

Potato Stocks



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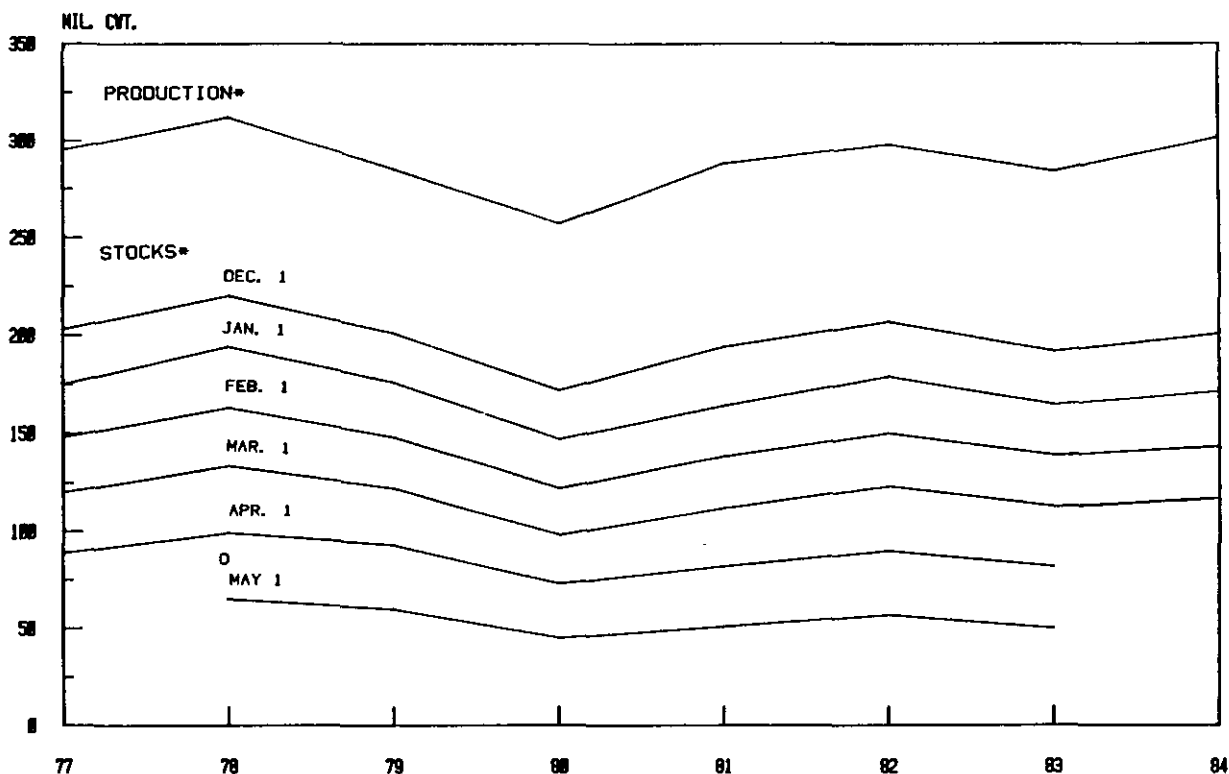
For subscribers of "POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES"

POTATO STOCKS UP 3 PERCENT

Potato stocks were estimated at 117 million cwt (5.29 million metric tons) on March 1, 1985 in the 15 major storage States. This is up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent short of March stocks two years ago. The storage total represents 39 percent of fall production this year compared with 40 percent on hand a year ago.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST. : 1978 FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.

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 * 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 per- *
 * cent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home *
 * use account for the remaining 10 percent. *

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS, 15 MAJOR STATES

CROP YEAR	: PRODUCTION :	: DEC 1 :	: JAN 1 :	: FEB 1 :	: MAR 1 :	: APR 1 :	: MAY 1 :
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	: 284,940	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	: 256,518	172,030	147,010	122,065	97,680	72,660	44,546
1981	: 287,710	193,610	164,380	137,820	111,780	82,270	50,760
1982	: 298,031	206,525	178,980	150,200	122,500	90,105	57,305
1983	: 284,344	192,150	165,330	138,900	112,730	81,740	50,365
1984	: 302,495	201,335	172,860	142,990	116,655		

TABLE 2. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON MARCH 1, 1984 AND MARCH 1, 1985

STATE	: CROP OF 1983 :			: CROP OF 1984 :		
	: PRODUCTION :	: TOTAL STOCKS : : MAR 1, 1984 :	: MAR 1 STOCKS : : AS % OF : : PRODUCTION :	: PRODUCTION :	: TOTAL STOCKS : : MAR 1, 1985 :	: MAR 1 STOCKS : : AS % OF : : PRODUCTION :
	: 1,000 CWT :	PERCENT :		: 1,000 CWT :	PERCENT :	
CALIF	: 7,790	2,700	35	7,280	2,300	32
COLO	: 13,950	5,700	41	17,225	7,250	42
IDAHO	: 85,990	41,500	48	86,600	41,500	48
MAINE	: 22,560	10,900	48	21,360	10,200	48
MICH	: 9,840	3,300	34	12,540	3,700	30
MINN	: 10,313	5,300	51	13,775	6,500	47
MONT	: 1,800	1,550	86	1,924	1,740	90
NEBR	: 2,025	680	34	2,240	1,000	45
N Y - L I	: 4,075	450	11	3,726	300	8
- UPSTATE	: 5,635	1,400	25	6,630	1,200	18
N DAK	: 20,480	7,800	38	20,615	8,400	41
OHIO	: 1,886	100	5	2,465	105	4
OREG	: 20,710	8,300	40	22,680	8,600	38
PA	: 4,300	1,350	31	5,160	1,560	30
WASH	: 54,080	16,700	31	56,925	16,600	29
WIS	: 18,910	5,000	26	21,350	5,700	27
15 STATE TOTAL	: 284,344	112,730	40	302,495	116,655	39

TABLE 3. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1983 AND 1984 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	1983-84	15,755	20,445	24,785	29,540	35,155	40,640	53,810
	1984-85	19,000	24,310	29,200	34,010			
MAINE 2/	1983-84	1,160	1,745	2,260	2,780	3,370	3,970	5,125
	1984-85	1,630	2,290	2,995	3,505			
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1983-84	16,245	19,920	23,690	28,250	33,280	37,455	45,800
	1984-85	20,745	24,690	29,345	33,555			
OTHER STATES 3/	1983-84	4,305	6,005	7,755	9,600	11,615	13,400	16,320
	1984-85	5,695	7,510	9,210	10,930			
TOTAL	1983-84	37,465	48,115	58,490	70,170	83,420	95,465	121,055
	1984-85	47,070	58,800	70,750	82,000			

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, MINN, N DAK, OR WIS. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK, AND WIS.

RELIABILITY OF MARCH 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.9 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 117 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.9 percent or approximately 4.5 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.7 percent or approximately 7.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1975-84) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.90 million cwt, ranging from 0.30 million to 6.00 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

In the three Eastern States, stocks totaled 13.3 million cwt, down 6 percent from last year and 25 percent below March 1983. Maine stocks were down 6 percent; while New York stocks were 19 percent below a year ago. Pennsylvania storage of potatoes was up 16 percent.

Each of the six Central States stored more potatoes than a year ago. Total stocks came to 25.4 million cwt on March 1, 1985, a gain of 15 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stored 8 percent more and Minnesota 23 percent more than a year ago. Wisconsin and Michigan stocks were up 14 percent and 12 percent, respectively.

The six Western States stored 78.0 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, up 2 percent from a year ago but 4 percent short of 1983 holdings. Idaho stocks were equal to last year; Washington was down 1 percent. Oregon storages carried 4 percent more potatoes, but California had 15 percent less. Colorado found potato stocks 27 percent greater than last year at this time. Montana had 12 percent more potatoes in storage than last year.

Disappearance of potatoes in the 15 States from harvest to March 1 totaled 186 million cwt, 8 percent above a year ago and 6 percent above two years ago. February disappearance at 26.3 million cwt was 1 percent above a year ago. Seasonal shrink and loss totaled 23.5 million cwt compared with 19.5 million cwt last year.

Processing in the major processing States totaled 82.0 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year earlier. February processing at 11.3 million cwt was down 4 percent from last year.

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