

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

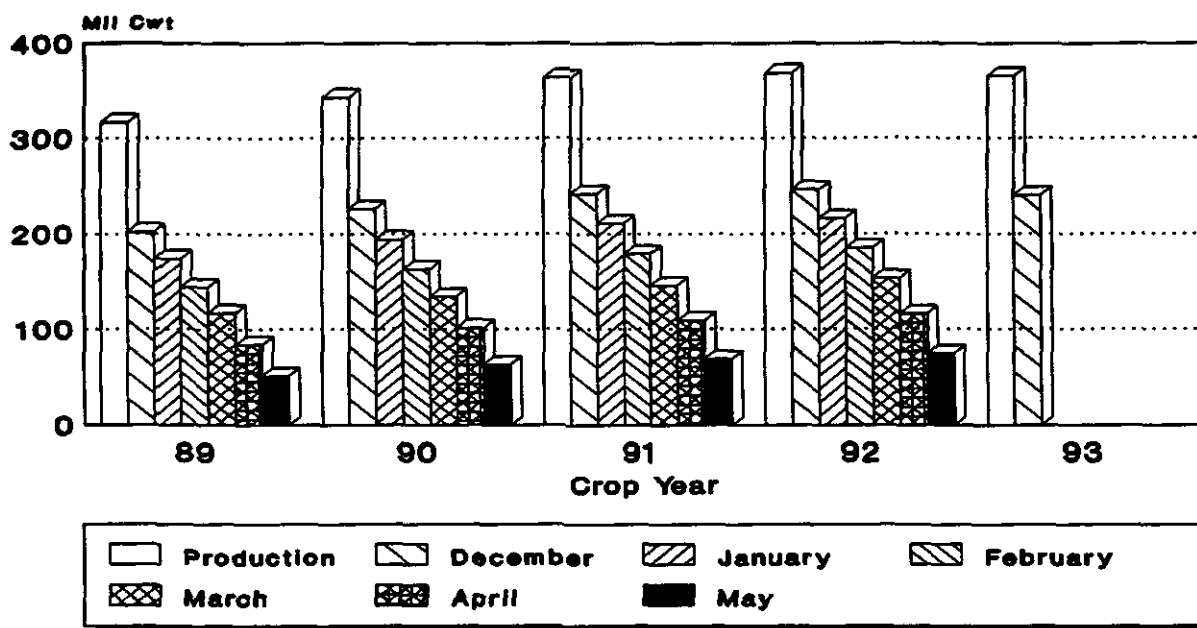
Washington, D.C.

Released December 13, 1993, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent, Fall Production Down 1 Percent

Production of fall potatoes is estimated at 377 million cwt in the 23 producing States in 1993, 1 percent below a year ago but 1 percent above 1991. December 1 stocks, at 240 million cwt in the 15 storage States, were down 3 percent. Disappearance was up 3 percent, including an 8 percent gain in processor usage.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks
15 Storage States



Production by crop year
Stocks by month following harvest

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Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1984-93

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	368,516	246,820	215,990	184,560	152,795	115,785	75,040
1993	365,926	240,370					

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1991-93 ^{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:							
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	80,570
1993	24,090						
ME ^{2/}							
1991	2,015	2,450	3,050	3,350	3,900	4,445	5,210
1992	1,195	1,630	2,205	2,720	3,390	4,020	5,055
1993	1,760						
WA & OR-Other							
1991	26,345	30,570	35,320	41,320	47,120	52,605	65,210
1992	26,840	31,550	35,950	41,670	46,530	51,630	63,510
1993	28,270						
Oth Sts ^{3/}							
1991	7,515	9,350	11,580	13,585	15,685	17,935	24,990
1992	7,140	9,220	11,265	13,305	15,550	17,555	25,070
1993	7,755						
Total							
1991	58,855	71,280	85,650	101,095	116,965	132,275	174,100
1992	57,355	71,480	85,130	100,495	115,560	130,295	174,205
1993	61,875						

^{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, December 1, 1992-93

State	Crop of 1992			Crop of 1993		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1992	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1993	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	5,600	4,200	75	4,800	3,800	79
CO	22,110	17,700	80	25,270	18,250	72
ID	127,050	92,500	73	121,460	89,000	73
ME	24,300	17,900	74	20,540	14,600	71
MI	10,800	7,000	65	11,780	7,300	62
MN	16,080	12,000	75	12,100	8,000	66
MT	2,465	2,360	96	2,700	2,580	96
NE	2,698	1,710	63	3,008	1,890	63
NY						
<i>Long Island</i>	1,984	900	45	1,701	600	35
<i>Upstate</i>	5,824	3,100	53	5,830	3,300	57
ND	27,690	19,000	69	19,980	14,000	70
OH	1,440	350	24	1,140	250	22
OR	21,075	16,500	78	23,277	20,000	86
PA	4,940	2,600	53	4,600	2,300	50
WA	69,300	33,100	48	85,500	41,000	48
WI	25,160	15,900	63	22,240	13,500	61
Total 15 States:	368,516	246,820	67	365,926	240,370	66

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
11 Major States, December 1, 1992-93

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
	Percent					
CO	6	7			94	93
ID			9	7	91	93
ME			82	79	18	21
MI	1		73	70	26	30
MN	16	12	26	18	58	70
NY			100	92		
ND	16	20	58	50	26	30
OR			8	2	92	98
PA		3	100	97		
WA			6	4	93	94
WI	5	5	15	20	80	80
11 State Avg.	3	3	23	18	74	79

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1991-93

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1991	1992	1993	1991	1992	1993
	1,000 Acres					
CA	14.0	14.0	12.0	14.0	14.0	12.0
CO	71.0	66.5	72.5	68.0	66.0	72.2
ID						
10 SW Co	22.0	22.0	24.0	22.0	22.0	24.0
Other ID	373.0	358.0	366.0	371.0	356.0	364.0
IN	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.1	4.3	4.1
ME	81.0	82.0	81.0	79.0	81.0	79.0
MA	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
MI	35.0	37.0	40.0	34.0	36.0	38.0
MN	77.0	71.0	70.0	71.5	67.0	55.0
MT	9.4	8.6	9.1	9.3	8.5	9.0
NE	9.1	8.6	9.6	8.8	8.3	9.4
NV	7.6	7.5	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.7
NM		5.1	5.6		5.1	5.6
NY						
Long Is	6.6	6.2	6.3	6.6	6.2	6.3
Upstate	23.0	22.0	22.5	22.9	20.8	22.0
ND	158.0	146.0	143.0	154.0	142.0	111.0
OH	8.0	7.0	5.8	7.7	6.0	5.7
OR						
Malheur	6.8	7.6	8.9	6.6	7.5	8.7
Other OR	44.2	38.4	41.5	43.4	37.5	40.7
PA	21.0	20.0	21.0	20.0	19.0	20.0
RI	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.1
SD	7.5	6.5	6.0	7.1	6.0	5.2
UT	6.1	6.1	6.3	6.0	6.0	6.2
WA	144.0	132.0	150.0	141.0	132.0	150.0
WI	68.0	69.0	71.5	66.5	68.0	69.5
WY	2.1	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.8
Total	1,203.2	1,151.7	1,190.7	1,177.4	1,132.6	1,131.2

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1991-93

State	Yield			Production		
	1991	1992	1993	1991	1992	1993
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
Fall						
CA	385	400	400	5,390	5,600	4,800
CO	350	335	350	23,800	22,110	25,270
ID						
10 SW Co	410	435	435	9,020	9,570	10,440
Other ID	305	330	305	113,155	117,480	111,020
IN	220	230	250	902	989	1,025
ME	230	300	260	18,170	24,300	20,540
MA	195	275	205	585	825	615
MI	260	300	310	8,840	10,800	11,780
MN	240	240	220	17,160	16,080	12,100
MT	300	290	300	2,790	2,465	2,700
NE	280	325	320	2,464	2,698	3,008
NV	335	390	380	2,546	2,925	2,926
NM		450	475		2,295	2,660
NY						
Long Is	250	320	270	1,650	1,984	1,701
Upstate	230	280	265	5,267	5,824	5,830
ND	195	195	180	30,030	27,690	19,980
OH	185	240	200	1,425	1,440	1,140
OR						
Malheur	400	410	430	2,640	3,075	3,741
Other OR	450	480	480	19,530	18,000	19,536
PA	175	260	230	3,500	4,940	4,600
RI	185	290	200	241	377	220
SD	250	250	205	1,775	1,500	1,066
UT	270	275	265	1,620	1,650	1,643
WA	535	525	570	75,435	69,300	85,500
WI	350	370	320	23,275	25,160	22,240
WY	260	280	280	520	448	504
Total	316	335	333	371,730	379,525	376,585

1993 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1993. These 11 States account for 94 percent of the 1993 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, 1992-93 ^{1/}

State and Year	Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
Cwt Per Acre				
CO	1992		20	20
	1993		17	17
ID	1992		25	26
	1993		26	26
ME	1992	10	16	23
	1993	10	14	15
MI	1992		25	38
	1993		17	16
MN	1992	14	19	21
	1993	23	24	17
NY	1992		15	15
	1993		12	12
ND	1992	34	20	33
	1993	24	24	42
OR	1992		21	26
	1993		30	27
PA	1992		13	13
	1992		9	9
WA	1992	9	20	22
	1993	4	18	17
WI	1992	22	31	19
	1993	36	10	13

^{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, 1992-93 1/

State and Year	Reds		Whites		Russets		
	Number of Samples	Avg. No. of Hills Per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg. No. of Hills Per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg. No. of Hills Per Acre	
CO	1992	<u>2/</u>			66	13,195	
	1993	4	<u>2/</u>		67	12,886	
ID	1992		29	12,537	285	12,286	
	1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	25	13,586	278	12,281
ME	1992	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	114	14,038	35	9,830
	1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	114	13,287	29	9,618
MI	1992	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	44	11,577	27	11,008
	1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	61	11,999	23	10,609
MN	1992	13	11,432	35	10,335	63	12,082
	1993	24	9,595	36	11,150	51	12,412
NY	1992	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	127	13,628	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
	1993	9	16,156	121	13,565	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
ND	1992	19	10,804	100	9,888	25	12,244
	1993	27	10,546	104	10,341	29	11,450
OR	1992	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	32	14,318	105	14,441
	1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	34	13,667	102	14,229
PA	1992	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	81	11,670		
	1992	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	81	12,257		
WA	1992	4	14,071	14	13,806	170	14,638
	1993	5	13,494	16	13,641	155	14,682
WI	1992	16	13,220	29	11,525	91	12,407
	1993	7	13,321	26	12,338	76	11,813

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

2/ Insufficient sample size.

Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 240 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1993, down 3 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 66 percent of fall production this year compared with 67 percent last year. Stocks by type are 3 percent red, 18 percent white, and 79 percent russet, with more russets and fewer whites than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record 126 million cwt of potatoes, up 3 percent from the last two years. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 17.5 million cwt, up 2 percent from the 17.1 million cwt lost last year and 8 percent above the 16.2 million cwt lost from the 1991 crop.

Processors continue to buy ever larger amounts of potatoes, using 61.9 million cwt so far this season, a gain of 8 percent over a year ago and 5 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 20.8 million cwt of potatoes this year, down 15 percent from last year but 18 percent above 1991. Pennsylvania's stocks were down 12 percent, Maine was off 18 percent, and New York ebbed 2 percent. Losses are heavy, although well below last year.

Central States accounted for 44.9 million cwt of potato stocks this December, a drop of 20 percent from last year and 21 percent below two years ago. Stocks in the North Central States are down because of lower production from summer flood damage. Minnesota's stocks are down 33 percent, North Dakota dropped 26 percent, and Wisconsin fell 15 percent. Michigan and Nebraska were up 4 and 11 percent, respectively.

Western States held 175 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1993, a gain of 5 percent over last year and 4 percent more than two years earlier. Most of the Western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Idaho's cellars held 4 percent fewer potatoes than last year, but Oregon and Washington more than compensated with sharp increases. Washington's stocks were 24 percent larger than a year ago and Oregon jumped 21 percent. Colorado gained 3 percent and Montana was up 9 percent from a year ago. California stored 10 percent fewer potatoes on December 1, 1993.

Fall Potato Production Down 1 Percent

Fall Potatoes: Production of fall potatoes for 1993 is estimated at 377 million cwt, up 1 percent from the November 1 forecast but down 1 percent from last year. This is the second largest fall crop ever produced. Flood losses dropped harvested area to 1.13 million acres, down slightly from 1992 and 4 percent below two years ago. The average yield is estimated at 333 cwt per acre, down 2 cwt from a year earlier but 17 cwt above two years ago. Colorado and Washington produced record highs in acreage and production. Yields were also record high in Washington and Michigan.

Five Eastern States produced 33.5 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1993, down 12 percent from last year but 14 percent above 1991. The Maine crop fell 15 percent from a year ago, New York dropped 4 percent, and Pennsylvania was down 7 percent. Area harvested is estimated at 131,400 acres, up fractionally from last year. The average yield of 255 cwt per acre is off 36 cwt from last year.

Eight Central States production is forecast at 72.3 million cwt this year, down 16 percent from the last two years. Wet weather and flooding dropped harvested acreage by 12 percent from last year, leaving an estimated 297,900 acres for harvest. The average yield of 243 cwt per acre is down 13 cwt from last year. Summer rains and flooding were disastrous to potatoes in the North Dakota and Minnesota. About 50,000 acres were abandoned and yields dropped off sharply from Wisconsin to South Dakota. Nebraska, Michigan, and Indiana were the only States in the region to produce more potatoes than last year.

Ten Western States produced an estimated 271 million cwt in 1993, up 6 percent from the last two years. Acreage for harvest at 701,900 acres, is up 6 percent. The average yield of 386 cwt per acre is up 2 cwt from a year ago. Idaho's production of 121 million cwt was down 4 percent from last year and slightly below two years ago. Cool spring and summer weather kept development behind schedule the entire season. Some areas were hit by an early fall frost which limited yields significantly. A longer growing season in Washington allowed farmers to produce their largest crop ever, with record high acreage, yield, and production. Oregon's yields equalled the record high crop of 1987. Malheur County and North Central areas had good crops but yields in the Klamath Basin were down slightly. Colorado's fall potato production was record high, 14 percent above last year. Montana, Wyoming, and New Mexico had better crops than last year, by 10, 13, and 16 percent, respectively. Acreage in California was down 14 percent from last year.

Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.5 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 240 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.5 percent or approximately 6.0 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.3 percent or approximately 10.3 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1983-92) 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 4.7 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	Above
							Final	Final
Stocks	2.5	4.3	10.34	4.70	0.08	14.50	10	0
Production	1.6	2.7	10.17	4.80	0.01	13.46	8	2

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December Stocks United States, 1983-93 Crop Year

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks ^{1/}
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	94.1	246,820
1993	240,370		

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

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) 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 potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 90.5 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.5 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand December 1st, but remains as part of stocks until planted.

Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed
United States, 1988-93

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes				Amount used	
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	All Seasons Following Year
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1988	313,558	284,205	90.6	29,353	9.4	25,973
1989	324,673	295,605	91.0	29,068	9.0	27,025
1990	352,507	320,033	90.8	32,474	9.2	28,061
1991	371,730	334,893	90.1	36,837	9.9	27,021
1992	379,525	341,209	89.9	38,316	10.1	28,127
1993	376,585					

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