

Potato Stocks



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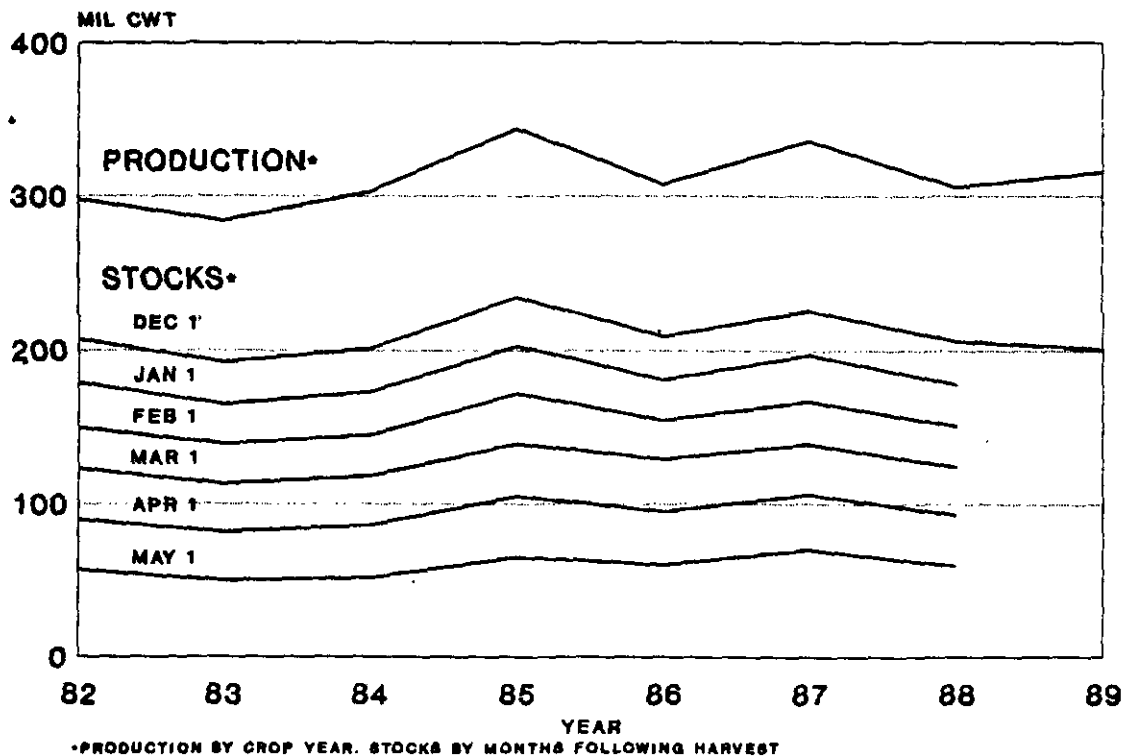
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POTATO STOCKS DOWN 2 PERCENT

Fall potato stocks in the 15 major States were set at 201 million cwt on December 1, 1989. That's a drop of 2 percent from last year and 11 percent below two years ago. Stocks accounted for 64 percent of fall production this year compared with 68 percent a year ago, indicating heavier movement this year. By type, reds were 3 percent of December stocks, whites were 16 percent, and russets 81 percent.

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FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



 * 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						
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	302,958	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	307,928	209,435	180,915	154,545	128,720	95,090	59,790
1987	335,607	225,890	196,760	167,325	138,800	105,905	70,030
1988	305,623	206,420	177,750	151,050	124,485	92,585	59,355
1989	316,147	201,400					

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1988 AND 1989 CROPS

STATE AND CROP YEAR	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	SEASON
	1,000 CWT						
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO, OREG	1988 : 18,740	24,270	29,420	34,720	41,360	48,080	64,425
	1989 : 22,200						
MAINE 2/	1988 : 1,685	2,190	2,830	3,455	4,230	4,915	6,915
	1989 : 2,015						
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1988 : 19,200	23,455	27,280	31,960	37,575	41,795	51,555
	1989 : 23,635						
OTHER STATES 3/	1988 : 5,805	7,450	9,040	10,645	12,340	14,075	18,385
	1989 : 6,340						
TOTAL	1988 : 45,430	57,365	68,570	80,780	95,505	108,865	141,280
	1989 : 54,190						

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, 1988 AND DECEMBER 1, 1989

STATE	CROP OF 1988			CROP OF 1989		
	PROD	STOCKS	%	PROD	STOCKS	%
		DEC 1, 1988	OF PROD		DEC 1, 1989	OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,105	3,900	64	6,600	4,000	61
COLO	19,040	14,700	77	20,603	15,650	76
IDAHO	102,610	74,000	72	102,475	70,500	69
MAINE	22,000	15,800	72	22,000	16,000	73
MICH	7,820	4,600	59	6,900	4,000	58
MINN	12,075	8,900	74	13,860	8,900	64
MONT	2,156	2,020	94	2,228	2,100	94
NEBR	2,128	1,550	73	2,528	1,450	57
N Y -LI	1,992	850	43	1,898	800	42
-UPST	4,800	2,800	58	4,730	2,700	57
N DAK	15,525	10,500	68	15,070	11,000	73
OHIO	1,697	500	29	1,462	300	21
OREG	20,735	15,300	74	23,308	13,800	59
PA	3,690	2,700	73	4,715	2,700	57
WASH	63,250	36,700	58	64,310	34,500	54
WIS	20,000	11,600	58	23,460	13,000	55
15 STATES	305,623	206,420	68	316,147	201,400	64

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 201 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent or approximately 4.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.8 percent or approximately 7.7 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1979-88) 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 3.93 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
		MIL CWT			MILLION CWT			
STOCKS	2.2	3.8	7.65	3.93	0.08	5.82	9	1
PRODUCTION	1.6	2.7	8.77	4.46	0.49	7.44	9	1

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
DECEMBER 1, 1989, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	8		92	100
IDAHO			100	100
MAINE		80	20	100
MICH		63	37	100
MINN	17	27	56	100
N Y		100		100
N DAK	17	57	26	100
OREG			100	100
PA		100		100
WASH			100	100
WIS	8	12	80	100
11 STATE TOTAL	3	16	81	100

1989 POTATO OBJECTIVE YIELD SURVEY

The Agricultural Statistics Board conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1989. 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 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, 1988-89 1/

STATE AND YEAR	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	ALL TYPES
CWT PER ACRE				
COLO 1988	10		18	18
COLO 1989	16		26	25
IDAHO 1988			30	30
IDAHO 1989			26	26
MAINE 1988		19	24	19
MAINE 1989		17	18	17
MICH 1988		17	20	17
MICH 1989		22	19	21
MINN 1988	18	13	22	17
MINN 1989	17	12	16	15
N Y 1988		16		16
N Y 1989		15		15
N DAK 1988	15	14	19	16
N DAK 1989	14	17	16	16
OREG 1988			21	21
OREG 1989			16	16
PA 1988		19		19
PA 1989		17		17
WASH 1988		18	26	26
WASH 1989		39	19	20
WIS 1988	9	11	16	14
WIS 1989	14	17	16	16

1/ POTATOES LEFT IN THE FIELD AT TIME OF HARVEST.

TABLE 6: POTATOES: AVERAGE NUMBER OF HILLS PER ACRE, BY TYPE, 1988-89 1/

STATE AND YEAR	REDS		WHITES		RUSSETS	
	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO. HILLS PER ACRE	NUMBER OF SAMPLES	AV. NO HILLS PER ACRE
COLO	1988 : 4	12,852			75	12,378
	1989 : 9	13,546			63	12,260
IDAHO	1988 : 2/	2/	2/	2/	318	12,798
	1989 : 2/	2/	7	13,668	309	12,265
MAINE	1988 : 2/	2/	144	14,167	29	10,388
	1989 : 2/	2/	143	14,019	28	11,105
MICH	1988 : 2/	2/	79	12,035	23	9,808
	1989 : 2/	2/	81	12,177	17	10,958
MINN	1988 : 29	11,319	60	10,894	45	13,272
	1989 : 25	10,650	52	10,932	58	12,808
N Y	1988 : 2/	2/	135	13,288	4	13,282
	1989 : 4	14,085	131	13,104	2/	2/
N DAK	1988 : 32	9,868	97	9,543	42	9,665
	1989 : 26	9,963	102	10,421	44	9,613
OREG	1988 : 2	14,162	4	15,250	144	15,146
	1989 : 2/	2/	14	14,068	135	14,270
PA	1988 : 6	11,692	85	13,388	2	13,339
	1989 : 3	11,602	86	11,835		
WASH	1988 : 2/	2/	4	12,099	176	14,340
	1989 : 2/	2/	12	13,918	181	14,321
WIS	1988 : 16	13,404	19	13,138	91	11,986
	1989 : 16	13,135	34	13,098	84	11,775

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

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION GAINS 4 PERCENT

Fall potato production is estimated at 325 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year but 6 percent below two years ago. Harvest came from 1.09 million acres this year, up 1 percent from last year but 1 percent below 1987. The average yield came in at 299 cwt per acre, a gain of 7 cwt from last year but 15 cwt below the record high in 1987.

The 6 **EASTERN STATES** produced 34.3 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 2 percent from 1988 but down 9 percent from 1987. Harvested acreage of 133 thousand acres was down 3 percent from last year but the average yield of 257 cwt per acre gained 5 percent. Higher yields in Pennsylvania and New York were responsible for the increase.

Eight **CENTRAL STATES** produced a crop of 66.2 million cwt this year, a gain of 7 percent from last year but 17 percent short of 1987 output. Area for harvest was 330 thousand acres, down fractionally from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. The average yield gained 8 percent to 201 cwt per acre. Better yields on irrigated fields in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Nebraska more than offset poorer crops in North Dakota and Ohio.

The 9 **WESTERN STATES** produced 224 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 3 percent from last year but 1 percent below 1987. Acreage for harvest, at 623 thousand acres, was up 3 percent from last year and 1 percent above 1987. The average yield of 360 cwt per acre was unchanged from last year. Production in Idaho totaled 102 million cwt, down fractionally from last year, where increased acreage almost made up for smaller sizes and yields. Washington production of 64.3 million cwt was 2 percent above last year; while Oregon and Colorado registered production gains of 12 and 8 percent, respectively.

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

STATE	AREA PLANTED			AREA HARVESTED		
	1987	1988	1989	1987	1988	1989
	1,000 ACRES					
CALIF	18.3	16.5	16.5	18.3	16.5	16.5
COLO	61.0	60.0	62.0	60.0	59.5	61.5
CONN	.5	.6	.4	.5	.6	.3
IDAHO-10 SW	18.0	18.0	17.0	18.0	18.0	17.0
-OTHER	322.0	332.0	338.0	319.0	329.0	336.0
IND	5.4	4.9	4.4	5.0	4.2	4.0
MAINE	84.0	81.0	80.0	83.0	80.0	80.0
MASS	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.5
MICH	37.0	36.0	33.0	36.0	34.0	30.0
MINN	72.0	70.0	67.0	71.0	69.0	66.0
MONT	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.9	7.7	8.1
NEBR	7.8	8.0	8.0	7.5	7.6	7.9
NEV	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
N Y-LONG IS	9.8	8.4	7.5	9.7	8.3	7.3
-UPSTATE	26.0	25.0	22.5	25.0	24.0	21.5
N DAK	135.0	140.0	140.0	130.0	135.0	137.0
OHIO	10.3	9.5	8.5	9.8	8.7	7.9
OREG-MALHEUR:	7.0	6.6	5.4	6.8	6.4	5.2
-OTHER	49.0	39.4	45.6	48.2	38.6	44.8
PA	22.0	21.5	21.0	21.5	20.5	20.5
R I	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.2
S DAK	12.0	11.0	10.0	11.0	10.0	9.0
UTAH	6.6	6.8	6.3	6.6	6.6	6.1
WASH	124.0	115.0	118.0	124.0	115.0	118.0
WIS	66.0	63.0	68.5	65.0	62.5	68.0
WYO	2.6	2.0	2.2	2.3	1.9	2.1
U S	1,116.6	1,094.9	1,101.8	1,098.4	1,075.4	1,086.4

TABLE 7. FALL POTATOES, ACREAGE, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION (CON'T)

STATE	YIELD			PRODUCTION		
	1987	1988	1989	1987	1988	1989
	CWT			1,000 CWT		
CALIF	430	370	400	7,869	6,105	6,600
COLO	325	320	335	19,500	19,040	20,603
CONN	245	225	220	123	135	66
IDAHO-10 SW	400	400	395	7,200	7,200	6,715
-OTHER	290	290	285	92,510	95,410	95,760
IND	250	180	240	1,250	756	960
MAINE	280	275	275	23,240	22,000	22,000
MASS	235	220	240	658	572	600
MICH	270	230	230	9,720	7,820	6,900
MINN	230	175	210	16,330	12,075	13,860
MONT	300	280	275	2,370	2,156	2,228
NEBR	290	280	320	2,175	2,128	2,528
NEV	340	310	325	2,720	2,480	2,600
N Y-LONG 'IS	250	240	260	2,425	1,992	1,898
-UPSTATE	250	200	220	6,250	4,800	4,730
N DAK	185	115	110	24,050	15,525	15,070
OHIO	230	195	185	2,254	1,697	1,462
OREG-MALHEUR	410	375	390	2,788	2,400	2,028
-OTHER	480	475	475	23,136	18,335	21,280
PA	220	180	230	4,730	3,690	4,715
R I	175	250	250	263	300	300
S DAK	210	160	220	2,310	1,600	1,980
UTAH	240	245	245	1,584	1,617	1,495
WASH	540	550	545	66,960	63,250	64,310
WIS	340	320	345	22,100	20,000	23,460
WYO	210	250	275	483	475	578
U S	314	292	299	344,998	313,558	324,726

The 3 **EASTERN STATES** stored 22.2 million cwt. this year, slightly above last year but 12 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were up 1 percent, while New York dropped 4 percent, and Pennsylvania was unchanged from last year.

The 6 **CENTRAL STATES** accounted for 38.7 million cwt on December 1, a gain of 3 percent from last year but 24 percent below 1987. Wisconsin was up 12 percent from a year ago. North Dakota was up 5 percent, and Minnesota remained unchanged. Michigan dropped 13 percent while Nebraska was off 6 percent and Ohio fell 40 percent.

Six **WESTERN STATES** stored a total of 141 million cwt of potatoes this year, 4 percent below a year ago and 6 percent below 1987. Oregon dropped 10 percent from 1988; while Washington was off 6 percent and Idaho dropped 5 percent. Colorado was up 6 percent; California and Montana gained 3 and 4 percent, respectively.

DISAPPEARANCE from harvest time to December 1 was a record 115 million cwt up 16 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss at 14.5 million cwt so far was down 4 percent from last year's 15.1 million cwt and 10 percent below 1987.

PROCESSING claimed a record 54.2 million cwt of fall potatoes this season to date, up 19 percent from last year and 13 percent above two years ago.

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