

POTATO STOCKS



Released: April 15, 1980
3:00 P.M. ET

Economics, Statistics, &
Cooperatives Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

STOCKS THREE PERCENT LOWER THAN YEAR AGO

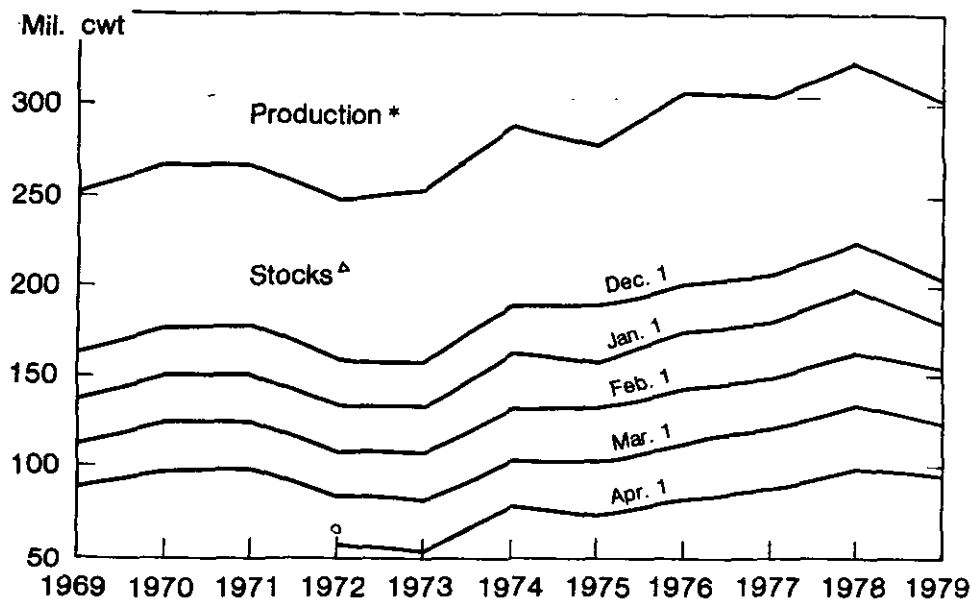
There were an estimated 96.8 million cwt of fall potatoes for all uses held on April 1, 1980 by growers, dealers and processors in the fall producing areas. This was 3 percent less than the record holdings last year, but 9 percent above stocks held on April 1, 1978.

The regional breakdown is as follows: The seven Eastern States had 14.6 million cwt on hand, 29 percent above a year ago and 16 percent higher than the 1978 figure. Maine's stocks, at 12.5 million cwt, remained well above the levels of the previous two seasons. In the eight Central States, holdings totaled 14.0 million cwt, off 13 percent from last April 1 and 3 percent less than in 1978. North Dakota stocks were 26 percent below last year's level and Minnesota's stocks were 4 percent lower than on April 1, 1979. The eight Western States had 68.3 million cwt on hand, a 6 percent decline from a year earlier, reflecting reductions in Idaho and Oregon, and to a lesser extent, in Washington.

Disappearance of the 1979 fall crop to April 1, 1980 totaled 200 million cwt (excluding Nevada), 8 percent short of the 218 million cwt for the comparable period last season. The total disappearance includes 25.9 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 April 1, 1980 in the seven major processing States totaled 75.0 million cwt, 5 percent less than during the comparable period last season and 9 percent below the April 1, 1978 total.

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	126,530	96,821	

^{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
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	34,440		
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	5,200		
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	29,395		
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	6,005		
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	75,040		

^{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 APRIL 1, 1979 AND APRIL 1, 1980

STATE	CROP OF 1978			CROP OF 1979		
	PRODUCTION 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS 1,000 CWT	AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS 1,000 CWT	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,055	1,400	23	6,364	1,500	24
COLO	11,275	3,350	30	11,455	3,100	27
CONN	1/	1/		1/	1/	
IDAHO	100,310	44,000	44	88,200	40,500	46
IND	1/	1/		1/	1/	
MAINE	25,960	8,800	34	28,750	12,500	43
MASS	1/	1/		1/	1/	
MICH	8,500	2,100	25	8,000	1,500	19
MINN	14,910	4,800	32	12,920	4,600	36
MONT	2,088	1,100	53	1,800	1,100	61
NEBR	1,800	500	28	1,482	450	30
N Y - L I	6,175	200	3	6,431	450	7
- UPSTATE	6,500	700	11	6,463	400	6
N DAK	22,400	6,100	27	18,240	4,500	25
OHIO	2,215	150	7	2,400	210	9
OREG	28,488	7,700	27	25,310	7,200	28
PA	6,250	1,550	25	6,000	1,200	20
R I	1/	1/		1/	1/	
S DAK	1,190	150	13	1,203	180	15
UTAH	1,127	150	13	1,300	300	23
VT	1/	1/		1/	1/	
WASH	50,885	14,500	29	48,925	14,400	29
WIS	17,325	2,300	13	17,010	2,500	15
WYO	1,462	150	10	1,144	150	13
OTH STS	3,343	108	3	3,281	81	2
23 STATES TOTAL 2/	318,058	99,808	31	296,678	96,821	33

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.

DURING THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE APRIL 1 PRELIMINARY AND FINAL ESTIMATE AVERAGED 2.7 MILLION CWT. THE LARGEST DEVIATION WAS 4.5 AND THE SMALLEST WAS .3 MILLION CWT. THE PRELIMINARY APRIL 1 ESTIMATE WAS BELOW THE FINAL ESTIMATE EACH YEAR DURING THE PAST SEVEN 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 April 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 10 percentage points for samples removed from storage to date. This compares with an 11 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 April 1 is well above a year ago. Total weight loss while in storage for samples recovered to date is 5 percent, the same as last season.

Based on samples of russet varieties recovered by April 1, 1980, the quality at harvest is also indicated well below a year earlier, but after storage quality is nearly the same as last April 1. The percentage of russet samples grading No. 1 (including B's) declined 6 points by April 1, 1980, compared with a 12 point decline during the comparable period last season. The percent of russet varieties graded as culls both at harvest and after storage is much higher this season than for samples recovered by April 1, 1979. The total weight loss while in storage this year was 6 percent to April 1, double the amount for the comparable date last 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, 1979-80
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES

CROP	NO. 1 INCLUDING B'S		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1 B'S 1/		WEIGHT LOSS
	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	AT HARVEST	AFTER STORAGE	
PERCENT									
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1980 2/									
WHITE	82	72	8	10	10	18	4	4	5
RUSSET	73	67	7	7	20	26	6	8	6
SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE APRIL 1, 1979 2/									
WHITE	88	77	6	10	6	13	6	6	5
RUSSET	80	68	12	17	8	15	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.