

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

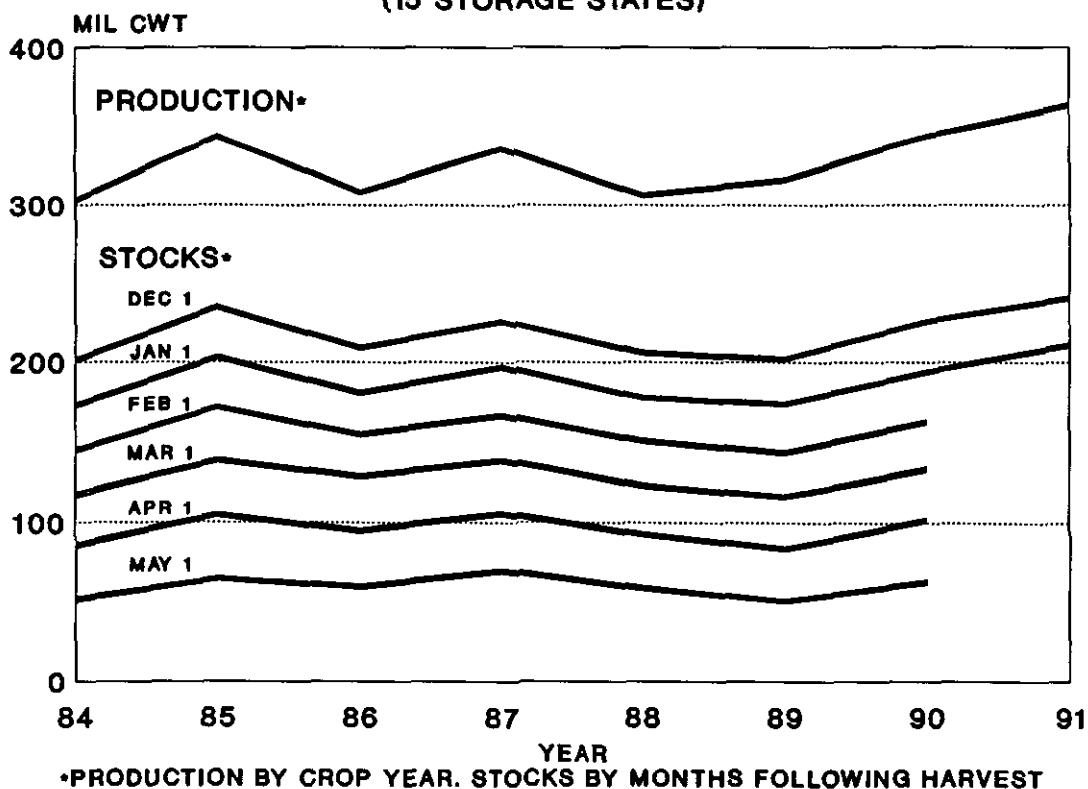
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Up 8 Percent

January 1, 1992 potato stocks totaled 211 million cwt in the 15 major States, up 8 percent from a year earlier and 22 percent above two years ago. Disappearance to date for the season was up 2 percent, although processing is behind last year by 2 percent. Shrink and loss of 18.8 million cwt was 6 percent above last year and 15 percent above two years ago.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



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Pot 1-2 (1-92)

 * 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	210,935				

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	28,910					
ME 2/							
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900	4,460	5,120	6,750
1991	2,015	2,485					
WA & OR-Other							
1990	24,480	29,830	35,170	39,950	45,600	50,780	61,450
1991	25,760	29,910					
Ot Sts 3/							
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645	12,595	14,805	17,360	24,005
1991	8,270	9,290					
Total							
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785	100,665	115,895	131,920	170,705
1991	59,025	70,595					

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 January 1, 1991-92

State	Crop of 1990			Crop of 1991		
	Prod	Stocks Jan 1, 1991	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Jan 1, 1992	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	6,630	3,800	57	5,655	3,600	64
CO	22,750	14,400	63	23,800	16,050	67
ID	119,070	77,000	65	122,175	79,000	65
ME	20,520	12,900	63	18,170	10,500	58
MI	9,240	4,000	43	8,840	4,400	50
MN	14,280	9,000	63	17,160	11,300	66
MT	2,492	2,200	88	2,790	2,575	92
NE	2,837	1,550	55	2,464	1,380	56
NY-Long Island:	1,950	410	21	1,650	550	33
-Upstate	5,940	1,800	30	5,267	1,900	36
ND	16,675	11,000	66	30,030	18,500	62
OH	1,911	350	18	1,425	230	16
OR	23,450	13,000	55	22,170	15,500	70
PA	5,400	2,350	44	3,500	1,550	44
WA	67,980	29,500	43	75,435	32,200	43
WI	23,075	11,200	49	23,275	11,700	50
Total 15 State:	344,200	194,460	56	363,806	210,935	58

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks, January 1, 1991-92, 11 Major States

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Percent					
CO	7	7			93	93
ID				6	100	94
ME			77	79	23	21
MI	3	2	63	71	34	27
MN	14	13	29	26	57	61
NY			100	100		
ND	15	13	50	54	35	33
OR				5	100	95
PA			100	100		
WA					100	100
WI	7	5	13	15	80	80
11 State Avg.:	3	3	15	18	82	79

Potato Stocks Up 8 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 211 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1992, up 8 percent from last year and 22 percent above two years ago. Storage accounted for 58 percent of fall production this year, 2 percent more than last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 18 percent white, and 79 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through December was a record 153 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year and up 7 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 18.8 million cwt, up 6 percent from the 17.8 million cwt lost last year and 15 percent above the 16.4 million cwt lost from the 1989 crop.

Processor usage totaled 70.6 million cwt so far this season, down 2 percent from the same period a year ago but 6 percent above two years ago. December processing of 11.6 million cwt of potatoes fell 20 percent from a year ago and was 8 percent below two years ago.

Eastern States stored 14.5 million cwt of potatoes this year, down 17 percent from last year and 19 percent below 1990. Pennsylvania stocks were down 34 percent, Maine was off 19 percent, but New York stocks were up 11 percent. Dry weather during the summer cut production sharply.

Central States accounted for 47.5 million cwt of potato stocks this January, an increase of 28 percent from last year and 48 percent above two years ago. The Red River Valley States rebounded from three years of drought with stocks up 68 percent in North Dakota and 26 percent in Minnesota. Wisconsin stocks are up 4 percent and Michigan stocks were up 10 percent from last year. Nebraska and Ohio were down from a year ago by 11 and 34 percent, respectively.

Western States held 149 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1992, a gain of 6 percent over last year and 20 percent more than two years earlier. Oregon stocks were 19 percent larger than a year ago while Idaho was up 3 percent and Washington up 9 percent. Colorado potato stocks gained 11 percent and Montana had 17 percent more than last year. California stored 5 percent fewer potatoes compared to a year ago.

Reliability of January 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 stocks estimate is 2.1 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 211 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.1 percent or approximately 4.43 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.7 percent or approximately 7.80 million cwt.

The 10-year (1982-91) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.01 million cwt, ranging from 0.1 million to 8.2 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 <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	95.7	194,460
1991	210,935	--	--

1/ As reported in the September Potato Annual report.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on February 13, 1992.

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