

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

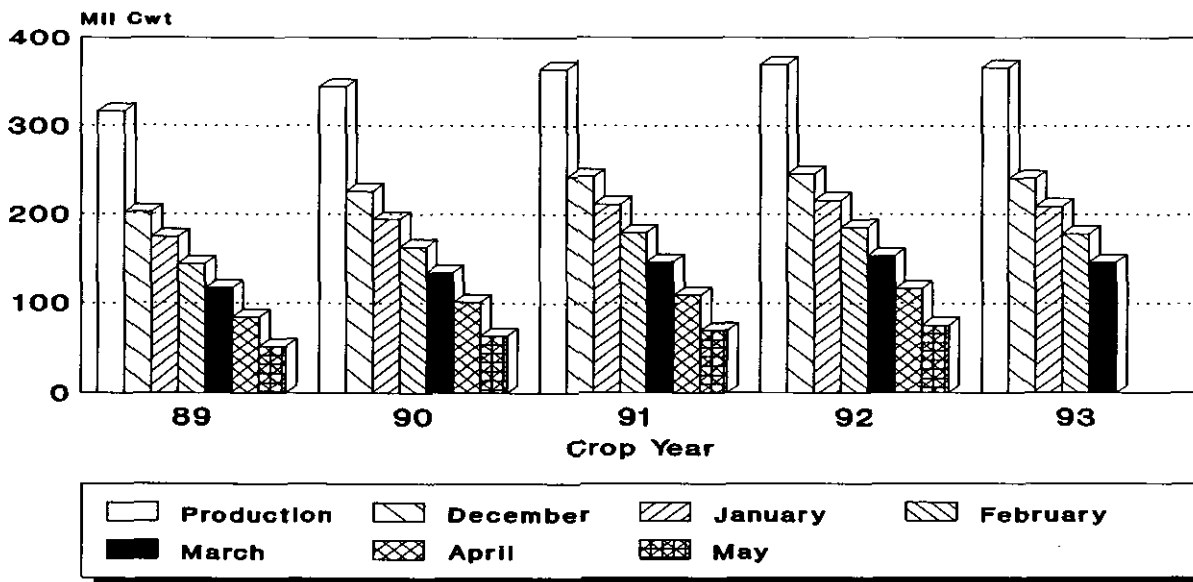
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Down 4 Percent

Potato stocks on the first of March totaled 146 million cwt, down 4 percent from a year ago but slightly above two years ago. Disappearance reached a record high 220 million cwt of potatoes this season, 2 percent more than last year. Shrink and loss of 24.9 million cwt was 3 percent less than a year ago. Processor usage, at 106 million cwt of potatoes, was up 5 percent for the season. February processing at 16.0 million cwt was up 4 percent. Both were record highs.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks
15 Storage States



Production by crop year
Stocks by month following harvest

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

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	366,088	240,770	209,270	178,070	146,080		

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	30,540	37,150	44,720			
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	1,350	1,720	2,215	2,500			
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	33,320	39,040	45,030			
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	7,605	9,515	11,605	13,720			
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	61,315	75,095	90,010	105,970			

^{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 March 1, 1993-94

State	Crop of 1992			Crop of 1993		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1993	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1994	% of Prod
	--- 1.000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1.000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	5,600	2,700	48	4,800	2,500	52
CO	22,110	11,800	53	25,270	10,900	43
ID	127,050	64,000	50	121,460	59,500	49
ME	24,300	10,700	44	20,540	8,500	41
MI	10,800	2,900	27	11,780	3,100	26
MN	16,080	7,100	44	12,100	4,400	36
MT	2,465	2,200	89	2,700	2,370	88
NE	2,698	830	31	3,008	1,050	35
NY						
Long Island	1,984	1/165		1,643	1/160	
Upstate	5,824	1,300	22	6,050	2,000	33
ND	27,690	10,500	38	19,980	6,700	34
OH	1,440	1/		1,140	1/	
OR	21,075	9,000	43	23,277	13,300	57
PA	4,940	1,100	22	4,600	600	13
WA	69,300	19,800	29	85,500	24,000	28
WI	25,160	8,700	35	22,240	7,000	31
Total 15 State:	368,516	152,795	41	366,088	146,080	40

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Down 4 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 146 million cwt on March 1, 1994, down 4 percent from last year but slightly above two years ago. Stocks are 40 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 41 percent a year ago.

Disappearance from harvest through February totaled a record high 220 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. February disappearance of 32.0 million was up 1 percent from a year ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 24.9 million cwt, down 3 percent from the 25.6 million cwt last year but 7 percent above the 23.3 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processing in the 8 major States maintained a record high clip. Usage to date was 106 million cwt, 5 percent above the last two crop years. In February, processors used 16.0 million cwt, 4 percent more than last year and 3 percent more than two years ago.

Eastern States stored 11.2 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1994, down 15 percent from last year but 34 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were off 21 percent and Pennsylvania's stocks dropped 45 percent from last year. New York's total stocks were up 48 percent as Upstate cellars gained 54 percent.

Central States' potato storage, at 22.3 million cwt, fell 26 percent from last year and was 27 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks were down 36 percent and Minnesota fell 38 percent from a year ago. Wisconsin was down 20 percent. Michigan showed a gain of 7 percent and Nebraska was up 27 percent.

Western States' potato stocks totaled 113 million cwt in six States, up 3 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 7 percent from last year and accounted for 53 percent of the Western holdings. California's stocks were down 7 percent and Colorado was off 8 percent. Montana's potatoes, mostly seed, were up 8 percent. Oregon and Washington carried the largest increase over last year, of 48 and 21 percent, respectively.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.9 percent. This means the that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 146 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.9 percent or approximately 5.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.7 percent or approximately 9.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1983-92) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.97 million cwt, ranging from 0.4 million to 13.1 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March Stocks, United States, 1983-93 Crop Years

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---	-- Percent --	--- 1,000 Cwt ---
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	91.4	152,795
1993	146,080	--	--

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, but remains as part of stocks until planted.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 13, 1994.

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