

# Potato Stocks



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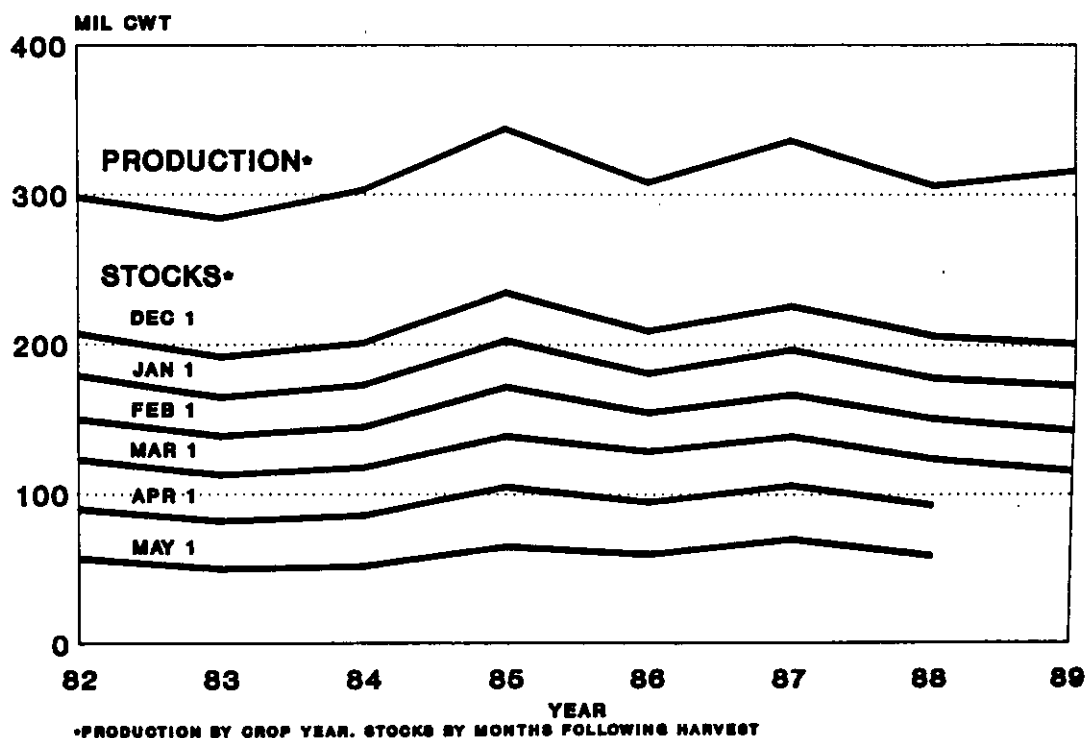
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## POTATO STOCKS DOWN 7 PERCENT

March 1, 1990 potato stocks totaled 116 million cwt, down 7 percent from last year, and 17 percent below 1988. Stocks accounted for 37 percent of production in the 15 storage States this year compared with 41 percent last year. Seasonal disappearance to March 1 was 200 million cwt this year, up 11 percent from last year. Processing at 93.7 million cwt is up 16 percent. Shrink and loss of 19.8 million cwt is down 3 percent.

(continued on page 4.)

## FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



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 \* 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. \*  
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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	173,400	143,150	115,780		

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	28,140	34,240	40,270			
MAINE 2/	1988 : 1,685	2,190	2,830	3,455	4,230	4,915	6,915
	1989 : 2,015	2,605	3,450	4,005			
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1988 : 19,200	23,455	27,280	31,960	37,575	41,795	51,555
	1989 : 23,635	28,015	33,170	38,610			
OTHER STATES 3/	1988 : 5,805	7,450	9,040	10,645	12,340	14,075	18,385
	1989 : 6,340	8,010	9,860	10,835			
TOTAL	1988 : 45,430	57,365	68,570	80,780	95,505	108,865	141,280
	1989 : 54,190	66,770	80,720	93,720			

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 MARCH 1, 1989 AND MARCH 1, 1990

STATE	CROP OF 1988			CROP OF 1989		
	PROD	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1989	MAR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PROD	PROD	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1990	MAR 1 STOCKS AS % OF PROD
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	6,105	2,100	34	6,600	1,900	29
COLO	19,040	9,450	50	20,603	9,850	48
IDAHO	102,610	50,500	49	102,475	44,500	43
MAINE	22,000	8,100	37	22,000	8,500	39
MICH	7,820	1,700	22	6,900	1,600	23
MINN	12,075	6,000	50	13,860	4,800	35
MONT	2,156	1,800	83	2,228	1,800	81
NEBR	2,128	670	31	2,528	650	26
N Y -LI	1,992	1/315		1,898	1/230	
-UPST.	4,800	1,100	23	4,730	800	17
N DAK	15,525	4,600	30	15,070	5,800	38
OHIO	1,697	1/		1,462	1/	
OREG	20,735	8,700	42	23,308	7,800	33
PA	3,690	950	26	4,715	1,050	22
WASH	63,250	22,500	36	64,310	20,000	31
WIS	20,000	6,000	30	23,460	6,500	28
15 STATES	305,623	124,485	41	316,147	115,780	37

1/ COMBINED TO PREVENT POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

RELIABILITY OF MARCH 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 116 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.5 percent or approximately 4.05 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.1 percent or approximately 7.06 million cwt.

The 10-year (1980-89) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.52 million cwt, ranging from 0.43 million to 6.00 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

RECORD OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MARCH STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRELIMINARY STOCKS	% OF FINAL	FINAL STOCKS 1/
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	1,000 CWT
1984	116,655	98.5	118,400
1985	137,420	99.1	138,720
1986	124,820	97.0	128,720
1987	137,950	99.4	138,800
1988	118,960	95.6	124,485
1989	115,780	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

The three **EASTERN STATES** stored 10.6 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1990, up 1 percent from last year, but 20 percent below two years ago. Maine with 8.50 million cwt in storage was up 5 percent. New York was down 29 percent; while Pennsylvania was up 11 percent.

**CENTRAL STATES** stocks were set at 19.4 million cwt on March 1 this year, up 2 percent from last year but 29 percent below two years ago. North Dakota holdings of 5.80 million cwt were up 26 percent from last year. Wisconsin at 6.50 million cwt was up 8 percent. Minnesota at 4.80 million cwt was off 20 percent, while Michigan dropped 6 percent and Nebraska declined 3 percent from a year ago.

The Six **WESTERN STATES** stored 85.9 million cwt of potatoes this March 1, down 10 percent from last year and 13 percent below two years ago. Idaho Stocks at 44.5 million cwt were off 12 percent; Washington with 20.0 million cwt was down 11 percent; and Oregon's 7.80 million cwt was down 10 percent from last year. California stocks were off 10 percent and Montana stocks mostly seed were the same as last year. Among the western States only Colorado with 9.85 million cwt of potatoes, showed an increase from last year.

**DISAPPEARANCE** during the season topped 200 million cwt to March 1 up 11 percent from last year and 2 percent above the 1987 crop movement. Shrink and loss at 19.8 million cwt this crop year was 3 percent below last year's 20.5 million cwt and 11 percent below the 22.2 million cwt lost two years ago. February disappearance of 27.4 million cwt was 3 percent above last year.

**PROCESSORS** in the 8 major processing States used 93.7 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, up 16 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1987. February processing of 13.0 million cwt of potatoes this year was a gain of 6 percent over last year.

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