

POTATO STOCKS



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STOCKS 5 PERCENT BELOW LAST YEAR

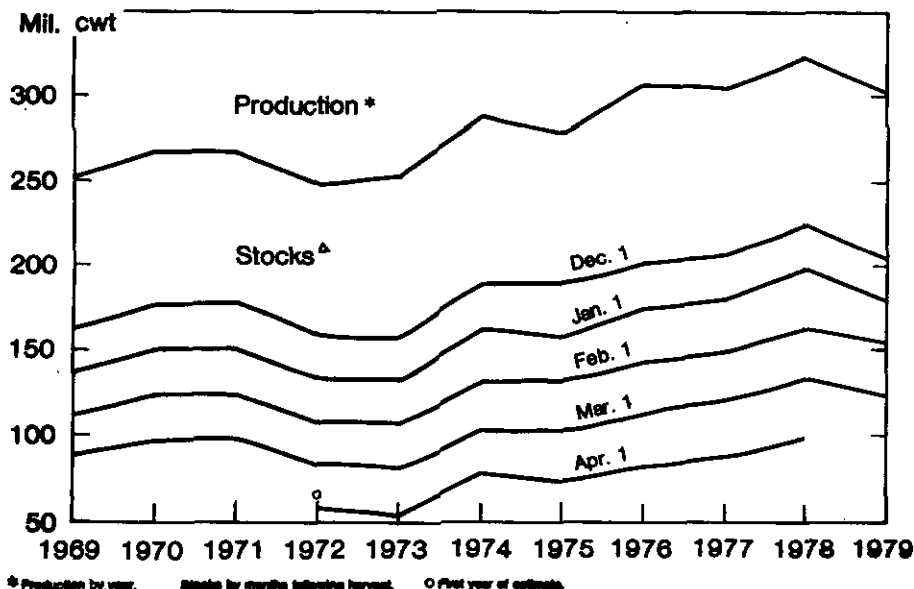
There were an estimated 127 million cwt of fall potatoes for all uses held on March 1, 1980 by growers, dealers and processors in the fall producing areas. This was 5 percent less than the record holdings last year, but 5 percent above stocks on March 1, 1978.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States had 20.1 million cwt on hand, 23 percent above a year ago and 10 percent higher than the 1978 figure. Maine's stocks, at 16.4 million cwt, remained well above the levels of the previous two seasons. In the eight Central States, holdings totaled 21.1 million cwt, off 19 percent from last March 1 and 5 percent less than in 1978. North Dakota stocks were 30 percent below last year's level and Minnesota's stocks were 11 percent lower than on March 1, 1979. The eight Western States had 85.4 million cwt on hand, a 6 percent decline from a year earlier, reflecting reductions in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Disappearance of the 1979 fall crop to March 1, 1980 totaled 170 million cwt (excluding Nevada), 8 percent short of the 185 million cwt for the comparable period last season. Disappearance to-date in the Eastern and Central regions was off 4 and 5 percent, respectively, from a year ago while the West was down 10 percent. The total disappearance includes 23.1 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 March 1, 1980 in the seven major States totaled 63.1 million cwt, 6 percent less than during the comparable period last season and 11 percent below the March 1, 1978 total.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks



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	126,530			

^{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	14,210	18,680	23,980	28,840			
MAINE ^{3/}	1978-79	2,280	2,800	3,670	4,390	5,355	6,205	8,140
	1979-80	2,010	2,655	3,470	4,245			
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	24,915			
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	5,055			
TOTAL	1978-79	35,700	45,915	56,375	66,845	78,830	91,435	124,265
	1979-80	32,355	41,695	52,390	63,055			

^{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 MARCH 1, 1979 AND MARCH 1, 1980

STATE	CROP OF 1978			CROP OF 1979		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	MAR 1 STOCKS	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS	MAR 1 STOCKS
	1,000 CWT	MAR 1, 1979	AS % OF PRODUCTION	1,000 CWT	MAR 1, 1980	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,055	1,900	31	6,364	2,100	33
COLO	11,275	4,650	41	11,455	4,250	37
CONN	1/	1/		1/	1/	
IDAHO	100,310	53,000	53	88,200	48,000	54
IND	936	50	5	1,071	90	8
MAINE	25,960	12,100	47	28,750	16,400	57
MASS	810	145	18	748	165	22
MICH	8,500	3,000	35	8,000	2,300	29
MINN	14,910	7,600	51	12,920	6,800	53
MONT	2,088	1,750	84	1,800	1,500	83
NEBR	1,800	770	43	1,482	650	44
N Y - L I	6,175	600	10	6,431	1,000	16
- UPSTATE	6,500	1,200	18	6,463	800	12
N DAK	22,400	9,900	44	18,240	6,900	38
OHIO	2,215	300	14	2,400	420	18
OREG	28,488	9,900	35	25,310	9,800	39
PA	6,250	2,200	35	6,000	1,650	28
R I	1/	1/		1/	1/	
S DAK	1,190	180	15	1,203	240	20
UTAH	1,127	300	27	1,300	480	37
VT	1/	1/		1/	1/	
WASH	50,685	19,300	38	48,925	19,000	39
WIS	17,325	4,100	24	17,010	3,700	22
WYO	1,462	260	18	1,144	230	20
OTH STS	1,597	42	3	1,462	55	4
23 STATE TOTAL 2/	318,058	133,247	42	296,678	126,530	43

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 March 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 March 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 year's preliminary estimates.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1, 1980 potato stocks estimate is 3.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 127 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.7 percent or approximately 4.68 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.4 percent or approximately 8.10 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the March 1 preliminary and the final estimate averaged 3.1 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.3 million hundredweight and the smallest was .3 million hundredweight. The preliminary March 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 times and above the final estimate once 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 March 1, 1980 continue to indicate a significantly lower quality at harvest and after storage than samples recovered by the comparable date a year earlier. The decline while in storage in percentage of samples of white varieties grading No. 1 (including B's) was 9 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 March 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 March 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
	INCLUDING B'S						B'S 1/		
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	LOSS
PERCENT									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MARCH 1, 1980 ^{2/}									
WHITE	80	71	9	10	11	19	4	4	4
RUSSET ^{3/}									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MARCH 1, 1979 ^{2/}									
WHITE	88	80	7	9	5	11	6	7	5
RUSSET	84	70	9	16	7	14	2	4	3
ALL SAMPLES 1978-79 STORAGE SEASON-FINAL ^{2/}									
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 - 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 MAR 1.