

# POTATO STOCKS



Economics and  
Statistics Service

U.S. Department  
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.  
20250

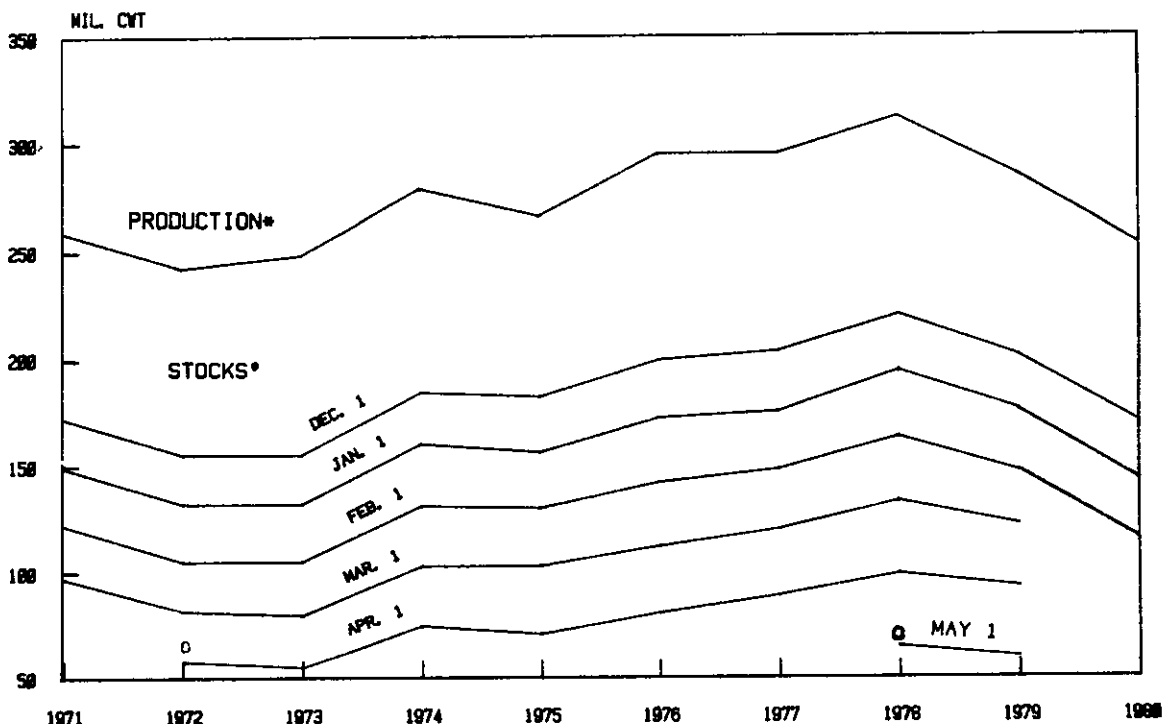
Released: February 13, 1981  
3:00 P.M. ET

## POTATO STOCKS DOWN 20 PERCENT FROM YEAR EARLIER

Potato stocks as of February 1, 1981 are estimated at 118 million cwt in the 15 major fall States. This is 20 percent below February 1, 1980 and 27 percent below February 1, 1979. Of the total stocks on hand in the 11 major States, 77 percent were Russets, 20 percent Whites, and 3 percent Reds.

The regional breakdown is as follows: Estimated holdings in the three Eastern States totaled 16.8 million cwt, 29 percent below February 1 last year and 18 percent below February 1, 1979. Stocks in Maine totaled 13.3 million cwt, down 28 percent from a year earlier. In the six Central States stocks are estimated at 19.4 million cwt, down 28 percent from February 1, 1980 and 41 percent below February 1, 1979. Stocks in North Dakota are down 26 percent from a year earlier while Minnesota and Wisconsin are down 31 percent and 28 percent, respectively. The six Western States had 82.3 million cwt in storage on February 1, down 15 percent from a year ago and 25 percent below February 1, 1979. Idaho's stocks are estimated at 45.0 million cwt, 13 percent below February 1, 1980. Estimated stocks in Washington and Oregon are down 20 percent and 23 percent, respectively, from February 1, 1980.

## FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



SEE FOOTNOTE 1, TABLE 1. \*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. \*STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST. FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.

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: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS <sup>1/</sup>

YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1970	259,977	171,600	147,550	120,650	95,850		
1971 <sup>2/</sup>	258,613	172,550	148,600	122,350	97,150		
1972	242,390	155,190	132,050	105,690	82,510	57,860	
1973	247,686	154,890	131,600	105,360	80,460	55,465	
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	285,060	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	253,883	169,780	143,960	118,465			

<sup>1/</sup> SEE TABLE 3 FOR LIST OF 15 STATES.

<sup>2/</sup> 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 <sup>1/</sup>, SEVEN STATES, 1979 AND 1980 CROPS

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	1979-80	14,220	18,690	23,970	28,840	34,440	39,930	55,600
	1980-81	14,460	18,710	23,235				
MAINE <sup>2/</sup>	1979-80	2,010	2,655	3,470	4,245	5,200	6,200	7,965
	1980-81	2,190	2,880	3,545				
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1979-80	13,510	16,995	20,725	24,915	29,395	33,360	43,295
	1980-81	14,610	16,845	19,725				
OTHER STATES <sup>3/</sup>	1979-80	2,660	3,405	4,260	5,100	6,055	6,880	8,785
	1980-81	2,355	2,890	3,745				
TOTAL	1979-80	32,400	41,745	52,425	63,100	75,090	86,370	115,645
	1980-81	33,615	41,325	50,250				

<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> INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. <sup>3/</sup> 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, 1980 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1981

STATE	CROP OF 1979			CROP OF 1980		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS: FEB 1, 1980	FEB 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS: FEB 1, 1981	FEB 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,364	2,900	46	6,438	2,500	39
COLO	11,455	5,700	50	10,950	5,100	47
IDAHO	85,050	51,500	61	78,455	45,000	57
MAINE	27,685	18,500	67	24,960	13,300	53
MICH	8,000	3,400	43	7,403	2,200	30
MINN	12,920	8,100	63	9,920	5,600	56
MONT	1,800	1,660	92	1,725	1,580	92
NEBR	1,482	800	54	1,876	1,100	59
N Y - L I	6,431	1,500	23	4,418	500	11
- UPSTATE:	6,463	1,400	22	6,250	1,300	21
N DAK	18,240	8,800	48	15,680	6,500	41
OHIO	2,400	600	25	1,948	185	9
OREG	25,310	12,400	49	19,745	9,600	49
PA	6,000	2,350	39	4,180	1,700	41
WASH	48,450	23,000	47	43,935	18,500	42
WIS	17,010	5,300	31	16,000	3,800	24
15 STATE TOTAL	285,060	147,910	52	253,883	118,465	47

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1, 1981 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 1961-80 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, 1981 potato stocks estimate is 3.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 118 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.0 percent or approximately 3.55 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent or approximately 6.16 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the February 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.2 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.2 and the smallest was 0.4 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,  
FEBRUARY 1, 1981, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	10		1/90	100
IDAHO			1/2/100	100
MAINE		2/81	19	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	18	52	30	100
N Y		2/3/100		100
N DAK	24	58	18	100
OREG			1/2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/2/100	100
WIS	5	17	78	100
11 STATE TOTAL	3	20	77	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Disappearance to February 1, 1981 in the 15 major fall States totaled 135 million cwt, 1 percent below the same period a year ago. This total disappearance to date includes 17.9 million cwt of potatoes that were dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading, and loss due to shrinkage (moisture loss). Disappearance during the month of January totaled 25.5 million cwt compared with 28.1 million cwt for January 1980.

The quantity of potatoes processed to February 1, 1981 in the seven major States totaled 50.3 million cwt, 4 percent below the same period a year ago.