

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

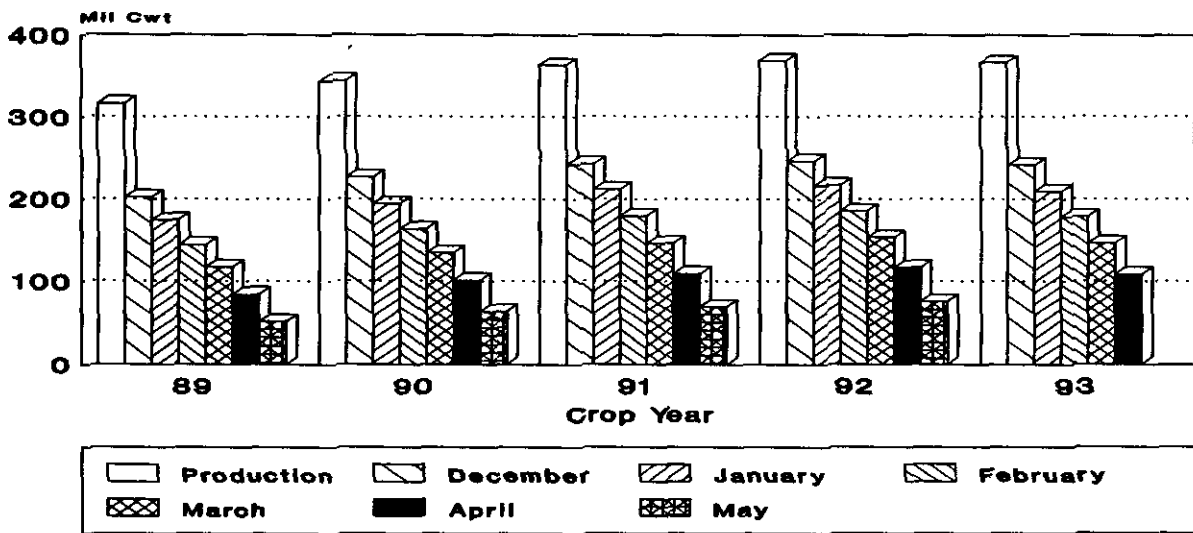
Washington, D.C.

Released April 13, 1994, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

Potato Stocks Down 6 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 108 million cwt on April 1, 1994, down 6 percent from last year and slightly below two years ago. This report covers 30 percent of fall potato production in 15 storage States, compared with 31 percent a year ago. Disappearance for the season is a record high 258 million cwt of potatoes, 2 percent above last year and 1 percent above 1992. Shrink and loss of 26.9 million cwt was 7 percent below a year ago. Processors used a record high 123 million cwt of potatoes from the 1993 crop, up 6 percent for the season. March processing amounts totaled 17.0 million cwt of potatoes, 13 percent above a year earlier.

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	108,455	

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	53,070		
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	2,875		
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	51,260		
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	15,760		
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	122,965		

^{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 April 1, 1993-94

State	Crop of 1992			Crop of 1993		
	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1993	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1994	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	5,600	1,900	34	4,800	1,600	33
CO	22,110	9,400	43	25,270	8,350	33
ID	127,050	51,000	40	121,460	46,500	38
ME	24,300	7,700	32	20,540	6,100	30
MI	10,800	1,700	16	11,780	1,800	15
MN	16,080	5,100	32	12,100	3,400	28
MT	2,465	1,800	73	2,700	1,770	66
NE	2,698	570	21	3,008	420	14
NY						
Long Island	1,984	1/45		1,643	1/15	
Upstate	5,824	800	14	6,050	1,200	20
ND	27,690	6,700	24	19,980	4,300	22
OH	1,440	1/		1,140	1/	
OR	21,075	7,000	33	23,277	10,300	44
PA	4,940	570	12	4,600	300	7
WA	69,300	15,100	22	85,500	17,500	20
WI	25,160	6,400	25	22,240	4,900	22
Total 15 State:	368,516	115,785	31	366,088	108,455	30

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Reliability of April 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 5.7 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 108 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.7 percent or approximately 6.2 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 9.9 percent or approximately 10.7 million cwt.

The 10-year (1984-93) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.86 million cwt, ranging from 0.01 million cwt to 12.8 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

April Potato Stocks Down 6 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 108 million cwt on April 1, 1994, down 6 percent from last year and slightly below two years ago. Stocks made up 30 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 31 percent a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled 258 million cwt, 2 percent more than last year. Processor usage of 123 million cwt was up 6 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 26.9 million cwt, 7 percent below last year.

Processing in the eight major States claimed a record high 123 million cwt of potatoes from the 1993 crop so far, up 6 percent from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 17.0 million cwt, up 13 percent from the 15.1 million cwt a year ago and 7 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through March totaled 258 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 26.9 million cwt, 7 percent below the 28.9 million cwt lost last year but 4 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 7.61 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1994, down 16 percent from last year but 49 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were down 21 percent. Pennsylvania was down 47 percent, while Upstate New York, was up 50 percent.

Central States held 14.8 million cwt of potato in storage on April 1, 1994. This is down 28 percent from last year and 31 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks were down 36 percent from last year, Minnesota was off 33 percent, and Wisconsin was down 23 percent. Michigan's stocks were up 6 percent from a year ago but Nebraska was down 26 percent.

Western potato stocks totaled 86.0 million cwt in six States, down slightly from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 9 percent and accounted for 54 percent of the Western holdings. Washington's stocks of 17.5 million cwt, were up 16 percent and Oregon's stocks jumped 47 percent from last year. California was down 16 percent from a year ago, Colorado was down 11 percent, and Montana was down 2 percent.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final April Stocks,
United States, 1983-93

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1983	77,445	94.7	81,740
1984	85,425	98.8	86,440
1985	102,590	98.1	104,540
1986	91,670	96.4	95,090
1987	105,895	100.0	105,905
1988	86,745	93.7	92,585
1989	83,540	99.1	84,320
1990	91,910	90.9	101,150
1991	109,600	100.7	108,865
1992	103,010	89.0	115,785
1993	108,455	--	--

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.

