

Potato Stocks



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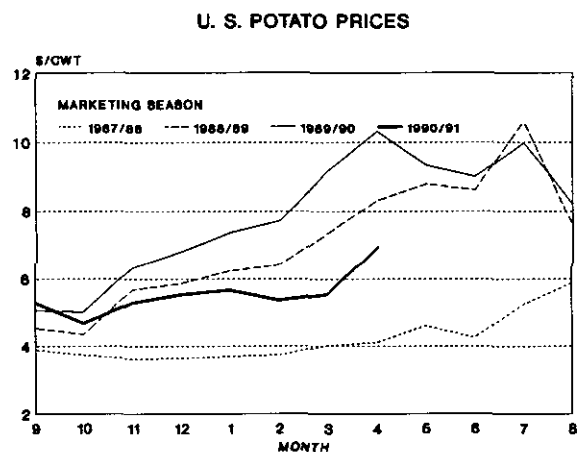
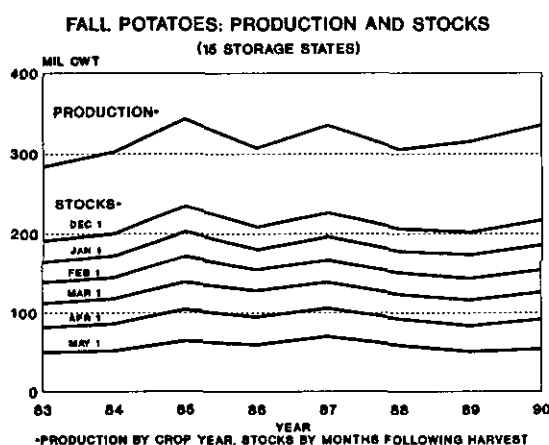
Washington, D.C.

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POTATO STOCKS UP 7 PERCENT

Potato stocks totaled 54.4 million cwt on May 1, 1991, up 7 percent from last year but 8 percent below two years ago. Stocks contain 16 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as last year. Disappearance for the season so far is a record 282 million cwt of potatoes, 6 percent above last year. Processors used 132 million cwt, a gain of 8 percent over last year and 21 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totalled a record high 282 million cwt of potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 14 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was estimated at 26.0 million cwt, 11 percent above the 23.4 million cwt lost last year and 9 percent above two years ago when losses were 23.9 million cwt.



For additional information, call (202) 447-2127. Office hours are 8:00 to 4:30 ET.

Pot 1-2 (5-91)

 * 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. *

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	91,910	54,400

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	51,030	58,660	
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	4,460	5,120	
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	45,600	50,780	
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	14,805	17,360	
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	115,895	131,920	

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 ME grown potatoes only. 3/ MI, MN, ND, and WI.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on May 1, 1990 and May 1, 1991

State	Crop of 1989			Crop of 1990		
	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1990	May 1 Stocks as % of Production	Production	Total Stocks May 1, 1991	May 1 Stocks as % of Production
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
CA	6,440	1,100	17	6,232	1,000	16
CO	20,603	5,600	27	22,100	4,800	22
ID	102,475	22,000	21	112,340	23,500	21
ME	22,000	2,800	13	20,520	2,000	10
MI	7,350	400	5	9,240	500	5
MN	13,860	1,600	12	14,280	3,000	21
MT	2,228	100	4	2,492	230	9
NE	2,528	170	7	2,837	210	7
NY-LI	1,898	1/		1,950	1/	
-UPST	4,730	1/255		5,940	1/160	
ND	15,070	2,200	15	16,675	3,500	21
OH	1,462	1/		1,911	1/	
OR	23,308	4,100	18	23,014	3,700	16
PA	4,715	250	5	5,400	250	5
WA	64,310	7,100	11	67,980	8,900	13
WI	23,120	3,000	13	23,075	2,650	11
15 States:	316,097	50,675	16	335,986	54,400	16

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 6.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 54.4 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.5 percent or approximately 3.54 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 11.2 percent or approximately 6.09 million cwt.

The 10-year (1981-90) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.04 million cwt, ranging from 5.50 thousand to 4.97 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

Record of Preliminary and Final May Stocks

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1985	63,380	96.9	65,380
1986	57,040	95.4	59,790
1987	71,640	102.3	70,030
1988	54,390	91.6	59,355
1989	50,125	98.9	50,675
1990	54,400	--	--

1/ As reported in the September Potato Annual Report.

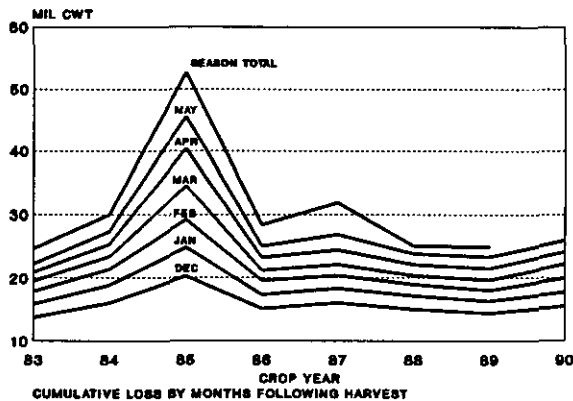
Processing to date in the 8 major States claimed 132 million cwt of potatoes from the 1990 crop, 8 percent above a year ago and 21 percent above two years ago. April usage by processors was 16.0 million cwt compared with 13.0 million cwt last year and 13.4 million cwt two years ago.

Three Eastern States stored 2.41 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1991, 27 percent fewer than last year and 21 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 29 percent; New York, down 37 percent but Pennsylvania was the same as last year.

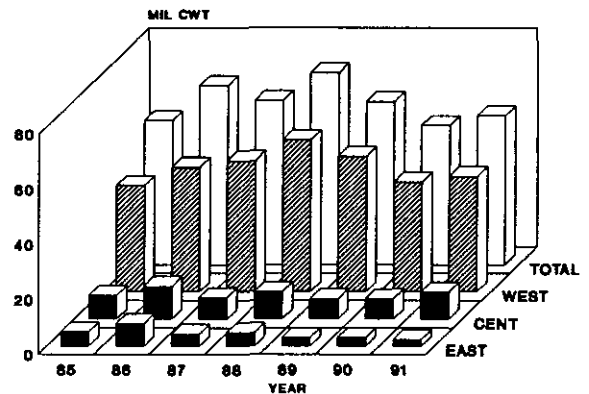
Six Central States held 9.86 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1991. This is a gain of 34 percent from last year and 35 percent above two years ago. Stocks in Wisconsin were down 12 percent, but the other Central States had more potatoes in storage than a year ago. North Dakota stocks were up 59 percent from last year and about in line with pre-drought stocks. Minnesota was up 88 percent. Michigan stocks were 25 percent higher than last year and Nebraska holdings were up 24 percent.

Western potato stocks totalled 42.1 million cwt in six States, up 5 percent from last year but 14 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 7 percent from last year and accounted for over half the western holdings. Montana, nearing the end of the seed season, has more on hand than last year. Oregon holdings were down 10 percent and Washington stocks were up 25 percent. Colorado was down 14 percent from a year ago while California stocks were off 9 percent.

FALL POTATO SHRINKAGE AND LOSS
(16 STORAGE STATES)



FALL POTATOES: MAY 1 STOCKS BY REGION
(16 STORAGE STATES)



The next Potato Stocks report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on December 16, 1991.

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