

POTATO STOCKS



Released: February 13, 1980
3:00 P.M. ET

Economics, Statistics, &
Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

POTATO STOCKS REDUCED 6 PERCENT

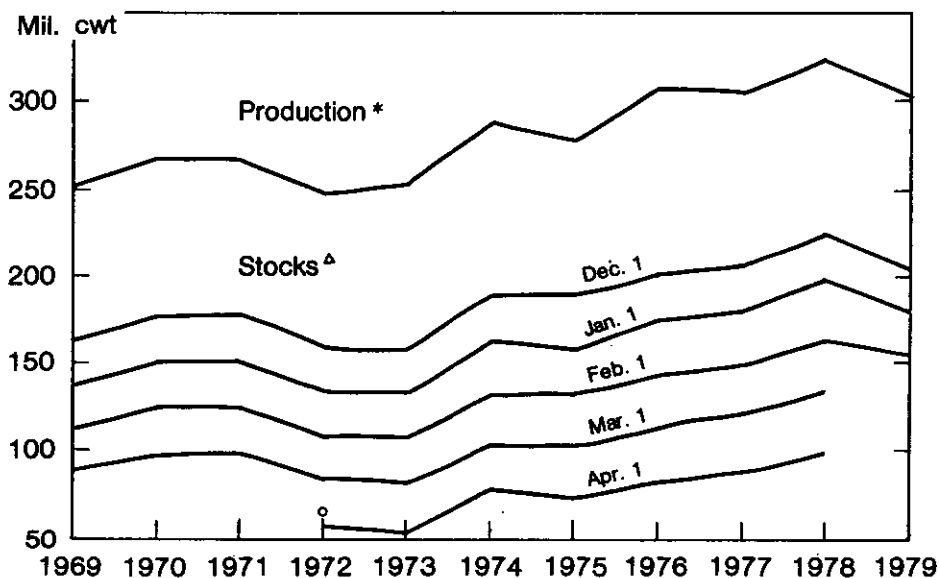
An estimated 154 million cwt of fall potatoes for all uses were held by growers, processors, and dealers on February 1, 1980. This was 6 percent below the record holdings a year earlier, but 3 percent more than on February 1, 1978.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States had 24.7 million cwt in storage, 18 percent above last February 1 and 5 percent higher than in 1978. Maine's stocks, at 19.2 million cwt, remained well above the levels on comparable dates in recent years. Stocks in the eight Central States totaled 27.6 million cwt, off 17 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below 1978. North Dakota reduced holdings 28 percent from last February 1 and Minnesota's total was 14 percent lower. In the eight Western States, stocks were estimated at 102 million cwt, 8 percent below the year earlier inventory, but 6 percent more than on February 1, 1978. Idaho holdings, at 55 million cwt, were off 13 percent from a year ago and Oregon and Washington stocks fell 1 percent and 3 percent, respectively, from last February 1.

Disappearance of the 1979 fall crop, to February 1, 1980, totaled 143 million cwt (excluding Nevada), 7 percent less than the 153 million cwt for the comparable period last season. This total disappearance to date includes 20.7 million cwt of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on farms where grown, discarded without grading, and lost due to shrinkage (moisture loss).

The quantity of potatoes processed to February 1, 1980 in the seven major States totaled 52 million cwt, 8 percent less than a year ago and 12 percent below February 1, 1978.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks



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

USDA

Neg. ESCS 3173-79 (11)

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	154,005			

^{1/} BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - LI, 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	23,620				
MAINE ^{3/}	1978-79	2,280	2,800	3,670	4,390	5,355	6,205	8,140
	1979-80	2,010	2,655	3,440				
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	20,725				
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	4,215				
TOTAL	1978-79	35,700	45,915	56,375	66,845	78,830	91,435	124,265
	1979-80	32,185	41,445	52,000				

^{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 FEBRUARY 1, 1979 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1980

STATE	CROP OF 1978			CROP OF 1979		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1979	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS FEB 1, 1980	FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,055	2,500	41	6,364	2,800	44
COLO	11,275	5,750	51	11,455	5,500	48
CONN	1/	1/		1/	1/	
IDAHO	100,310	63,000	63	88,200	55,000	62
IND	936	95	10	1,071	165	15
MAINE	25,960	14,600	56	28,750	19,200	67
MASS	810	235	29	748	250	33
MICH	8,500	4,000	47	8,000	3,300	41
MINN	14,910	9,400	63	12,920	8,100	63
MONT	2,088	1,830	88	1,800	1,600	89
NEBR	1,800	950	53	1,482	800	54
N Y - L I	6,175	1,200	19	6,431	1,500	23
- UPSTATE	6,500	1,800	28	6,463	1,400	22
N DAK	22,400	12,200	54	18,240	8,800	48
OHIO	2,215	500	23	2,400	630	26
OREG	28,488	12,500	44	25,310	12,400	49
PA	6,250	2,950	47	6,000	2,250	38
R I	1/	1/		1/	1/	
S DAK	1,190	410	34	1,203	540	45
UTAH	1,127	550	49	1,300	720	55
VT	1/	1/		1/	1/	
WASH	50,685	24,000	47	48,925	23,300	48
WIS	17,325	5,700	33	17,010	5,300	31
WYO	1,462	390	27	1,144	340	30
OTHER STATES	1,597	106	7	1,462	110	8
23 STATE TOTAL <u>2/</u>	318,058	164,666	52	296,678	154,005	52

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 February 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 February 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 estimates.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1, 1980 potato stocks estimate is 2.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 154 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.9 percent or approximately 4.47 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.0 percent or approximately 7.70 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the February 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.5 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.3 and the smallest was .4 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 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 issued each month during the 1979-80 storage season will show 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 for processing potatoes.

Samples of white varieties recovered before February 1, 1980 were of lower quality at harvest and after storage than were samples recovered by the comparable date a year earlier. The decline while in storage of white varieties grading No. 1 (including B's) was 7 percentage points for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with an 8 point decline during the same period a year earlier.

The percent of white varieties graded as culls at harvest and after storage in samples recovered by February 1 is well above a year ago. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is 4 percent, compared with 5 percent during the same period last season.

This report does not include information for Russet potatoes as an insufficient number of samples were recovered by February 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		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1		WEIGHT LOSS
	INCLUDING B'S						B'S 1/		
	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	
PERCENT									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1980 <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	80	73	9	10	11	17	4	4	4
RUSSET <u>3/</u>									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1979 <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	89	81	7	8	4	11	6	7	5
RUSSET <u>3/</u>									
ALL SAMPLES 1978-79 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL <u>2/</u>									
WHITE	88	76	6	10	6	14	6	6	6
RUSSET	81	70	11	16	8	14	2	5	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 - 1½ - 2¼ 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 FEB. 1.