

Potato Stocks



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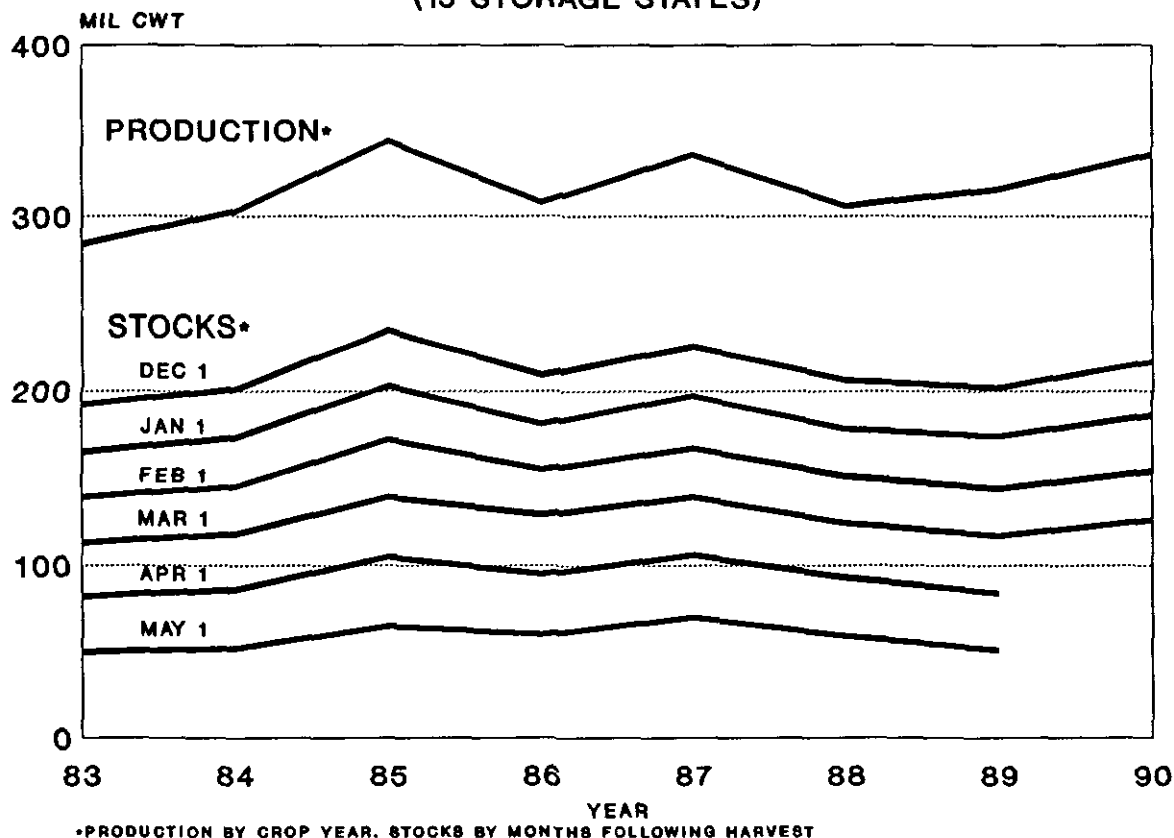
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POTATO STOCKS UP 8 PERCENT

Potato stocks totaled 126 million cwt on March 1, 1991, up 8 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. This is 38 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 37 percent last year. Disappearance for the season so far is a record 210 million cwt of potatoes. Processors used 101 million cwt, a gain of 7 percent over last year and 25 percent above two years 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	154,310	126,030		

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	37,550	44,220			
ME 2/							
1989	2,055	2,660	3,510	4,000	4,620	5,210	6,900
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900			
WA & OR-OTHER							
1989	23,635	28,015	33,170	38,610	44,510	49,595	57,695
1990	24,480	29,830	35,170	39,950			
OT STS 3/							
1989	6,340	8,010	9,860	11,535	13,240	15,100	20,610
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645	12,595			
TOTAL							
1989	54,230	66,825	80,780	94,415	108,700	121,715	151,215
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785	100,665			

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 MARCH 1, 1990 AND MARCH 1, 1991

STATE	CROP OF 1989			CROP OF 1990		
	PROD	TOTAL	MAR 1	PROD	TOTAL	MAR 1
		STOCKS	STOCKS		STOCKS	STOCKS
		MAR 1,	AS % OF			AS % OF
		1990	PROD			1991
		1,000 CWT	PERCENT			PERCENT
CA	6,440	2,500	39	6,232	1,850	30
CO	20,603	9,850	48	22,100	9,300	42
ID	102,475	44,500	43	112,340	51,500	46
ME	22,000	8,500	39	20,520	7,700	38
MI	7,350	1,600	22	9,240	2,000	22
MN	13,860	4,800	35	14,280	6,800	48
MT	2,228	1,800	81	2,492	1,900	76
NE	2,528	650	26	2,837	900	32
NY-LI	1,898	1/100		1,950	1/100	
-UPST	4,730	900	19	5,940	1,100	19
ND	15,070	5,800	38	16,675	7,400	44
OH	1,462	1/		1,911	1/	
OR	23,308	7,800	33	23,014	8,000	35
PA	4,715	1,100	23	5,400	1,080	20
WA	64,310	20,000	31	67,980	19,800	29
WI	23,120	6,700	29	23,075	6,600	29
15 STATES	316,097	116,600	37	335,986	126,030	38

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 3.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 126 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.2 percent or approximately 4.03 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.5 percent or approximately 6.93 million cwt.

The 10-year (1981-90) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.28 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 each of the 10 years.

RECORD OF PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MARCH STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRELIMINARY	% OF	FINAL
	STOCKS	FINAL	STOCKS 1/
		1,000 CWT	PERCENT
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	99.3	116,600
1990	126,030	--	--

1/ AS REPORTED IN THE SEPTEMBER POTATO ANNUAL REPORT.

DISAPPEARANCE from the start of harvest through February totalled a record high 210 million cwt of potatoes, up 5 percent from last year and 16 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 22.3 million cwt, 13 percent above the 19.8 million cwt lost last year and 9 percent above two years ago when losses were 20.5 million cwt.

PROCESSING in the 8 major States claimed 101 million cwt of potatoes from the 1990 crop so far, 7 percent above a year ago and 25 percent above 1988. February usage was 13.9 million cwt compared with 13.6 million cwt last year and 12.2 million cwt two years ago.

The **THREE EASTERN STATES** stored 9.93 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1991, 6 percent fewer than last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 9 percent, which more than offset higher holdings in New York and Pennsylvania.

CENTRAL STATES held 23.8 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1991. This is a gain of 21 percent from last year and 25 percent above two years ago. Stocks in Wisconsin were down 1 percent, but the other Central had more potatoes in storage than a year ago. North Dakota stocks were up 28 percent from last year and Minnesota was up 42 percent. Michigan stocks were 25 percent higher than last year and Nebraska holdings were up 38 percent.

WESTERN potato stocks totalled 92.4 million cwt in six States, up 7 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 16 percent from last year and accounted for 56 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, is up 6 percent; while Oregon holdings are up by 3 percent. Washington stocks are off 1 percent and Colorado is down 6 percent from a year ago. California stocks are off 26 percent.

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