

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

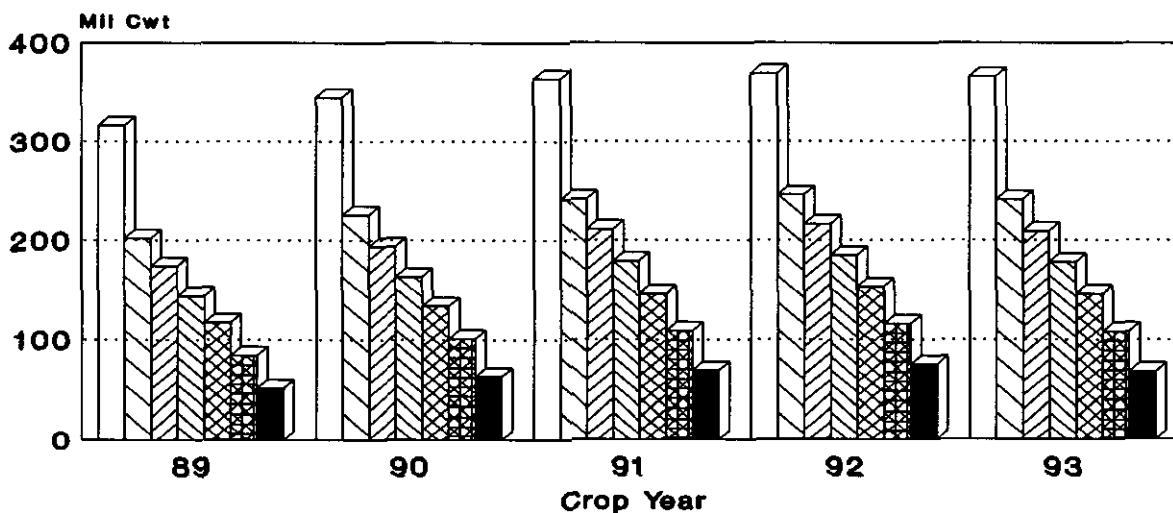
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Down 9 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 68.1 million cwt on May 1, 1994, down 9 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. This report covers 19 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 20 percent a year ago. Disappearance for the season is a record high 298 million cwt of potatoes, 2 percent above last year and 1 percent above 1992. Shrink and loss of 28.8 million cwt was 9 percent below a year ago. Processors used a record high 140 million cwt of potatoes, up 8 percent for the season compared with last year. April processing totaled 17.2 million cwt of potatoes, up 17 percent from 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	68,060

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	61,440	
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	3,250	
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	57,120	
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	18,375	
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	140,185	

^{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, 1993-94

State	Crop of 1992			Crop of 1993		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1993	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1994	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	5,600	1,200	21	4,800	1,000	21
CO	22,110	6,900	31	25,270	6,100	24
ID	127,050	35,500	28	121,460	29,500	24
ME	24,300	4,400	18	20,540	3,900	19
MI	10,800	600	6	11,780	700	6
MN	16,080	2,600	16	12,100	2,200	18
MT	2,465	270	11	2,700	160	6
NE	2,698	260	10	3,008	100	3
NY						
Long Island	1,984	<u>1</u> /		1,643	<u>1</u> /	
Upstate	5,824	1/210		6,050	<u>1</u> /400	
ND	27,690	4,000	14	19,980	2,200	11
OH	1,440	<u>1</u> /		1,140	<u>1</u> /	
OR	21,075	4,500	21	23,277	7,000	30
PA	4,940	300	6	4,600	100	2
WA	69,300	10,400	15	85,500	11,500	13
WI	25,160	3,900	16	22,240	3,200	14
Total 15 State:	368,516	75,040	20	366,088	68,060	19

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

May Potato Stocks Down 9 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 68.1 million cwt on May 1, 1994, down 9 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Stocks made up 19 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, compared with 20 percent a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance and processing were both record high. Shrinkage and loss was 9 percent below last year.

Processing in the eight major States claimed a record high 140 million cwt of potatoes from the 1993 crop and continues at a furious pace. This is up 8 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. April processor usage was 17.2 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled a record high 298 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was estimated at 28.8 million cwt, 9 percent below the 31.7 million cwt lost last year but 2 percent above two years ago, when losses were 28.2 million cwt.

Eastern States stored 4.40 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1994, down 10 percent from last year but 83 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were down 11 percent. Pennsylvania was down two-thirds. New York, combined with Ohio was doubled with few loads to clean up.

Central States held 8.40 million cwt of potato storage on May 1, 1994. This is down 26 percent from last year and 34 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks were down 45 percent from last year, Minnesota was off 15 percent, and Wisconsin was down 18 percent. Michigan's stocks were up 17 percent from a year ago but Nebraska was down 62 percent.

Western potato stocks totaled 55.3 million cwt in six States, down 6 percent from last year but 2 percent above two years ago. Stocks in Idaho are falling well below a year ago while potatoes in Washington and Oregon are plentiful. Idaho's stocks were down 17 percent and accounted for 53 percent of the Western holdings. Washington's stocks of 11.5 million cwt, were up 11 percent and Oregon's stocks were up 56 percent from last year. California was down 17 percent from a year ago; Colorado slipped 12 percent, and Montana fell 41 percent.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 8.1 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 68.1 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 8.1 percent or approximately 5.5 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 14.1 percent or approximately 9.6 million cwt.

The 10-year (1984-93) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 3.80 million cwt, ranging from 0.55 million cwt to 11.5 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, 1983-93

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <u>1/</u>
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	84.7	75,040
1993	68,060	--	--

1/ As reported in the September "Potatoes" 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 December 13, 1994.

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