

Potato Stocks



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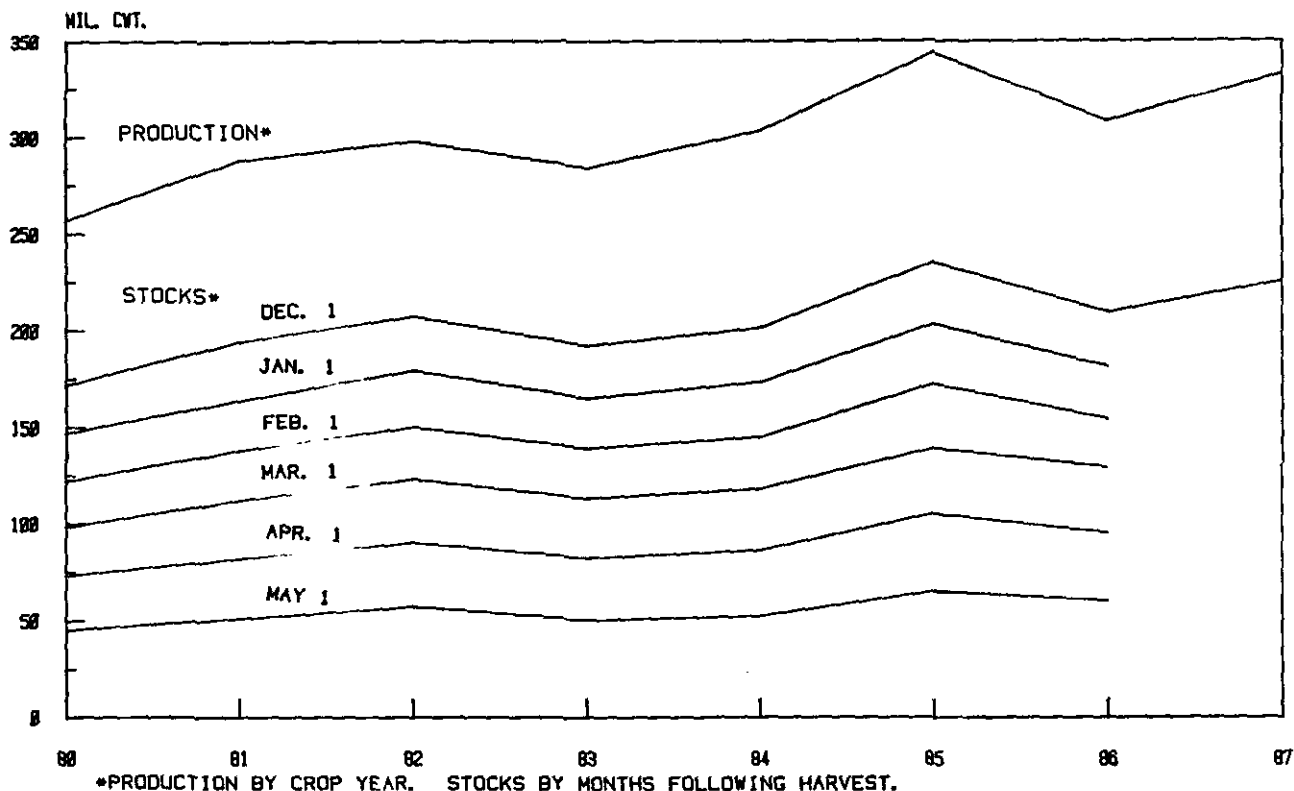
POTATO STOCKS UP 7 PERCENT

December 1, 1987 potato stocks are estimated at 224 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year, but 5 percent below 1985. Stocks account for 67 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent last year. Storage is made up of 78 percent russet, 18 percent white, and 4 percent red potatoes.

(continued on page 4.)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS

(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



 * NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) re- *
 * maining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrink- *
 * age and waste and other losses that occur after the date of *
 * each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes general- *
 * ly account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. *
 * Shrinkage, loss, and home use account for the remaining 10 per- *
 * cent. *

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
1,000 CWT							
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	303,384	201,410	173,380	144,760	118,400	86,440	52,465
1985	343,984	235,475	202,800	171,510	138,720	104,540	65,380
1986	307,501	209,280	180,800	154,490	128,700	95,090	59,790
1987	333,396	223,720					

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1986 AND 1987 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	1986-87	13,200	17,980	21,910	27,070	33,360	38,970	55,470
	1987-88	18,260						
MAINE 2/	1986-87	2,100	2,835	3,345	3,865	4,500	5,195	6,995
	1987-88	1,770						
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1986-87	21,530	25,510	28,530	33,595	39,610	44,865	56,910
	1987-88	22,265						
OTHER STATES 3/	1986-87	6,240	8,405	10,330	12,320	14,690	16,750	22,245
	1987-88	5,750						
TOTAL	1986-87	43,070	54,730	64,115	76,850	92,160	105,780	141,620
	1987-88	48,045						

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.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1, 1986 AND DECEMBER 1, 1987

STATE	CROP OF 1986			CROP OF 1987		
	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : DEC 1, 1986	DEC 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:	PRODUCTION:	TOTAL STOCKS : DEC 1, 1987	DEC 1 STOCKS : AS % OF PRODUCTION:
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	6,885	4,700	68	7,600	4,800	63
COLO	18,810	13,600	72	19,500	15,750	81
IDAHO	90,220	70,500	78	99,710	72,500	73
MAINE	21,930	16,500	75	24,510	18,900	77
MICH	9,625	6,000	62	8,910	4,800	54
MINN	13,650	10,100	74	16,330	11,400	70
MONT	2,233	2,150	96	2,370	2,200	93
NEBR	1,794	1,550	86	2,100	1,800	86
N Y - L I	2,537	800	32	2,225	750	34
- UPSTATE	5,288	2,500	47	5,875	2,800	48
N DAK	21,600	15,500	72	23,125	17,500	76
OHIO	2,522	680	27	2,254	650	29
OREG	23,172	17,000	73	25,924	17,900	69
PA	5,160	3,400	66	4,730	3,070	65
WASH	61,950	32,300	52	66,960	36,600	55
WIS	20,125	12,000	60	21,273	12,300	58
15 STATE TOTAL	307,501	209,280	68	333,396	223,720	67

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.0 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 224 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.0 percent or approximately 4.47 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.5 percent or approximately 7.83 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1977-86) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using-stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 3.52 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years for both production and stocks.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 FALL POTATO ESTIMATES

ESTIMATE	ROOT MEAN SQUARE ERROR			TEN YEAR RECORD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEC 1 AND FINAL ESTIMATE				
	PERCENT:	90% CONFIDENCE LEVEL		AVG	QUANTITY		NUMBER OF YEARS	
		PERCENT:	QUANT		SMALL	LARGE	BELOW:FINAL	ABOVE:FINAL
STOCKS	2.0	3.5	7.83	3.52	.08	5.82	9	1
PRODUCTION	1.5	2.6	8.91	4.57	.92	7.02	9	1

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
DECEMBER 1, 1987, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	11		89	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		70	30	100
MICH		76	24	100
MINN	20	33	47	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	20	60	20	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	6	12	82	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	4	18	78	100

1987 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Agricultural Statistics Board conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1987. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements from these fields just prior to and immediately after harvest.

The sample data from the objective yield surveys shown in tables 5 and 6 are presented to provide current information about the crop and are not official estimates.

TABLE 5: POTATOES: HARVEST LOSS BY TYPE OF POTATOES, 1986-87 1/

STATE AND YEAR	ROUND REDS	ROUND WHITES	RUSSETS	ALL TYPES
CWT PER ACRE				
COLO 1986	14		21	20
1987	10		19	20
IDAHO 1986			27	27
1987			34	34
MAINE 1986		21	26	23
1987		17	24	20
MICH 1986		24	19	22
1987		23	19	21
MINN 1986	16	19	24	21
1987	17	24	32	27
N Y 1986		20		20
1987		25		25
N DAK 1986	22	34	27	31
1987	26	26	26	26
OREG 1986			22	22
1987		16	22	22
PA 1986		17		16
1987		16		16
WASH 1986	2/	13	21	21
1987	2/	20	23	23
WIS 1986	18	23	22	21
1987	15	12	15	15

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1986-87 1/

STATE AND YEAR	ROUND REDS		ROUND WHITES		RUSSETS	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. OF HILLS PER ACRE
COLO 1986	6	12,914			73	12,444
1987	6	11,794			79	11,865
IDAHO 1986	2/	2/	2/	2/	309	12,478
1987			4	11,234	332	12,171
MAINE 1986	2/	2/	100	13,583	85	10,970
1987			110	13,608	66	10,534
MICH 1986			61	12,654	39	11,493
1987			66	12,288	37	11,339
MINN 1986	31	9,173	39	9,557	53	11,080
1987	26	11,416	43	11,067	64	12,201
N Y 1986	3	10,976	110	13,109	9	11,924
1987	6	12,089	114	13,305	2	11,373
N DAK 1986	23	9,647	90	9,966	25	9,605
1987	30	10,219	101	10,186	21	9,602
OREG 1986			2/	2/	151	14,298
1987	3	11,778	5	12,913	140	13,453
PA 1986	3	14,930	75	12,745	2/	2/
1987	4	13,323	94	12,913	3	11,697
WASH 1986	3	15,884	9	14,273	166	14,212
1987	2/	2/	4	14,361	181	14,484
WIS 1986	21	12,703	28	13,052	90	10,909
1987	15	12,497	28	13,402	93	11,721

1/ BASED ON COUNTS FROM OBJECTIVE YIELD MEASUREMENTS. 2/ INSUFFICIENT SAMPLE SIZE.

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987
	1,000 ACRES					
CALIF	21.7	17.0	19.0	21.5	17.0	19.0
COLO	56.5	57.0	61.0	56.0	57.0	60.0
CONN	1.4	.9	.5	1.4	.9	.5
IDAHO-10 SW CO	30.0	17.0	18.0	29.0	17.0	18.0
-OTHER CO	325.0	293.0	322.0	316.0	290.0	319.0
IND	2.8	4.9	5.4	2.6	4.5	5.0
MAINE	100.0	87.0	87.0	99.0	86.0	86.0
MASS	3.3	2.9	2.8	3.3	2.9	2.8
MICH	46.0	42.0	34.0	44.0	35.0	33.0
MINN	78.5	72.0	72.0	69.0	70.0	71.0
MONT	7.9	7.8	8.0	7.0	7.7	7.9
NEBR	8.5	7.1	7.8	7.8	6.9	7.5
NEV	9.0	9.0	8.0	9.0	9.0	8.0
N Y-LONG IS	13.0	9.0	9.0	12.9	8.9	8.9
-UPSTATE	26.0	24.0	24.0	25.5	22.5	23.5
N DAK	145.0	128.0	130.0	139.0	120.0	125.0
OHIO	9.5	10.2	10.3	9.3	9.7	9.8
OREG-MALHEUR CO	11.0	7.0	7.0	10.2	6.8	6.8
-OTHER CO	51.0	46.0	49.0	50.8	45.2	48.2
PA	22.5	22.0	22.0	22.0	21.5	21.5
R I	2.5	1.6	1.5	2.5	1.6	1.5
S DAK	14.0	13.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0
UTAH	6.6	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.4	6.6
VT	.2	.1		.2	.1	
WASH	127.0	119.0	124.0	126.0	118.0	124.0
WIS	65.0	59.0	64.5	63.5	57.5	63.5
WYO	2.4	2.2	2.6	1.0	2.1	2.3
TOTAL	1,186.3	1,065.1	1,108.0	1,147.0	1,036.2	1,090.3
	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1985	1986	1987	1985	1986	1987
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
CALIF	390	405	400	8,385	6,885	7,600
COLO	320	330	325	17,920	18,810	19,500
CONN	250	235	220	350	212	110
IDAHO-10 SW CO	375	360	400	10,875	6,120	7,200
-OTHER CO	290	290	290	91,640	84,100	92,510
IND	240	220	250	624	990	1,250
MAINE	285	255	285	28,215	21,930	24,510
MASS	250	230	235	825	667	658
MICH	275	275	270	12,100	9,625	8,910
MINN	205	195	230	14,145	13,650	16,330
MONT	270	290	300	1,890	2,233	2,370
NEBR	270	260	280	2,106	1,794	2,100
NEV	345	350	340	3,105	3,150	2,720
N Y-LONG IS	300	285	250	3,870	2,537	2,225
-UPSTATE	250	235	250	6,375	5,288	5,875
N DAK	170	180	185	23,630	21,600	23,125
OHIO	265	260	230	2,465	2,522	2,254
OREG-MALHEUR CO	370	350	410	3,774	2,380	2,788
-OTHER CO	455	460	480	23,114	20,792	23,136
PA	260	240	220	5,720	5,160	4,730
R I	280	240	175	700	384	263
S DAK	175	210	210	2,100	2,520	2,310
UTAH	255	275	240	1,658	1,760	1,584
VT	235	200		47	20	
WASH	505	525	540	63,630	61,950	66,960
WIS	380	350	335	24,130	20,125	21,273
WYO	245	270	210	245	567	483
U S	308	307	314	353,638	317,771	342,774

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION UP 8 PERCENT

Fall potato production was estimated at 343 million cwt (15.5 million metric tons), a gain of 8 percent over last year but 3 percent short of 1985. Area for harvest is set at 1.09 million acres (441 thousand hectares), up 5 percent from last year but 5 percent below 1985. The average yield is a record high 314 cwt per acre, up 7 cwt from last year and 6 cwt above 1985.

The 6 EASTERN STATES produced an estimated 38.4 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year but 17 percent short of 1985. Area harvested totaled 145 thousand acres, up fractionally from 1986 but 13 percent below 1985. The average yield came in at 265 cwt per acre, a gain of 14 cwt from last year but 11 cwt below 1985. Maine production of 24.5 million cwt was up 12 percent from 1986. New York output of 8.10 million cwt was up 4 percent; Pennsylvania production of 4.73 million cwt was off 8 percent.

The 8 CENTRAL STATES produced 77.6 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year but 5 percent below 1985. Harvested area totaled 326 thousand acres, a gain of 3 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1985. Minnesota's production of 16.3 million cwt jumped 20 percent from last year; North Dakota production, at 23.1 million cwt, was up 7 percent; while Wisconsin's 21.3 million cwt was up 6 percent from last year. Michigan produced 8.91 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year.

The 9 WESTERN STATES potato production was estimated at 227 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year and fractionally above the 1985 crop. Harvest acreage is set at 620 thousand acres, up 8 percent from last year but 2 percent below 1985. Average yield per acre swelled to 366 cwt, 4 cwt above last year and 9 cwt above two years ago. Production in Washington and Colorado hit record highs with 67.0 million cwt and 19.5 million cwt, respectively. Idaho growers produced 99.7 million cwt, up 11 percent from last year. Oregon production is set at 25.9 million cwt, up 12 percent. Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming each produced fewer potatoes than last year.

ALL POTATO production for 1987 (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) totaled 386 million cwt (17.5 million metric tons), up 7 percent from last year but 5 percent short of the 1985 crop. Harvested area totaled 1.28 million acres (518 thousand hectares), up 5 percent from 1986 but 6 percent below 1985. The average yield climbed to 301 cwt per acre, up 5 cwt from last year and 2 cwt above 1985.

The 3 EASTERN STATES stored 25.5 million cwt this year, up 10 percent from a year ago, but 21 percent short of two years ago. Maine stocks of 18.9 million cwt are up 15 percent. New York storage of 3.55 million cwt is up 8 percent. Pennsylvania stocks of 3.07 million cwt are down 10 percent.

CENTRAL STATES storages held 48.5 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1987, up 6 percent from last year but 12 percent below 1985. North Dakota, with 17.5 million cwt stored and Minnesota with 11.4 million cwt are each up 13 percent from last year. Wisconsin holdings of 12.3 million are up 3 percent, while Michigan and Ohio are down 20 percent and 4 percent, respectively.

Six WESTERN STATES stored 150 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1987, up 7 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Each of the Western States shows more potatoes in storage than last year, but Idaho, California, and Oregon are short of the large 1985 storage. Idaho stocks of 72.5 million cwt are up 3 percent from last year. Stocks in Washington totaled 36.6 million cwt, up 13 percent, while Colorado storage of 15.8 million cwt was up 16 percent. Oregon, with 17.9 million cwt, gained 5 percent; and California and Montana were up 2 percent each.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest to December 1 in the 15 stocks States totaled a record 110 million cwt, 12 percent above last year and 1 percent above 1985. Shrink and loss totaled 15.8 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year, but 23 percent below the 1985 frost damaged crop.

PROCESSING in the 8 major processing States totaled 48.0 million cwt, up 12 percent from last year but fractionally below the 1985 pace.

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