
Potato Stocks



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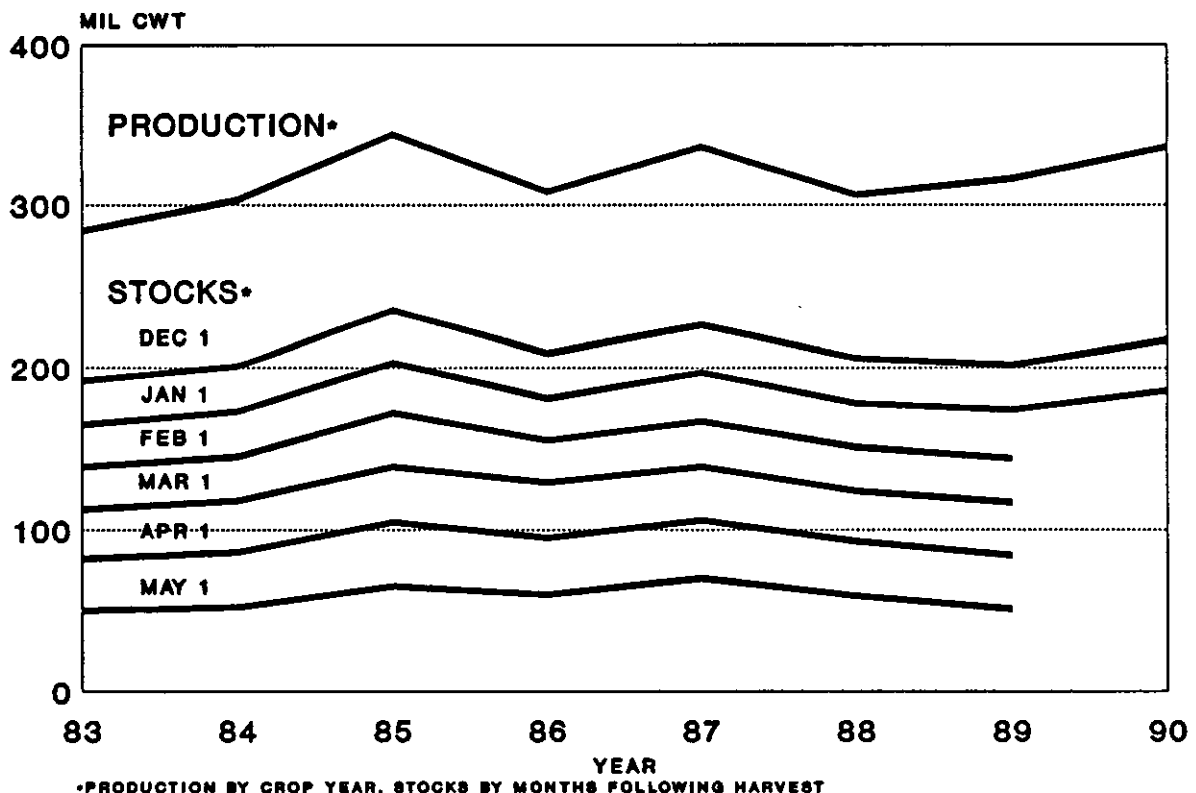
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POTATO STOCKS UP 7 PERCENT

Storage facilities in the 15 major potato States held 186 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1991, up 7 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. January storage accounted for 55 percent of fall production this year the same as a year ago. Processors in the 8 major processing States used 72.4 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, up 8 percent from last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent reds, 15 percent whites, and 82 percent russets, with more russets and fewer whites than a year ago. (Continued on page 4)

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							
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	316,097	202,050	173,550	144,290	116,600	84,320	50,675
1990	335,986	217,300	186,160				

TABLE 2. POTATOES PROCESSED 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1989 AND 1990 CROPS

STATE AND CROP YEAR	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1	SEASON
1,000 CWT							
ID & OR-MALHEUR CO:							
1989	22,200	28,140	34,240	40,270	46,330	51,810	66,010
1990	24,780	31,100					
ME 2/							
1989	2,055	2,660	3,510	4,000	4,620	5,210	6,900
1990	2,105	2,690					
WA & OR-OTHER							
1989	23,635	28,015	33,170	38,610	44,510	49,595	57,695
1990	24,480	29,830					
OTH STS 3/							
1989	6,340	8,010	9,860	11,535	13,240	15,100	20,610
1990	6,585	8,755					
TOTAL							
1989	54,230	66,825	80,780	94,415	108,700	121,715	151,215
1990	57,950	72,375					93,520

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 ME, MI, MN, ND, OR WI. 2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MI, MN, ND, AND WI.

TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON JANUARY 1, 1990 AND JANUARY 1, 1991

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PROD	STOCKS	%	PROD	STOCKS	%
		JAN 1, 1990	OF PROD		JAN 1, 1991	OF PROD
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CA	6,440	3,900	61	6,232	3,300	53
CO	20,603	13,750	67	22,100	14,000	63
ID	102,475	61,500	60	112,340	70,000	62
ME	22,000	13,600	62	20,520	12,900	63
MI	7,350	3,200	44	9,240	4,000	43
MN	13,860	7,500	54	14,280	9,000	63
MT	2,228	2,000	90	2,492	2,200	88
NE	2,528	1,200	47	2,837	1,550	55
NY-LI	1,898	400	21	1,950	400	21
-UPST	4,730	1,700	36	5,940	2,100	35
ND	15,070	9,500	63	16,675	11,000	66
OH	1,462	200	14	1,911	260	14
OR	23,308	12,100	52	23,014	12,700	55
PA	4,715	2,200	47	5,400	2,050	38
WA	64,310	30,400	47	67,980	29,500	43
WI	23,120	10,400	45	23,075	11,200	49
15 STATES	316,097	173,550	55	335,986	186,160	55

RELIABILITY OF JANUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 stocks estimate is 2.3 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 186 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.3 percent or approximately 4.28 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.0 percent or approximately 7.45 million cwt.

The 10-year (1981-90) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.10 million cwt, ranging from .02 million to 6.19 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the January 1 estimate has been below the final estimate each year.

RECORD OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL JANUARY STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRELIMINARY STOCKS	% OF FINAL	FINAL STOCKS 1/
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	1,000 CWT
1985	201,300	99.3	202,800
1986	176,600	97.6	180,915
1987	195,880	99.6	196,760
1988	171,560	96.5	177,750
1989	173,400	99.9	173,550
1990	186,160	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
JANUARY 1, 1990-91, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES					
	REDS		WHITES		RUSSETS	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
PERCENT						
CO	8	7			92	93
ID					100	100
ME			78	77	22	23
MI		3	65	63	35	34
MN	16	14	29	29	55	57
NY			100	100		
ND	16	15	56	50	28	35
OR					100	100
PA			100	100		
WA					100	100
WI	4	7	20	13	76	80
11 STATE AVG.:	3	3	16	15	81	82

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DISAPPEARANCE from the start of harvest to January 1 was a record 150 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 5 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 17.8 million cwt, up 9 percent from the 16.4 million cwt lost last year and 4 percent above the 17.2 million cwt lost from the 1988 crop.

PROCESSING claimed a record 72.4 million cwt of fall potatoes so far this season, a gain of 8 percent over a year ago and 26 percent above two years ago. December usage was 14.4 million cwt, up 15 percent from a year ago.

Three EASTERN STATES stored 17.5 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1991, down 3 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 5 percent, Pennsylvania holdings dropped 7 percent but New York stocks gained 19 percent from year ago levels.

Six CENTRAL STATES housed 37.0 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 16 percent from last year and 21 percent above two years ago. Stocks in all six States were above last year. Stocks were up 20 percent in Minnesota and 16 percent in North Dakota. Michigan stocks were up 25 percent, while Nebraska holdings jumped 29 percent from last year. Wisconsin potato stocks were up 8 percent from a year ago and Ohio stocks gained 30 percent.

Six WESTERN STATES held 132 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, a gain of 7 percent from last year and 2 percent above January 1988 stocks. Over half of this storage is in Idaho where 70.0 million cwt are held. Idaho stocks are up 14 percent from a year ago. Oregon stocks are up 5 percent and Montana stocks are up 10 percent from last year. Washington holdings are down 3 percent from a year ago showing the effects of heavy movement so far this season. Fall potato stocks in Colorado's San Luis Valley are up 2 percent. California stocks are 15 percent below last year.