

POTATO STOCKS

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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 23 PERCENT FROM YEAR EARLIER

Potato stocks as of March 1, 1981 are estimated at 94.2 million cwt in the 15 major fall potato producing States. This is down 23 percent from March 1, 1980 and 29 percent less than on March 1, 1979.

In the three Eastern States, estimated stocks are 12.8 million cwt, down 34 percent from March 1 a year ago and 21 percent below March 1, 1979. Maine's stocks total 10.7 million cwt, down 32 percent from a year earlier. Holdings in the six Central States are estimated at 13.5 million cwt, 35 percent less than March 1, 1980 and 48 percent below March 1, 1979. North Dakota's stocks are down 33 percent from a year earlier while Minnesota and Wisconsin are down 41 and 24 percent, respectively. Estimated stocks in the six Western States are 68.0 million cwt, down 17 percent from March 1 a year ago and 25 percent less than March 1, 1979. Idaho's stocks total 38.5 million cwt, down 13 percent from March 1, 1980. Holdings in Washington and Oregon are each down 23 percent from a year earlier.

Disappearance to March 1, 1981 in the 15 major fall States totaled 160 million cwt, 2 percent below the same period a year ago. Total disappearance to date includes 19.6 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading, and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss). Disappearance during the month of February totaled 24.2 million cwt compared with 26.2 million cwt for February 1980.

The quantity of potatoes processed to March 1, 1981 in the seven major States totaled 60.6 million cwt, 4 percent less than the same period a year ago.

The May 1 Stocks Report and the associated estimates of potato stocks for the 15 States have been reinstated at the request of data users. Percentage of stocks by type estimates for the 11 States will not be estimated for the March, April and May stocks reports. This is primarily due to the possibility of disclosure problems as the level of stocks decline and holdings become more concentrated in fewer hands.

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 1/

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 <u>2/</u>	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	94,230		

1/ SEE TABLE 3 FOR LIST OF 15 STATES.

2/ 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, 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	28,100			
MAINE <u>2/</u>	1979-80	2,010	2,655	3,470	4,245	5,200	6,200	7,965
	1980-81	2,190	2,880	3,545	4,245			
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	23,710			
OTHER STATES <u>3/</u>	1979-80	2,660	3,405	4,260	5,100	6,055	6,880	8,785
	1980-81	2,355	2,890	3,745	4,565			
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	60,620			

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/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ 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, 1980 AND MARCH 1, 1981

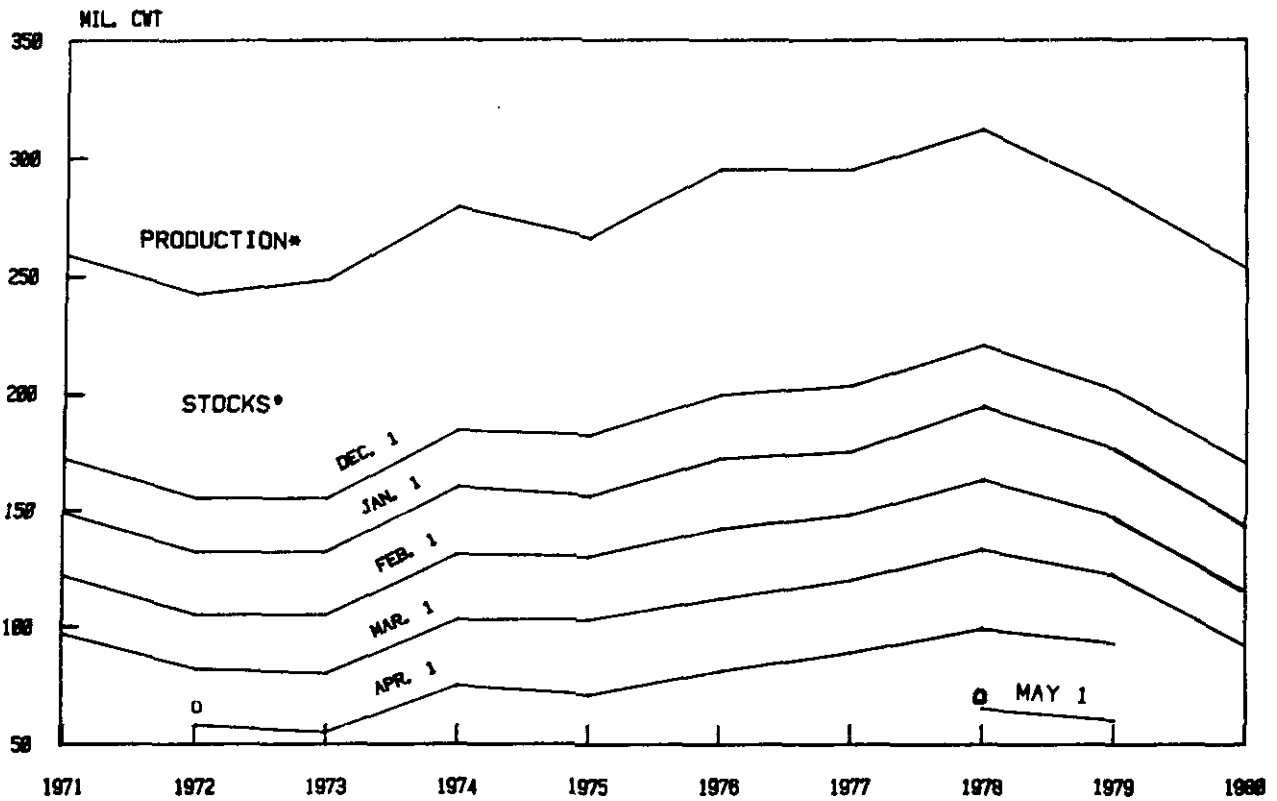
STATE	CROP OF 1979			CROP OF 1980		
	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS: MAR 1, 1980	MAR 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS: MAR 1, 1981	MAR 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,364	2,300	36	6,438	2,000	31
COLO	11,455	4,400	38	10,950	4,050	37
IDAHO	85,050	44,500	52	78,455	38,500	49
MAINE	27,685	15,800	57	24,960	10,700	43
MICH	8,000	2,400	30	7,403	1,200	16
MINN	12,920	6,800	53	9,920	4,000	40
MONT	1,800	1,620	90	1,725	1,300	75
NEBR	1,482	650	44	1,876	850	45
N Y - L I	6,431	1,000	16	4,418	100	2
- UPSTATE:	6,463	800	12	6,250	800	13
N DAK	18,240	6,900	38	15,680	4,600	29
OHIO	2,400	400	17	1,948	80	4
OREG	25,310	9,800	39	19,745	7,500	38
PA	6,000	1,750	29	4,180	1,150	28
WASH	48,450	18,900	39	43,935	14,600	33
WIS	17,010	3,700	22	16,000	2,800	18
15 STATE TOTAL	285,060	121,720	43	253,883	94,230	37

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 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 March 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 March 1, 1981 potato stocks estimate is 3.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 94.2 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.7 percent or approximately 3.49 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.4 percent or approximately 6.03 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the March 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 2.9 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.0 and the smallest was 0.3 million hundredweight. The preliminary March 1 estimate was below the final estimate 8 out of the past 10 years.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS



SEE FOOTNOTE 1, TABLE 1. *PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. *STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST. ⁰ FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.