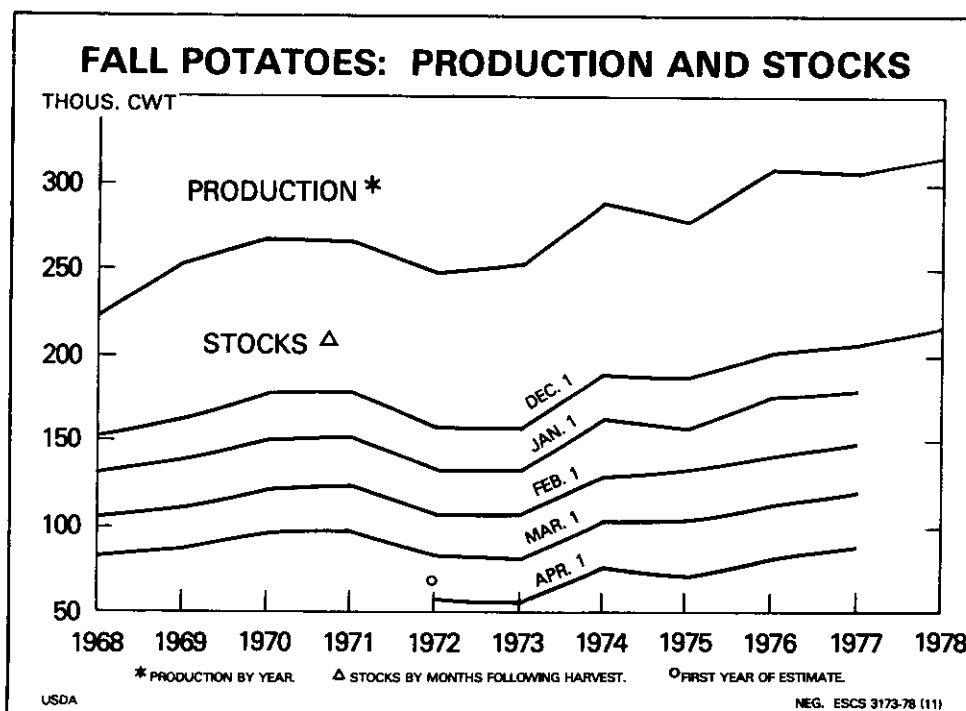
## SIX PERCENT MORE POTATO STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1978

An estimated 219 million cwt. of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on December 1, 1978. This was 6 percent above a year earlier and 8 percent more than 1976.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States had 31.6 million cwt. in storage, down 9 percent from a year earlier and 3 percent below 1976. This is the lowest stocks in the eastern region since 1973. Disappearance of potatoes in Maine to December 1, 1978 amounted to 6.28 million cwt. which includes those potatoes diverted to December 1 for livestock feed in the USDA's potato diversion program. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 48.1 million cwt., 7 percent above last year. The eight Western States had 139 million cwt. in storage, up 10 percent from 1977 due mostly to larger holdings in Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Disappearance of the 1978 fall crop to December 1, 1978 was 94.6 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), a decrease of 1 percent from last year. The total disappearance includes 16.5 million cwt. lost as a result of dumping during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, shrinkage (moisture loss), and discarded without grading.

The quantity of potatoes processed to December 1 in the seven major States amounted to 35.3 million cwt., 4 percent less than last year.



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 1968-78 IN THE FALL STATES

YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS				
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR			
		JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	
1,000 CWT						
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 <sup>1/</sup>	266,707	176,390	151,435	124,375	98,485	
1972 <sup>2/</sup>	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	307,064	206,690	178,205	149,690	120,970	89,215
1978	318,702	218,685				

<sup>1/</sup> BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y-L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.  
<sup>2/</sup> APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING <sup>1/</sup>, SEVEN STATES 1977 AND 1978 CROP <sup>2/</sup>

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO	TO	TO	TO	TO	ENTIRE SEASON
		DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	
1,000 CWT							
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1977-78	16,761	22,217	27,360	32,913	39,070	61,261
	1978-79	15,660					
MAINE <sup>3/</sup>	1977-78	2,500	3,290	4,185	4,980	5,960	8,040
	1978-79	2,280					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1977-78	14,205	17,745	21,620	26,160	30,280	44,460
	1978-79	14,758					
OTHER STATES <sup>4/</sup>	1977-78	3,380	4,255	5,405	6,230	7,385	9,855
	1978-79	2,625					
TOTAL	1977-78	36,846	47,507	58,570	70,283	82,695	123,616
	1978-79	35,323					

<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, MICH OR MINN.  
<sup>2/</sup> 1977-78 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, 1977 AND DECEMBER 1, 1978

STATE	CROP OF 1977			CROP OF 1978		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	DEC 1 STOCKS	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	DEC 1 STOCKS
	1,000 CWT	DEC 1, 1977	AS % OF PRODUCTION	1,000 CWT	DEC 1, 1978	AS % OF PRODUCTION
			PERCENT			PERCENT
CALIF	5,950	4,000	67	6,055	4,100	68
COLO	9,490	6,750	71	9,750	6,700	69
CONN	466	265	57	418	300	
IDAHO	88,200	68,000	77	96,980	75,000	77
IND	1,128	250	22	936	225	24
MAINE	28,320	22,900	81	26,180	19,900	76
MASS	888	355	40	810	440	54
MICH	8,800	5,500	63	8,670	5,800	67
MINN	12,960	10,100	78	14,910	12,000	80
MONT	2,016	1,850	92	2,088	1,900	91
NEBR	1,440	1,050	73	1,680	1,250	74
N H 1/	71	55	77			
N Y - L I	7,182	3,200	45	6,175	3,000	49
- UPSTATE	5,356	3,000	56	6,500	3,300	51
N DAK	21,600	16,000	74	22,400	17,000	76
OHIO	2,744	1,150	42	2,215	950	43
OREG	25,550	15,700	61	28,488	17,700	62
PA	6,375	4,650	73	6,250	4,550	73
R I	943	210	22	902	2/	
S DAK	1,062	900	85	1,190	870	73
UTAH	1,416	980	69	1,127	780	69
VT	235	165	70	168	120	71
WASH	50,600	28,400	56	50,685	32,000	63
WIS	18,038	10,200	57	17,325	10,000	58
WYO	1,474	1,060	72	1,360	800	59
23 STATE TOTAL 3/	302,304	206,690	68	313,262	218,685	70

1/ ESTIMATES DISCONTINUED AFTER 1977 CROP. 2/ R I INCLUDED IN CONN. 3/ EXCLUDING NEV FOR WHICH NO STOCKS ESTIMATES ARE MADE. NEV 1977 PRODUCTION 4,760,000 CWT AND 1978 PRODUCTION 5,440,000 CWT.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the December 1, 1978 potato stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a Statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the December 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1958-77 twenty year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary estimate relative to the final end of season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year's estimate are not different from those influencing recent years' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1, 1978 potato stocks estimate is 1.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 219 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 1.9 percent or approximately 4.16 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.3 percent or approximately 7.22 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the December 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.0 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.5 and the smallest was 0.6 million hundredweight. The preliminary December 1 estimate was below the final estimate every year during the past 10 years.

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

The potato stocks quality information contained in this report is based on a survey conducted by the Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service in the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota. Sample bags of potatoes selected on a random basis were placed in storages at harvest time. Subsequent reports will be issued each month during the 1978-79 storage season showing the cumulative average grade and weight loss for potatoes removed from storage at the time of shipment. At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected only for processing potatoes.

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, 1978-79  
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S 1/		WEIGHT LOSS 2/
	AT HARVEST	AFTER HARVEST 2/	AT HARVEST	AFTER HARVEST 2/	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE 2/	AT HARVEST	AFTER HARVEST 2/	
PERCENT									
1978-79 STORAGE SEASON									
WHITE	88		6		6		5		
RUSSET	83		9		8		7		
ALL SAMPLES 1977-78 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL 3/									
WHITE	86	72	7	11	7	17	6	7	6
RUSSET	85	69	7	16	8	15	4	5	6

1/ 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.

2/ DATA NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE 1978-79 SEASON. INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO DECEMBER 1, 1978.

3/ MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE FOR 1977-78 SEASON.