

# Potato Stocks



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

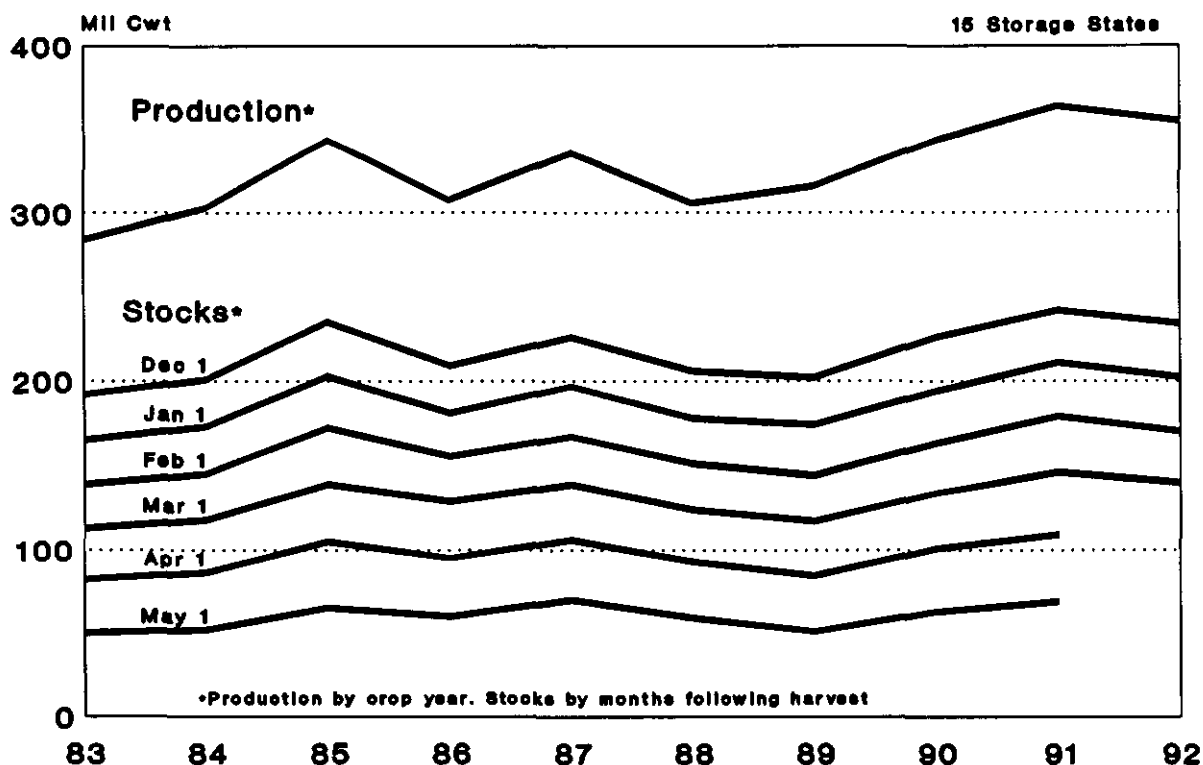
Washington, D.C.

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## Potato Stocks Down 4 Percent

Potato stocks on the first of March totaled 140 million cwt, down 4 percent from a year ago but 4 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was 215 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 1 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss of 25.6 million cwt, was 10 percent above a year ago. Processor usage, at 100 million cwt of potatoes, was down 1 percent.

### Fall Potatoes: Production And Stocks



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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	234,020	201,690	170,385	139,665		

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	29,080	35,710	42,800			
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	1,650	2,190	2,735			
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	31,500	35,900	41,600			
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	7,140	9,220	11,265	13,275			
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	57,295	71,450	85,065	100,410			

<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 March 1, 1992-93

State	Crop of 1991			Crop of 1992		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1992	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1993	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	5,390	2,500	46	4,980	2,200	44
CO	23,800	11,250	47	22,110	11,800	53
ID	122,175	59,000	48	121,380	58,500	48
ME	18,170	6,400	35	22,400	8,700	39
MI	8,840	2,600	29	10,800	2,900	27
MN	17,160	7,600	44	16,080	7,100	44
MT	2,790	2,300	82	2,465	2,200	89
NE	2,464	830	34	2,698	830	31
NY						
Long Island	1,650	<u>1</u> /140		1,984	<u>1</u> /135	
Upstate	5,267	1,000	19	5,824	1,400	24
ND	30,030	12,000	40	27,690	10,500	38
OH	1,425	<u>1</u> /		1,440	<u>1</u> /	
OR	22,170	10,700	48	19,450	8,000	41
PA	3,500	900	26	4,940	1,100	22
WA	75,435	21,200	28	65,625	17,400	27
WI	23,275	7,400	32	25,160	6,900	27
Total 15 State:	363,541	145,820	40	355,026	139,665	39

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

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**Potato stocks** totaled 140 million cwt on March 1, 1993, down 4 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Stocks now are 39 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 40 percent a year ago. Disappearance to date for the season was 215 million cwt, 1 percent less than last year. Processors have used 100 million cwt of potatoes, down 1 percent from last year.

**Disappearance** from harvest through February totaled 215 million cwt of potatoes, down 1 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 25.6 million cwt, 10 percent above the 23.3 million cwt last year and 15 percent above the 22.3 million cwt lost two years ago.

**Processing** in the eight major States claimed 100 million cwt from the 1992 crop so far, 1 percent less than the last year and down slightly from two years ago. February processor usage was 15.3 million cwt, off 1 percent from the 15.4 million cwt a year ago but 10 percent above the 14.0 million cwt used two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 11.3 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1993, a jump of 35 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were up 36 percent from last year, Pennsylvania's were up 22 percent, and New York's were up nearly 40 percent.

**Central States** held 28.3 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1993. This is down 7 percent from last year but 19 percent above two years ago. North Dakota's stocks were down 12 percent. Minnesota and Wisconsin's were both down 7 percent. Michigan showed a gain of 12 percent, while Nebraska was the same as last year.

**Western potato stocks** totalled 100 million cwt in six States, down 6 percent from last year and slightly below two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 1 percent from last year and accounted for 58 percent of the western holdings. Montana, with seed potatoes, was down 4 percent. Washington's stocks were off 18 percent, Oregon was down 25 percent, and California's stocks were off 12 percent. Colorado was up 5 percent from a year ago and the only State west of the Mississippi with more potatoes than a year ago.

### 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 140 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.5 percent or approximately 4.9 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.0 percent or approximately 8.4 million cwt.

The 10-year (1983-92) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.3 million cwt, ranging from 0.4 million to 8.4 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of the 10 years.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March Stocks,  
United States, 1982-92 Crop Years

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	100.2	145,820
1992	139,665	--	--

1/ As reported in the September Potato Annual Report.

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 \* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) re- \*  
 \* maining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed \*  
 \* potatoes not yet moved and shrinkage, waste and other losses \*  
 \* that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall pot- \*  
 \* atoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent \*  
 \* of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use \*  
 \* account for the remaining 10 percent. \*  
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The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on April 13, 1993.





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