

Potato Stocks



National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

United States
Department of
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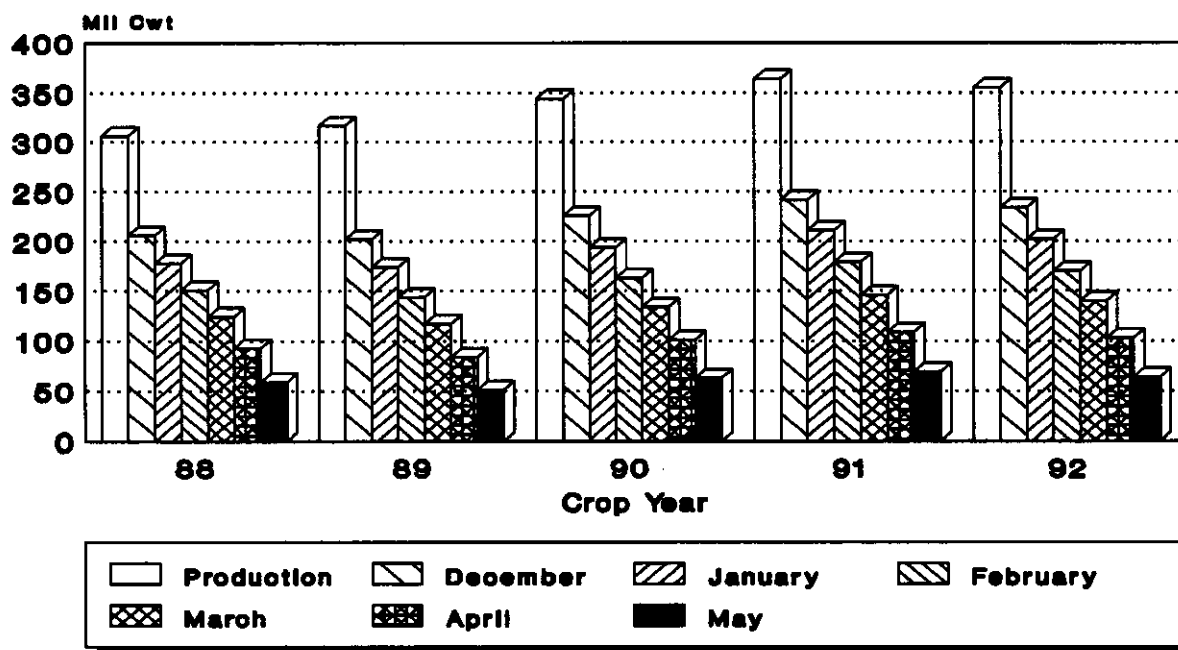
Washington, D.C.

Released May 12, 1993, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent

May 1 potato stocks are estimated at 63.6 million cwt from the 1992 fall potato crop. This is 8 percent below last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Disappearance of 291 million cwt from harvest last fall to April 30 is down 1 percent from the record high established a year ago. Major french fry and dehydrating processors have used 130 million cwt of potatoes so far this season, 2 percent below last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks
15 Storage States



Production by crop year
Stocks by month following harvest

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

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	103,010	63,550

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1990-92 ^{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	78,690
1992	22,180	29,080	35,710	42,800	50,090	57,090	
ME ^{2/}							
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	3,430	3,940	
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	46,500	51,600	
Oth Sts ^{3/}							
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	15,550	17,645	
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	115,570	130,275	

^{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 May 1, 1992-93

State	Crop of 1991			Crop of 1992		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1992	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1993	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	5,390	1,400	26	4,980	940	19
CO	23,800	6,150	26	22,110	6,950	31
ID	122,175	30,500	25	121,380	30,000	25
ME	18,170	2,000	11	22,400	2,000	9
MI	8,840	600	7	10,800	600	6
MN	17,160	3,400	20	16,080	2,600	16
MT	2,790	350	13	2,465	270	11
NE	2,464	260	11	2,698	260	10
NY						
Long Island	1,650	<u>1/</u>		1,984	<u>1/</u>	
Upstate	5,267	<u>1/100</u>		5,824	<u>1/390</u>	
ND	30,030	5,000	17	27,690	4,000	14
OH	1,425	<u>1/</u>		1,440	<u>1/</u>	
OR	22,170	6,000	27	19,450	3,800	20
PA	3,500	300	9	4,940	340	7
WA	75,435	9,600	13	65,625	8,200	12
WI	23,275	3,450	15	25,160	3,200	13
Total 15 State:	363,541	69,110	19	355,026	63,550	18

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 63.6 million cwt on May 1, 1993, down 8 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Stocks equaled 18 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 19 percent last year. Disappearance for the season so far is 291 million cwt of potatoes, 1 percent below last year. Processor usage, at 130 million cwt, was down 2 percent from last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled 291 million cwt of potatoes, down 1 percent from last year's record high but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was estimated at 31.7 million cwt, 13 percent above the 28.2 million cwt lost last year and 22 percent above two years ago, when losses were 26.0 million cwt.

Processing in the eight major States claimed 130 million cwt of potatoes from the 1992 crop, down 2 percent from a year ago and 1 percent below two years ago. April usage was 14.7 million cwt compared with 15.3 million cwt last year and 15.8 million cwt two years ago.

Three Eastern States stored 2.73 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1993, 14 percent more than last year but 12 percent below two years ago. Maine's stocks were the same as last year even though total production was up 23 percent. Weather problems last fall caused potatoes to break down in storage leaving growers with a struggle to sort out a marketable product. Losses and shrinkage have been extremely high. Stocks in New York and Pennsylvania are above last year but mostly used up for the season.

Six Central States held 10.7 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1993. This is down 16 percent from last year but 8 percent above two years ago. All of the major producing Central States were at or below a year ago. Stocks in Wisconsin were down 7 percent. North Dakota's stocks dropped 20 percent and Minnesota's were off 24 percent from last year. Michigan and Nebraska were the same as last year.

Western potato stocks totaled 50.2 million cwt in the six storage States, down 7 percent from last year but slightly above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 2 percent from last year and accounted for 60 percent of the western holdings. Montana, nearing the end of the seed season, is off 23 percent. Oregon's holdings were off 37 percent, Washington's stocks dropped 15 percent, and California's stocks were 33 percent below a year ago. Colorado's stocks were up 13 percent.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 7.0 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 63.6 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.0 percent or approximately 4.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (9 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.2 percent or approximately 7.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1983-92) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.1 million cwt, ranging from 0.55 million to 8.6 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final May Stocks, United States, 1982-92 Crop Year

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent		1,000 Cwt
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	101.3		69.110
1992	63.550	--		--

1/ As reported in the September "Potatoes" annual report.

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* NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) re- *
* remaining 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 pota- *
* toes 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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