

# Potato Stocks



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

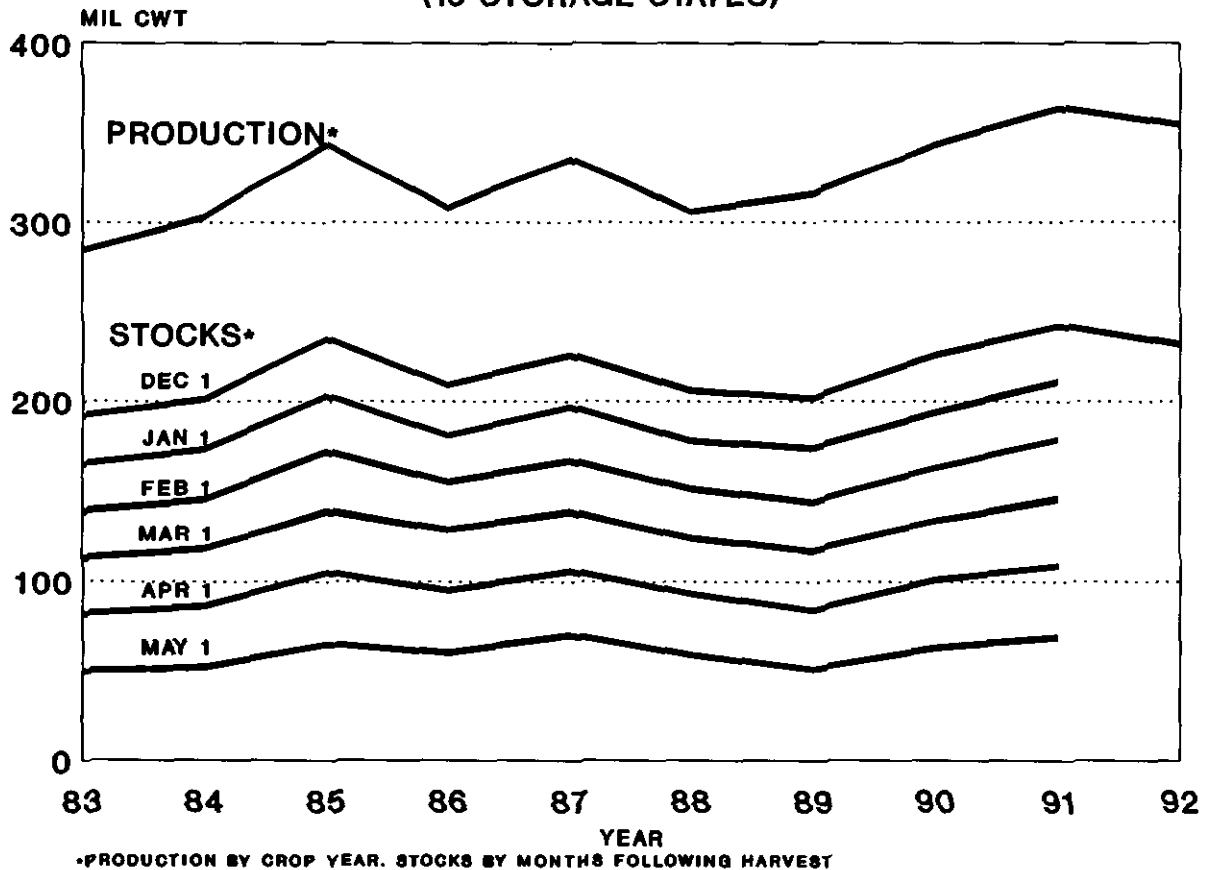
Washington, D.C.

Released December 15, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

## Fall Production Down 2 Percent; Stocks Off 4 Percent

Production of fall potatoes totaled 366 million cwt in 1992, down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Stocks on December 1, 1992, at 232 million cwt in the 15 storage States, fell 4 percent from last year. Disappearance was up 1 percent, with higher losses than a year ago. Processing through November was down 1 percent from last year's record usage.

### 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.

Pot 1-2 (12-92)

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* 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, 1983-92

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	
		1,000 Cwt						
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	363,541	242,070	211,005	178,515	145,820	108,865	69,110	
1992	355,026	232,320						

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1990-92 <sup>1/</sup>

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	78,690
1992	22,180						
ME <sup>2/</sup>							
1990	2,105	2,690	3,420	3,900	4,460	5,120	6,750
1991	2,015	2,450	3,050	3,350	3,900	4,445	5,210
1992	1,195						
WA & OR-Other							
1990	24,780	29,830	35,170	39,950	45,600	50,780	61,450
1991	26,345	30,570	35,320	41,320	47,120	52,605	65,210
1992	26,780						
Oth Sts <sup>3/</sup>							
1990	6,585	8,605	10,405	12,425	14,635	17,010	24,005
1991	7,515	9,350	11,580	13,585	15,685	17,935	24,990
1992	8,045						
Total							
1990	58,250	72,225	86,545	100,495	115,725	131,570	170,705
1991	58,855	71,280	85,650	101,095	116,965	132,275	174,100
1992	58,200						

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3/</sup> MI, MN, ND, and WI.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on December 1, 1991-92

State	Crop of 1991			Crop of 1992		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1991	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1992	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	5,390	4,200	78	4,980	3,800	76
CO	23,800	17,850	75	22,110	17,700	80
ID	122,175	87,500	72	121,380	87,000	72
ME	18,170	12,200	67	22,400	16,500	74
MI	8,840	5,500	62	10,800	6,500	60
MN	17,160	12,600	73	16,080	12,000	75
MT	2,790	2,650	95	2,465	2,360	96
NE	2,464	1,560	63	2,698	1,710	63
NY						
Long Island	1,650	600	36	1,984	800	40
Upstate	5,267	3,000	57	5,824	2,600	45
ND	30,030	22,800	76	27,690	19,000	69
OH	1,425	410	29	1,440	400	28
OR	22,170	18,000	81	19,450	14,500	75
PA	3,500	1,900	54	4,940	2,350	48
WA	75,435	37,000	49	65,625	31,000	47
WI	23,275	14,300	61	25,160	14,100	56
Total 15 States:	363,541	242,070	67	355,026	232,320	65

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

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1991	1992	1991	1992	1991	1992
	Percent					
CO	7	6			93	94
ID			6	9	94	91
ME			79	82	21	18
MI	2	1	73	73	25	26
MN	15	16	26	26	59	58
NY			100	100		
ND	12	16	59	58	29	26
OR			5	8	95	92
PA			100	100		
WA		1	3	6	97	93
WI	5	5	15	15	80	80
11 State Avg.	3	3	19	23	78	74

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested, by State, 1990-92

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992
	1,000 Acres					
CA	17.0	14.0	12.0	17.0	14.0	12.0
CO	65.5	71.0	66.5	65.0	68.0	66.0
ID						
10 SW Co	20.0	22.0	22.0	20.0	22.0	22.0
Other Co	385.0	373.0	358.0	383.0	371.0	356.0
IN	4.3	4.5	4.6	3.9	4.1	4.3
ME	81.0	81.0	81.0	76.0	79.0	80.0
MA	2.6	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.0	3.0
MI	34.0	35.0	37.0	33.0	34.0	36.0
MN	69.0	77.0	71.0	68.0	71.5	67.0
MT	9.0	9.4	8.6	8.9	9.3	8.5
NE	9.4	9.1	8.6	9.3	8.8	8.3
NV	7.0	7.6	7.5	7.0	7.6	7.5
NM			5.1			5.1
NY						
Long Is	6.5	6.6	6.2	6.5	6.6	6.2
Upstate	22.5	23.0	22.0	22.0	22.9	20.8
ND	150.0	158.0	146.0	145.0	154.0	142.0
OH	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.8	7.7	6.0
OR						
Malheur	7.2	6.8	6.8	7.0	6.6	6.6
Other Co	46.8	44.2	37.2	46.0	43.4	36.4
PA	23.0	21.0	20.0	22.5	20.0	19.0
RI	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3
SD	9.0	7.5	6.5	9.0	7.1	6.0
UT	6.3	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.0
WA	133.0	144.0	125.0	132.0	141.0	125.0
WI	67.0	68.0	69.0	65.0	66.5	68.0
WY	2.3	2.1	1.7	2.2	2.0	1.6
Total	1,186.5	1,203.2	1,139.7	1,166.0	1,177.4	1,120.6

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production, by State, 1990-92

State	Yield			Production		
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991	1992
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
Fall						
CA	390	385	415	6,630	5,390	4,980
CO	350	350	335	22,750	23,800	22,110
ID						
10 SW Co	400	410	420	8,000	9,020	9,240
Other Co	290	305	315	111,070	113,155	112,140
IN	220	220	230	858	902	989
ME	270	230	280	20,520	18,170	22,400
MA	250	195	285	650	585	855
MI	280	260	300	9,240	8,840	10,800
MN	210	240	240	14,280	17,160	16,080
MT	280	300	290	2,492	2,790	2,465
NE	305	280	325	2,837	2,464	2,698
NV	335	335	390	2,345	2,546	2,925
NM						2,295
NY						
Long Is	300	250	320	1,950	1,650	1,984
Upstate	270	230	280	5,940	5,267	5,824
ND	115	195	195	16,675	30,030	27,690
OH	245	185	240	1,911	1,425	1,440
OR						
Malheur	360	400	410	2,520	2,640	2,706
Other Co	455	450	460	20,930	19,530	16,744
PA	240	175	260	5,400	3,500	4,940
RI	245	185	295	270	241	384
SD	220	250	250	1,980	1,775	1,500
UT	265	270	275	1,643	1,620	1,650
WA	515	535	525	67,980	75,435	65,625
WI	355	350	370	23,075	23,275	25,160
WY	255	260	275	561	520	440
Total	302	316	327	352,507	371,730	366,064

### 1992 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1992. These 11 States account for 94 percent of the 1992 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, 1991-92 1/

State and Year	:	Reds	:	Whites	:	Russets	:	All Types
-----								
Cwt Per Acre								
CO	1991	8				18		17
	1992					20		20
ID	1991			15		30		29
	1992			25		26		26
ME	1991			15		22		17
	1992	10		16		23		17
MI	1991			17		24		19
	1992			25		38		30
MN	1991	15		16		17		16
	1992	14		19		21		19
NY	1991	6		13				12
	1992			15				15
ND	1991	23		22		25		23
	1992	34		20		33		24
OR	1991			21		21		21
	1992			21		26		24
PA	1991			16				16
	1992			13				13
WA	1991			10		16		15
	1992	9		20		22		21
WI	1991	4		7		19		16
	1992	22		31		19		22

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, 1991-92 1/

State and Year	Reds		Whites		Russets		
	Number of Samples	Av. No. of Hills Per Acre	Number of Samples	Av. No. of Hills Per Acre	Number of Samples	Av. No. of Hills Per Acre	
CO	1991 : 6	12,954			68	12,645	
	1992 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>			66	13,195	
ID	1991 :		19	13,440	308	12,149	
	1992 :		29	12,537	285	12,286	
ME	1991 :		106	14,211	43	10,360	
	1992 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	114	14,038	35	9,830	
MI	1991 :	2	13,160	75	11,865	33	10,580
	1992 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	44	11,577	27	11,008
MN	1991 :	25	10,326	44	10,697	54	11,993
	1992 :	13	11,432	35	10,335	63	12,082
NY	1991 :	8	12,034	113	13,497	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
	1992 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	127	13,628	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
ND	1991 :	23	10,040	104	9,488	48	10,586
	1992 :	19	10,804	100	9,888	25	12,244
OR	1991 :	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	29	13,595	112	14,751
	1992 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	32	14,318	105	14,441
PA	1991 :	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	88	12,966		
	1992 : <u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	81	11,670		
WA	1991 :	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	27	13,845	134	14,544
	1992 :	4	14,071	14	13,806	170	14,638
WI	1991 :	9	9,748	28	12,377	91	11,941
	1992 :	16	13,220	29	11,525	91	12,407

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

2/ Insufficient sample size.

## Potato Stocks Down 4 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 232 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1992, down 4 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. Storage accounts for 65 percent of fall production this year, down 2 percent from last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 23 percent white, and 74 percent russet, with more white and less russet than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 is a record high 123 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 17.1 million cwt, up 6 percent from the 16.2 million cwt lost last year and 10 percent above the 15.6 million cwt lost from the 1990 crop.

Processors continue to buy large amounts of potatoes claiming 58.2 million cwt so far this season, down 1 percent from a year ago and fractionally less than two years ago.

Eastern States stored 22.3 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 26 percent from last year and 6 percent above 1990. Maine stocks of potatoes are 35 percent above last year but growers have been scrambling to salvage their best for market. Hot weather during early storage caused potatoes to break down prematurely. Growers in Pennsylvania stored 24 percent more potatoes than a year ago. New York stocks are down 6 percent as heavy rains hurt harvest and storage quality.

Central States accounted for 53.7 million cwt of potato stocks this December, down 6 percent from last year but 22 percent above 2 years ago. Michigan stored 18 percent more potatoes than a year ago. Wisconsin stocks were down 1 percent and Minnesota was down 5 percent. North Dakota stored 17 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago. Shrink and dumping is higher than average. Nebraska was up 10 percent, while Ohio stored 2 percent fewer potatoes than 1991.

Western States held 156 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1992, down 6 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Most of the Western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Oregon stocks are down 19 percent, while Washington is down 16 percent. Idaho and Colorado potato stocks are both off 1 percent from their level a year ago. Montana dropped 11 percent, while California stored 10 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago.



### Fall Potato Production Down 2 Percent

Production of fall potatoes for 1992 is estimated at 366 million cwt, down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above 1990. This production estimate is 1 percent above the November 1 forecast. Area harvested, at 1.12 million acres, is down 5 percent from 1991 and 4 percent below two years ago. The average yield is record high at 327 cwt per acre, up 11 cwt from the previous record high last year and 25 cwt above two years ago.

Five Eastern States produced 36.4 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1992, up 24 percent from last year and 5 percent above 1990. Area for harvest is estimated at 130,300 acres, down 2 percent. The average yield of 279 cwt per acre gained 58 cwt. The Maine crop was 23 percent larger than a year ago, New York output gained 13 percent, and Pennsylvania jumped 41 percent. Massachusetts and Rhode Island were also up sharply.

Eight Central States produced an estimated 86.4 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 1 percent from last year and 22 percent above 1990. Harvested acreage was 337,600 acres, down 5 percent from last year and 1 percent below 1990. The average yield of 256 cwt per acre jumped 13 cwt and is the highest ever for the region. Wisconsin's production was up 8 percent from last year because of higher acreage and improved yields. The Michigan potato crop jumped 22 percent from last year. Indiana gained 10 percent and Nebraska gained 9 percent. Ohio potatoes were up 1 percent. North Dakota and Minnesota productions were down 8 and 6 percent, respectively, from last year. South Dakota fell 15 percent.

Western States potato production is estimated at 243 million cwt in 1992, down 5 percent from last year and 1 percent below 2 years ago. Acreage harvested at 652,700 acres, is down 6 percent. The average yield of 373 cwt per acre is up 2 cwt per acre. Idaho's production of 121 million cwt is down 1 percent from last year but with record high yields. Washington dropped 13 percent, while Oregon and Montana were off 12 percent. Colorado produced 7 percent fewer potatoes and California dropped 8 percent. On the up side, Nevada gained 15 percent and Utah was up 2 percent from 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 232 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.1 percent or approximately 4.9 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent or approximately 8.4 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1982-91) 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 3.72 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate each year. Production estimates have been below the final 8 years and above 2 years.

### 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		Avg	Quantity		Number of Years	
		Percent	Quant		Small	Large	Below Final	Above Final
Stocks	2.1	3.6	8.99	3.72	0.08	8.20	10	0
Production	1.5	2.6	9.52	3.92	0.01	8.19	8	2

### Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December Stocks United States, 1982-92

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <sup>1/</sup>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1982	201,775	97.7	206,525
1983	187,100	97.4	192,150
1984	201,335	100.0	201,410
1985	233,775	99.3	235,475
1986	204,180	97.5	209,435
1987	223,720	99.0	225,890
1988	198,520	96.2	206,420
1989	201,400	99.7	202,050
1990	217,300	96.4	225,500
1991	240,660	99.4	242,070
1992	232,320		

<sup>1/</sup> As reported in the September Potato Annual Report.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on January 14, 1993.

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