

POTATO STOCKS



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POTATO STOCKS OFF 7 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

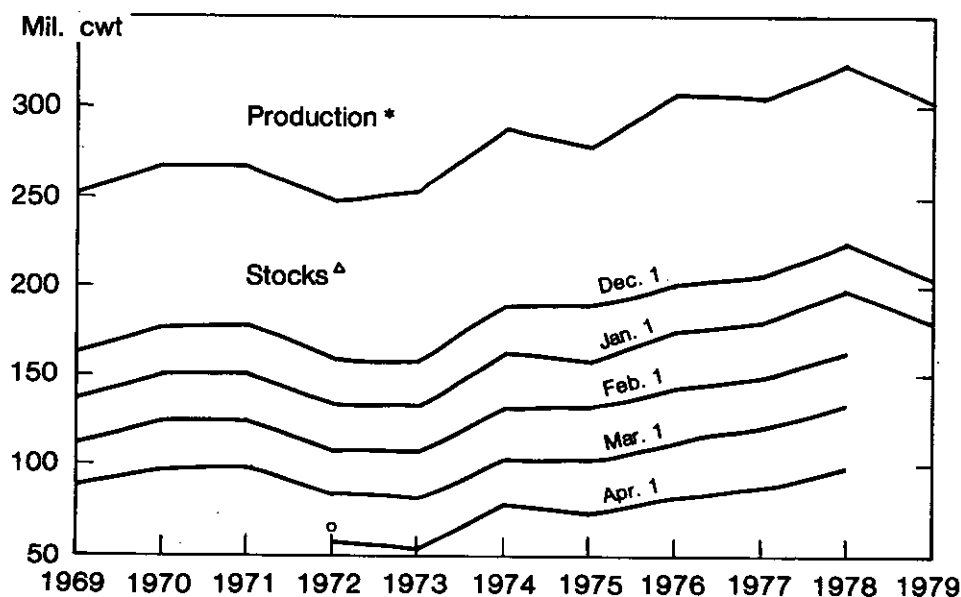
An estimated 183 million cwt of potatoes for all uses were in storage in the fall producing areas on January 1, 1980. This was a 7 percent decline from the record 196 million cwt on hand a year ago but 3 percent above the comparable 1978 total.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States had 30.6 million cwt in storage, 16 percent more than last January 1 and 7 percent above 1978. Maine's stocks, comprising nearly three-fourths of the regional total, are 27 percent greater than a year earlier. The eight Central States had stocks of 34.4 million cwt on hand, 16 percent below last year and 8 percent less than the 1978 level. North Dakota stocks were 27 percent below last January 1 and Minnesota stocks were down 11 percent from a year ago. Potato stocks in the eight Western States, at 118 million cwt, were 9 percent lower than last year's record January 1 holdings but 5 percent greater than in 1978. Idaho stocks fell 13 percent from a year ago while Oregon and Washington trimmed 5 percent from the year earlier level.

Disappearance of the 1979 fall crop to January 1, 1980 was 114 million cwt (excluding Nevada), down 7 percent from the 122 million cwt disappearance for the comparable period a year ago. This total disappearance to date includes 18.1 million cwt of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading, and lost due to shrinkage (moisture loss).

The quantity of potatoes processed to January 1, 1980 in the seven major States amounted to 41.4 million cwt, 10 percent below a year earlier.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks



* Production by year. Δ Stocks by months following harvest. ○ First year of estimate.

USDA

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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, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1969-79 IN THE FALL STATES

YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS					
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR				
		JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	
1,000 CWT							
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	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	89,205	
1978	323,498	223,290	196,080	164,666	133,247	99,808	65,116
1979	301,628	209,180	182,755				

^{1/} BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING ^{1/}, SEVEN STATES 1978 AND 1979 CROP ^{2/}

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1978-79	15,720	21,215	26,055	31,130	37,095	43,305	61,290
	1979-80	14,040	18,430					
MAINE ^{3/}	1978-79	2,280	2,800	3,670	4,390	5,355	6,205	8,140
	1979-80	2,010	2,655					
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1978-79	15,075	18,380	22,230	26,035	30,125	34,770	44,295
	1979-80	13,510	16,995					
OTHER STATES ^{4/}	1978-79	2,625	3,520	4,420	5,290	6,255	7,155	10,540
	1979-80	2,625	3,365					
TOTAL	1978-79	35,700	45,915	56,375	66,845	78,830	91,435	124,265
	1979-80	32,185	41,445					

^{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, MICH OR MINN.

^{2/} 1978-79 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 JANUARY 1, 1979 AND JANUARY 1, 1980

STATE	CROP OF 1978			CROP OF 1979		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	JAN 1 STOCKS	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	JAN 1 STOCKS
	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1979	AS % OF PRODUCTION	1,000 CWT	JAN 1, 1980	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,055	3,300	55	6,364	3,650	57
COLO	11,275	7,150	63	11,455	7,000	61
CONN	1/	1/		1/	1/	
IDAHO	100,310	71,000	71	88,200	62,000	70
IND	936	165	18	1,071	230	21
MAINE	25,960	17,300	67	28,750	22,000	77
MASS	810	380	47	748	330	44
MICH	8,500	5,000	59	8,000	4,200	53
MINN	14,910	10,700	72	12,920	9,500	74
MONT	2,088	1,870	90	1,800	1,630	91
NEBR	1,800	1,100	61	1,482	950	64
N Y - L I	6,175	2,250	36	6,431	2,400	37
- UPSTATE	6,500	2,400	37	6,463	2,500	39
N DAK	22,400	14,700	66	18,240	10,700	59
OHIO	2,215	700	32	2,400	850	35
OREG	28,488	15,400	54	25,310	14,600	58
PA	6,250	3,750	60	6,000	3,200	53
R I	1/	1/		1/	1/	
S DAK	1,190	710	60	1,203	600	50
UTAH	1,127	700	62	1,300	900	69
VT	1/	1/		1/	1/	
WASH	50,685	28,800	57	48,925	27,300	56
WIS	17,325	7,900	46	17,010	7,400	44
WYO	1,462	560	38	1,144	630	55
OTHER STATES	1,597	245	15	1,462	185	13
23 STATE TOTAL 2/	318,058	196,080	62	296,678	182,755	62

1/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES. 2/ EXCLUDING NEV FOR WHICH NO STOCKS ESTIMATES ARE MADE. NEV 1978 PRODUCTION 5,440,000 CWT AND 1979 PRODUCTION 4,950,000 CWT.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1980 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1960-79 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 January 1, 1980 potato stocks estimate is 2.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 183 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.3 percent or approximately 4.20 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.0 percent or approximately 7.31 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.7 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.2 and the smallest was 1.4 million hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate each 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 storage at harvest time. Reports are issued each month during the 1979-80 storage season showing the cumulative average grade and weight loss for potatoes at the time of removal from storage. At the request of the Red River Valley Potato Growers Association, samples were selected only from processing potatoes.

Samples recovered before January 1, 1980 indicate that the quality of the white varieties at harvest and after storage was lower than for the comparable date a year earlier. The decline in No. 1 grade (including B's) for white varieties while in storage was 9 points for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with a 7 point decline during the same period a year earlier.

The percent graded as culls at harvest and after storage for white varieties is well above a year ago. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is 4 percent.

This report does not include information for Russet potatoes as an insufficient number of samples were recovered by January 1, 1980.

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, 1979-80
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S ^{1/}		WEIGHT LOSS
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	
PERCENT									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1980 ^{2/}									
WHITE RUSSET ^{3/}	80	71	9	11	11	18	4	3	4
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE JANUARY 1, 1979 ^{2/}									
WHITE RUSSET ^{3/}	90	83	7	6	3	11	7	9	5
ALL SAMPLES 1978-79 STORAGE SEASON FINAL ^{2/}									
WHITE RUSSET	88 87	76 70	6 11	10 16	6 8	14 14	6 2	6 5	6 4

^{1/} NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U S NO. 1 GRADE BUT DO NOT MEET THE MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA: RED AND WHITE VARIETIES - 1 1/2-2 1/4 INCHES IN DIAMETER; RUSSET VARIETIES - UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.

^{2/} MATCHED SAMPLES, QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

^{3/} DATA NOT AVAILABLE; INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF SAMPLES REMOVED FROM STORAGE PRIOR TO JAN.