

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

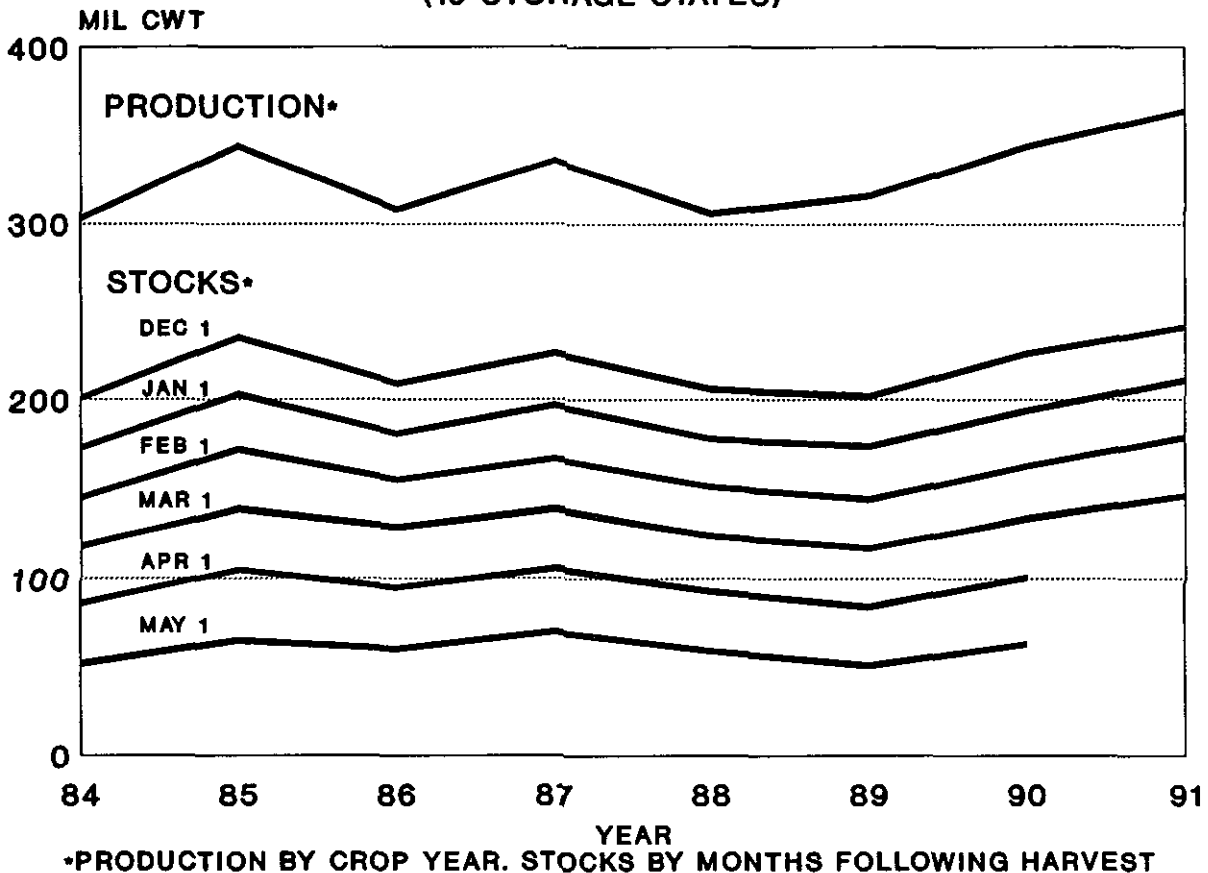
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Up 9 Percent

Potato stocks on the first of March totaled 146 million cwt, up 9 percent from a year ago and 25 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was a record high 218 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 4 percent from last year. Shrink and loss of 23.3 million cwt was 5 percent above a year ago. Processor usage, at 101 million cwt of potatoes for the season, was down slightly, although the amount processed in February was up 8 percent.

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 (3-92)

 * 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	178,965	146,180		

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	35,700	42,840			
ME 2/							
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900	4,460	5,120	6,750
1991	2,015	2,485	3,050	3,440			
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	40,750			
Oth Sts 3/							
1990	6,585	8,755	10,645	12,595	14,805	17,360	24,005
1991	8,270	9,290	11,500	13,485			
Total							
1990	57,950	72,375	86,785	100,665	115,895	131,920	170,705
1991	59,025	70,595	85,490	100,515			

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 March 1, 1991-92

State	Crop of 1990			Crop of 1991		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1991	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1992	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	6,630	2,600	39	5,655	2,500	44
CO	22,750	9,950	44	23,800	11,850	50
ID	119,070	58,000	49	122,175	59,000	48
ME	20,520	8,300	40	18,170	6,400	35
MI	9,240	2,000	22	8,840	2,600	29
MN	14,280	6,800	48	17,160	7,600	44
MT	2,492	1,900	76	2,790	2,300	82
NE	2,837	900	32	2,464	830	34
NY-Long Island:	1,950	1/170		1,650	1/200	
-Upstate	5,940	600	10	5,267	700	13
ND	16,675	7,400	44	30,030	12,000	40
OH	1,911	1/		1,425	1/	
OR	23,450	8,300	35	22,170	10,700	48
PA	5,400	1,150	21	3,500	900	26
WA	67,980	19,800	29	75,435	21,200	28
WI	23,075	6,600	29	23,275	7,400	32
Total 15 State:	344,200	134,470	39	363,806	146,180	40

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato stocks totaled 146 million cwt on March 1, 1992, up 9 percent from last year and 25 percent above two years ago. Stocks now are 40 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 39 percent a year ago. Disappearance to date for the season was 218 million cwt, 4 percent more than last year. Processors have used 101 million cwt, down slightly from last year but 6 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from harvest through February totalled a record high 218 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 23.3 million cwt, 5 percent above the 22.3 million cwt last year and 18 percent above the 19.8 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processing in the 8 major States claimed 101 million cwt of potatoes from the 1991 crop so far, slightly less than last year but 6 percent above two years ago. February processor usage was 15.0 million cwt, up 8 percent from the 13.9 million cwt a year ago and 10 percent above the 13.6 million cwt total used two years ago.

Eastern States stored 8.15 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1992, 20 percent fewer than last year and 23 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 23 percent and Pennsylvania stocks were down 22 percent from last year, while New York potato stocks were up 25 percent.

Central States held 30.5 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1992. This is a gain of 28 percent from last year and 56 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks were up 62 percent from last year and Minnesota was up 12 percent. Michigan showed a gain of 30 percent, while Wisconsin stocks were up 12 percent and Nebraska stocks were down 8 percent.

Western potato stocks totalled 108 million cwt in six States, up 7 percent from last year and 24 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 2 percent from last year and accounted for 55 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, is up 21 percent. Washington stocks were up 7 percent, Oregon was up 29 percent, and Colorado was up 19 percent from a year ago. California stocks were off 4 percent.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 146 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.5 percent or approximately 5.12 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.1 percent or approximately 8.92 million cwt.

The 10-year (1982-91) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.75 million cwt, ranging from 8.44 million to 0.43 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate each of the 10 years.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March Stocks, United States, 1981-91

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1981	106,735	95.5	111,780
1982	116,500	95.1	122,500
1983	108,370	96.1	112,730
1984	116,655	98.5	118,400
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	93.7	134,470
1991	146,180	--	--

1/ As reported in the September Potato Annual Report.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on April 14, 1992.

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