

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

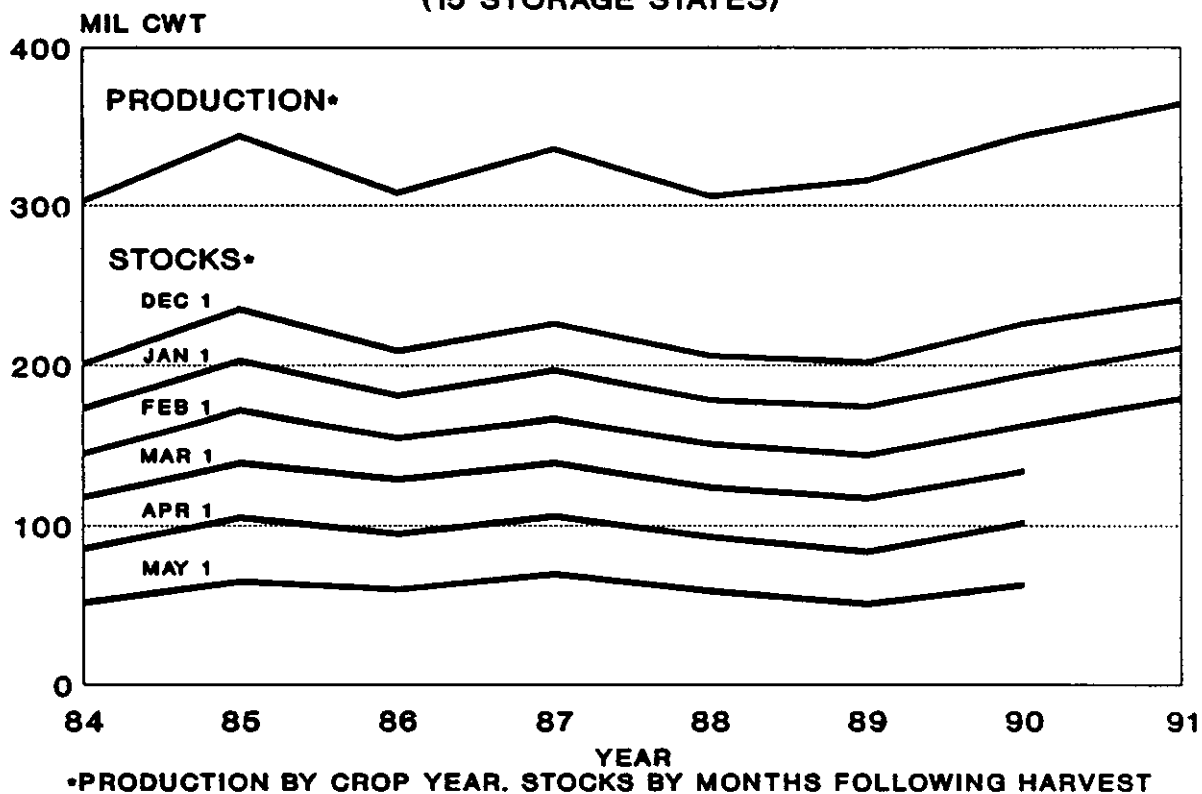
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Up 10 Percent

Potato stocks on the first of February totaled 179 million cwt, up 10 percent from a year ago and 24 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was a record high 185 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, up 2 percent from last year. Shrink and loss of 21.2 million cwt was 5 percent above a year ago. Processor usage, at 85.5 million cwt of potatoes, was down 1 percent for the season.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



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

 * 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	178,965			

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

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	35,700				
ME <u>2/</u>							
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900	4,460	5,120	6,750
1991	2,015	2,485	3,050				
WA & OR-Other							
1990	24,480	29,830	35,170	39,950	45,600	50,780	61,450
1991	25,760	29,910	35,240				
Ot Sts <u>3/</u>							
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645	12,595	14,805	17,360	24,005
1991	8,270	9,290	11,500				
Total							
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785	100,665	115,895	131,920	170,705
1991	59,025	70,595	85,490				

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 February 1, 1991-92

State	Crop of 1990			Crop of 1991		
	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 1991	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 1992	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	6,630	3,100	47	5,655	3,000	53
CO	22,750	11,800	52	23,800	13,700	58
ID	119,070	67,500	57	122,175	69,000	56
ME	20,520	10,400	51	18,170	8,300	46
MI	9,240	3,000	32	8,840	3,400	38
MN	14,280	8,000	56	17,160	9,500	55
MT	2,492	2,000	80	2,790	2,475	89
NE	2,837	1,150	41	2,464	1,120	45
NY-Long Island:	1,950	220	11	1,650	400	24
-Upstate	5,940	1,000	17	5,267	1,300	25
ND	16,675	9,100	55	30,030	15,000	50
OH	1,911	180	9	1,425	120	8
OR	23,450	10,400	44	22,170	13,800	62
PA	5,400	1,800	33	3,500	1,450	41
WA	67,980	24,500	36	75,435	27,000	36
WI	23,075	8,700	38	23,275	9,400	40
Total 15 State:	344,200	162,850	47	363,806	178,965	49

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
February 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			79	80	21	20
MI	3	1	63	72	34	27
MN	13	13	30	27	57	60
NY			100	100		
ND	13	12	48	52	39	36
OR				5	100	95
PA		3	100	97		
WA					100	100
WI	6	6	15	19	79	75
11 State Avg.	3	3	14	17	83	80

Potato Stocks Up 10 Percent

Potato Stocks totaled 179 million cwt on February 1, 1992, up 10 percent from last year and 24 percent above two years ago. This is 49 percent of the fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 47 percent a year ago. Potatoes by type are 3 percent reds, 17 percent whites, and 80 percent russets, with more whites and fewer russets than a year ago. Disappearance to date for the season was 185 million cwt, 2 percent more than last year. Processors have used 85.5 million cwt, down 1 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from harvest through January totalled a record high 185 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 21.2 million cwt, 5 percent above the 20.1 million cwt last year and 17 percent above the 18.1 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processing in the 8 major States claimed 85.5 million cwt of potatoes from the 1991 crop so far, down 1 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. January usage returned to the plus side with 14.9 million cwt processed compared with 14.4 million cwt a year ago and 14.0 million cwt two years ago.

Eastern States stored 11.5 million cwt of potatoes on February first, 15 percent fewer than last year and 18 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 20 percent, which more than offset 39 percent higher holdings in New York. Pennsylvania stocks were down 19 percent from last year.

Central States held 38.5 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1992. This is a gain of 28 percent from last year and 52 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks were up 65 percent from last year and Minnesota was up 19 percent. Michigan showed a gain of 13 percent, while Wisconsin stocks were up 8 percent. Nebraska and Ohio were down 3 and 33 percent, respectively.

Western potato stocks totalled 129 million cwt in six States, up 8 percent from last year and 23 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 2 percent from last year and accounted for 53 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, is up 24 percent. Washington stocks were up 10 percent, Oregon was up one-third and Colorado was up 16 percent from a year ago. California stocks were off 3 percent.

Reliability of February 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 2.9 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 179 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.9 percent or approximately 5.19 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.1 percent or approximately 9.13 million cwt.

The 10-year (1982-91) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.84 million cwt, ranging from 0.42 million to 8.54 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate.

Record of Preliminary and Final February Stocks

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt
1981	132,770		96.3	137,820
1982	144,950		96.5	150,200
1983	134,655		96.9	138,900
1984	142,990		98.8	144,760
1985	169,810		99.0	171,510
1986	150,640		97.5	154,545
1987	167,110		99.9	167,325
1988	144,625		95.7	151,050
1989	143,150		99.2	144,290
1990	154,310		94.8	162,850
1991	178,965		--	--

1/ As reported in the September Potato Annual Report.

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

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