

Potato Stocks



National
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

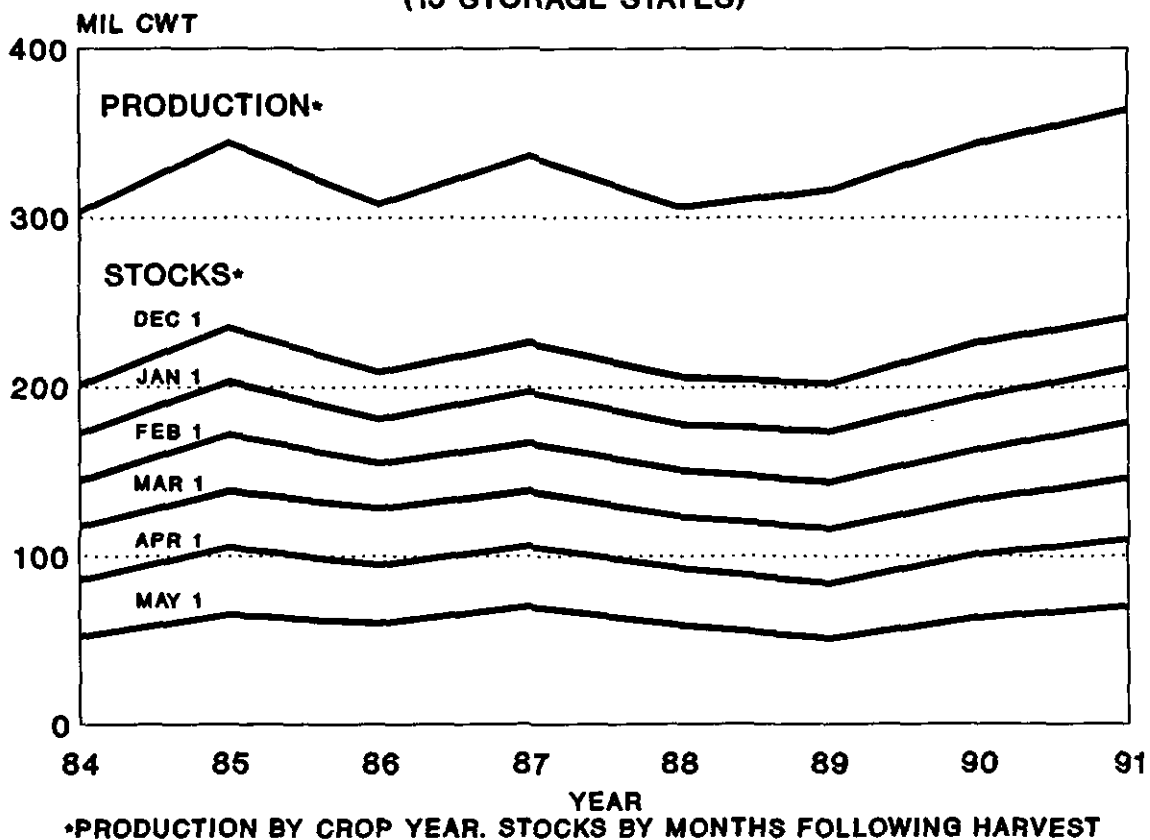
Washington, D.C.

Released May 13, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

Potato Stocks Up 11 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 70.0 million cwt on May 1, 1992, up 11 percent from last year and 38 percent above two years ago. Stocks contained 19 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 18 percent last year. Disappearance for the season so far is a record high 294 million cwt of potatoes, 4 percent above last year. Processor usage, also record high at 132 million cwt, was up slightly over last year.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (15 STORAGE STATES)



For information call (202) 720-2127. 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	146,180	109,600	70,020

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	50,260	57,290	
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	3,900	4,400	
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	47,320	52,810	
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	15,720	17,940	
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	117,200	132,440	

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, 1991-92

State	Crop of 1990			Crop of 1991		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1991	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1992	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	6,630	1,300	20	5,655	1,200	21
CO	22,750	5,650	25	23,800	7,000	29
ID	119,070	30,000	25	122,175	30,500	25
ME	20,520	2,800	14	18,170	2,200	12
MI	9,240	500	5	8,840	600	7
MN	14,280	3,000	21	17,160	3,400	20
MT	2,492	230	9	2,790	350	13
NE	2,837	210	7	2,464	260	11
NY-Long Island:	1,950	1/		1,650	1/	
-Upstate	5,940	1/100		5,267	1/110	
ND	16,675	3,500	21	30,030	5,000	17
OH	1,911	1/		1,425	1/	
OR	23,450	4,000	17	22,170	6,000	27
PA	5,400	200	4	3,500	350	10
WA	67,980	8,900	13	75,435	9,600	13
WI	23,075	2,650	11	23,275	3,450	15
Total 15 State:	344,200	63,040	18	363,806	70,020	19

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totalled a record high 294 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date is estimated at 28.4 million cwt, 9 percent above the 26.0 million cwt lost last year and 21 percent above two years ago, when losses totalled 23.4 million cwt.

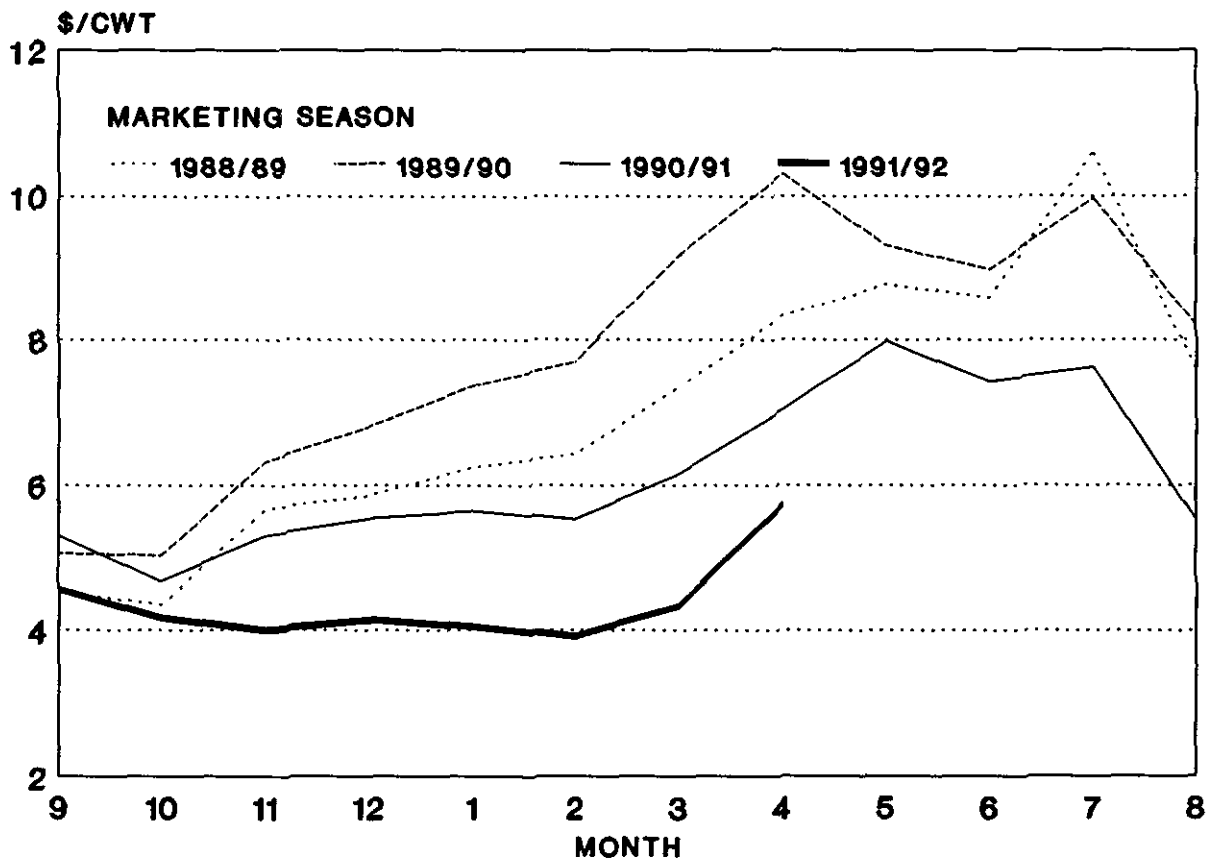
Processing so far this season claimed 132 million cwt of potatoes from the 1991 crop, slightly above a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago. April usage of 15.2 million cwt compares with 16.0 million cwt last year and 13.0 million cwt two years ago.

Three Eastern States stored 2.71 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1992, 13 percent fewer than last year and 18 percent below two years ago. Maine stocks were down 21 percent; New York and Pennsylvania stocks are virtually used up but their residual is above a year ago.

Six Central States held 12.7 million cwt of potatoes on the first of May. This level is a gain of 29 percent from last year and 72 percent above two years ago. Growers in each of the Central States held more potatoes than a year ago. Stocks in Wisconsin were up 30 percent. North Dakota and Minnesota, back in full production after a three year drought, have stocks 43 and 13 percent above last year, respectively. Both storage levels were more than double two years ago. Michigan stocks were up 20 percent from a year ago and Nebraska stocks were up 24 percent.

Western potato stocks totalled 54.7 million cwt in the six storage States, up 9 percent from last year and 37 percent above two years ago. Idaho stocks were up 2 percent from last year and accounted for 56 percent of the western holdings. Montana, nearing the end of the seed season, has 52 percent more on hand than last year. Oregon holdings were up 50 percent and Washington stocks were up 8 percent. Colorado stocks were up 24 percent, while California stocks were off 8 percent.

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Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 7.3 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 70.1 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.3 percent or approximately 5.12 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.6 percent or approximately 8.83 million cwt.

The 10-year (1982-91) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.47 million cwt, ranging from 0.55 thousand to 8.64 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks ^{1/}
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1981	46,064	90.7	50,760
1982	52,904	92.3	57,305
1983	46,215	91.8	50,365
1984	51,575	98.3	52,465
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	86.3	63,040
1991	70,020	--	--

^{1/} As reported in the September Potato Annual Report.

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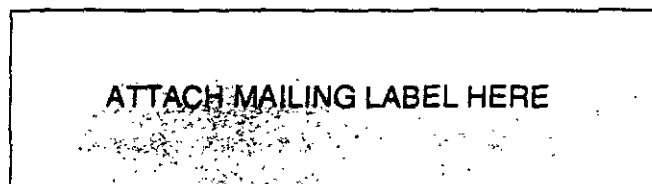
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