

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

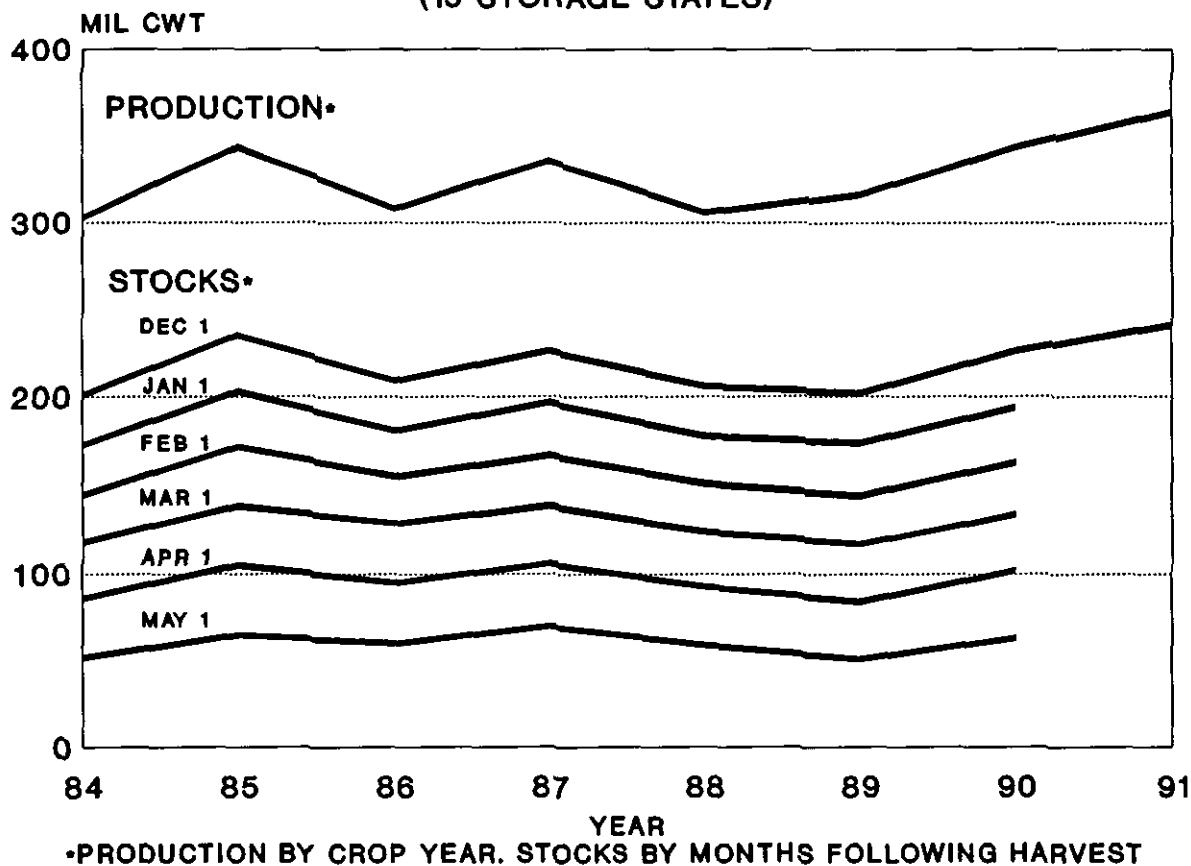
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FALL PRODUCTION UP 6 PERCENT POTATO STOCKS UP 7 PERCENT

Production of fall potatoes hit a record high 372 million cwt in the 22 producing States in 1991, 6 percent above a year ago and 5 percent above the previous high in 1985. December 1 stocks, at 241 million cwt in the 15 storage States, were up 7 percent. Disappearance was up 4 percent, including a 2 percent gain in processor usage.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



For information call Arvin Budge (202) 720-4285. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Pot 1-2 (12-91)

 * 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, 1982-91

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
		1,000 Cwt					
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	344,200	225,500	194,460	162,850	134,470	101,150	63,040
1991	363,806	240,660					

Potatoes: Quantity used for Processing, Eight States, 1990-91 ^{1/}

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Season
	1,000 Cwt						
ID & OR-Malheur Co:							
1990	24,780	31,100	37,550	44,220	51,030	58,660	78,500
1991	22,980						
ME ^{2/}							
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900	4,460	5,120	6,750
1991	2,015						
WA & OR-Other							
1990	24,480	29,830	35,170	39,950	45,600	50,780	61,450
1991	25,760						
Ot Sts ^{3/}							
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645	12,595	14,805	17,360	24,005
1991	8,505						
Total							
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785	100,665	115,895	131,920	170,705
1991	59,260						

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the state in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, MN, ND, and WI.

^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

^{3/} MI, MN, ND, and WI.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on December 1, 1990-91

State	Crop of 1990			Crop of 1991		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1990	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1991	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	6,630	4,700	71	5,655	4,300	76
CO	22,750	16,550	73	23,800	18,150	76
ID	119,070	86,000	72	122,175	87,500	72
ME	20,520	14,900	73	18,170	12,400	68
MI	9,240	5,000	54	8,840	5,000	57
MN	14,280	10,200	71	17,160	12,600	73
MT	2,492	2,300	92	2,790	2,650	95
NE	2,837	1,850	65	2,464	1,560	63
NY-Long Island	1,950	650	33	1,650	750	45
-Upstate	5,940	2,500	42	5,267	2,300	44
ND	16,675	12,800	77	30,030	22,800	76
OH	1,911	550	29	1,425	450	32
OR	23,450	15,600	67	22,170	18,000	81
PA	5,400	2,900	54	3,500	1,700	49
WA	67,980	35,500	52	75,435	37,000	49
WI	23,075	13,500	59	23,275	13,500	58
Total 15 States:	344,200	225,500	66	363,806	240,660	66

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
December 1, 1990-91, 11 Major States

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1990	1991	1990	1991	1990	1991
	Percent					
CO	7	7			93	93
ID				6	100	94
ME			77	79	23	21
MI	3	2	63	73	34	25
MN	14	15	27	26	59	59
NY			100	100		
ND	14	12	54	59	32	29
OR				5	100	95
PA			100	100		
WA				3	100	97
WI	8	5	16	15	76	80
11 State Avg.	3	3	16	19	81	78

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, by State, 1989-91

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	1,000 Acres					
CA	16.1	17.0	14.5	16.1	17.0	14.5
CO	62.0	65.5	71.0	61.5	65.0	68.0
CT	0.4	1/	1/	0.3	1/	1/
ID						
10 SW Co	17.0	20.0	22.0	17.0	20.0	22.0
Other Co	338.0	385.0	373.0	336.0	383.0	371.0
IN	4.4	4.3	4.5	4.0	3.9	4.1
ME	81.0	81.0	81.0	80.0	76.0	79.0
MA	2.6	2.6	3.0	2.5	2.6	3.0
MI	33.0	34.0	35.0	30.0	33.0	34.0
MN	67.0	69.0	77.0	66.0	68.0	71.5
MT	8.2	9.0	9.4	8.1	8.9	9.3
NE	8.0	9.4	9.1	7.9	9.3	8.8
NV	8.0	7.0	7.6	8.0	7.0	7.6
NY						
Long Is	7.5	6.5	6.6	7.3	6.5	6.6
Upstate	22.5	22.5	23.0	21.5	22.0	22.9
ND	140.0	150.0	158.0	137.0	145.0	154.0
OH	8.5	8.0	8.0	7.9	7.8	7.7
OR						
Malheur	5.4	7.2	6.8	5.2	7.0	6.6
Other Co	45.6	46.8	44.2	44.8	46.0	43.4
PA	21.0	23.0	21.0	20.5	22.5	20.0
RI	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.3
SD	10.0	9.0	7.5	9.0	9.0	7.1
UT	6.3	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0
WA	118.0	133.0	144.0	118.0	132.0	141.0
WI	68.5	67.0	68.0	68.0	65.0	66.5
WY	2.2	2.3	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.0
Total	1,102.4	1,186.5	1,203.7	1,086.0	1,166.0	1,177.9

See footnote on page 5.

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production, by State, 1989-91

State	Yield			Production		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
Fall						
CA	400	390	390	6,440	6,630	5,655
CO	335	350	350	20,603	22,750	23,800
CT	210	1/	1/	63	1/	1/
ID						
10 SW Co	395	400	410	6,715	8,000	9,020
Other Co	285	290	305	95,760	111,070	113,155
IN	240	220	220	960	858	902
ME	275	270	230	22,000	20,520	18,170
MA	240	250	205	600	650	615
MI	245	280	260	7,350	9,240	8,840
MN	210	210	240	13,860	14,280	17,160
MT	275	280	300	2,228	2,492	2,790
NE	320	305	280	2,528	2,837	2,464
NV	325	335	335	2,600	2,345	2,546
NY						
Long Is	260	300	250	1,898	1,950	1,650
Upstate	220	270	230	4,730	5,940	5,267
ND	110	115	195	15,070	16,675	30,030
OH	185	245	185	1,462	1,911	1,425
OR						
Malheur	390	360	400	2,028	2,520	2,640
Other Co	475	455	450	21,280	20,930	19,530
PA	230	240	175	4,715	5,400	3,500
RI	250	245	185	300	270	241
SD	220	220	250	1,980	1,980	1,775
UT	245	265	270	1,495	1,643	1,620
WA	545	515	535	64,310	67,980	75,435
WI	340	355	350	23,120	23,075	23,275
WY	275	255	250	578	561	500
Total	299	302	316	324,673	352,507	372,005

1/ Estimates discontinued.

1991 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1990. These 11 States account for 94 percent of the 1991 fall potato production. 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 and immediately after harvest.

Sample data from the objective yield surveys presented in the following tables are not Agricultural Statistics Board official estimates. They are provided only to show current information about the crop and trends in potato production practices.

Potatoes: Harvest Loss of Potatoes, by type, 11 Major States, 1990-91 ^{1/}

State and Year	:	Reds	:	Whites	:	Russets	:	All Types

Cwt Per Acre								
CO	1990	14				27		26
	1991	8				18		17
ID	1990			19		27		27
	1991			15		30		29
ME	1990			13		21		15
	1991			15		22		17
MI	1990			19		11		17
	1991			17		24		19
MN	1990	9		13		14		12
	1991	15		16		17		16
NY	1990			12				12
	1991	6		13				12
ND	1990	10		19		29		21
	1991	23		22		25		23
OR	1990			9		20		19
	1991			21		21		21
PA	1990			17				17
	1991			16				16
WA	1990	14		11		19		18
	1991			10		16		15
WI	1990	10		20		20		19
	1991	4		7		19		16

^{1/} Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post harvest samples.

Potatoes: Average Number of Hills Per Acre, by Type, 1990-91 1/

State And Year	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	Number of Samples	Av. No. of Hills Per Acre	Number of Sample	Av. No. of Hills Per Acre	Number of Samples	Av. No. of Hills Per Acre
CO	1990 : 4	12,766			70	11,959
	1991 : 6	12,954			68	12,645
ID	1990 : :		12	12,966	322	12,153
	1991 : :		19	13,389	308	12,150
ME	1990 : :		128	14,333	54	9,749
	1991 : :		106	14,211	43	10,360
MI	1990 : 3	8,462	57	11,435	21	11,258
	1991 : 2	13,160	75	11,865	33	10,580
MN	1990 : 37	11,598	51	11,365	48	11,946
	1991 : 25	10,392	44	10,603	54	12,064
NY	1990 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	129	13,897	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
	1991 : 8	12,034	113	13,490	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
ND	1990 : 20	10,340	109	10,058	35	10,277
	1991 : 23	10,040	104	9,488	48	10,586
OR	1990 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	16	14,311	141	14,299
	1991 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	29	13,595	112	14,743
PA	1990 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	65	12,198	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
	1991 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	88	12,966		
WA	1990 : 6	15,835	19	14,150	161	14,243
	1991 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	27	13,845	134	14,544
WI	1990 : 12	11,394	33	12,546	83	11,840
	1991 : 9	9,748	28	12,377	91	11,941

1/ Based on row measurements and counts in potato field selected for objective yield samples.

2/ Insufficient sample size.

Potato Stocks Up 7 Percent

The 15 major potato States held a record 241 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1991, up 7 percent from last year and 19 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 66 percent of fall production this year, the same percent as last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 19 percent white, and 78 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record 123 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Cumulative shrink and loss to date was 16.2 million cwt, up 4 percent from the 15.6 million cwt lost from the corresponding period last year and 12 percent above the 14.5 million cwt lost from the 1989 crop.

Processors continue to buy larger amounts of potatoes claiming 59.3 million cwt so far this season, a gain of 2 percent over a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 17.2 million cwt of potatoes this year, down 18 percent from last year and 22 percent below 1989. Pennsylvania stocks were down 41 percent, Maine was off 17 percent, while New York declined 3 percent. Dry weather during the summer cut production sharply in these areas.

Central States accounted for 55.9 million cwt of potato stocks this December, a jump of 27 percent from last year and 44 percent above two years ago. The Red River Valley States rebounded from three years of drought with stocks up 78 percent in North Dakota and 24 percent in Minnesota. Wisconsin and Michigan cellars were at the same level as last year, while Nebraska and Ohio were down 16 and 18 percent, respectively.

Western States held 168 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1991, a gain of 4 percent over last year and 19 percent more than two years earlier. Most of the Western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Oregon stocks were 15 percent larger than a year ago while Idaho was up 2 percent and Washington up 4 percent. Colorado potato stocks gained 10 percent and Montana 15 percent from last year. California stored 9 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago.

Fall Potato Production Up 6 Percent

Production of fall potatoes for 1991 is estimated at 372 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year and 15 percent above 1989. Area harvested, at 1.18 million acres, is up 1 percent from 1990 and 8 percent above two years ago. Yield is 316 cwt per acre, up 14 cwt from a year earlier and 17 cwt above two years ago. Acreage, yield, and production this year are the highest recorded since the fall season records began in 1949.

Five Eastern States produced 29.4 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1991, down 15 percent from last year and 14 percent below 1989. Hot, dry weather during much of the growing season over the whole region hurt potato growth. Area harvested is estimated at 132,800 acres, up 2 percent, while the average yield of 222 cwt per acre fell 44 cwt. The Maine crop was 11 percent smaller than a year ago, New York dropped 12 percent and Pennsylvania dropped 35 percent.

Eight Central States produced an estimated 85.9 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 21 percent from last year and 29 percent above 1989. Harvested acreage was 353,700 acres, a gain of 4 percent from last year and 7 percent above 1989. The average yield of 243 cwt per acre increased 39 cwt over 1990 and is the highest ever for the region. Production in North Dakota and Minnesota productions was up 80 and 20 percent, respectively from last year. Wisconsin production was up slightly from last year because of higher acreage. The Michigan potato crop was 4 percent smaller than last year because of summer heat. Nebraska crop was down 13 percent as spring flooding and a freeze at the end of the season damaged potatoes. The Ohio potato crop dropped 25 percent from drought damage. South Dakota yields were up from a year ago but sharply lower acreage turned out a 10 percent smaller crop.

Western States potato production is estimated at 257 million cwt in 1991, up 4 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Acreage harvested at 691,400 acres, is down slightly, but the average yield of 371 cwt per acre is up 17 cwt per acre. Idaho's production of 122 million cwt was up 3 percent from last year under good summer and fall growing conditions. Strong late yields in Washington and heavy stocks on hand pushed the production up to 75.4 million cwt, 11 percent above last year. Colorado production was up 5 percent, Nevada gained 9 percent and Montana was up 12 percent from a year ago. The Oregon crop was 5 percent smaller; while California, Utah and Wyoming each produced fewer potatoes than a year ago.

Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.1 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 24.1 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.1 percent or approximately 5.1 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.7 percent or approximately 8.9 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1981-90) 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 4.01 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks and production estimates have been below the final estimate each year.

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	Quant	Avg	Small	Large	Number of Years
	Percent	Level	Quant	Avg	Small	Large	Below Final
Stocks	2.1	3.7	8.92	4.01	0.08	8.20	10
Production	2.2	3.8	14.14	5.30	0.06	10.65	10

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on January 15, 1992.

