

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

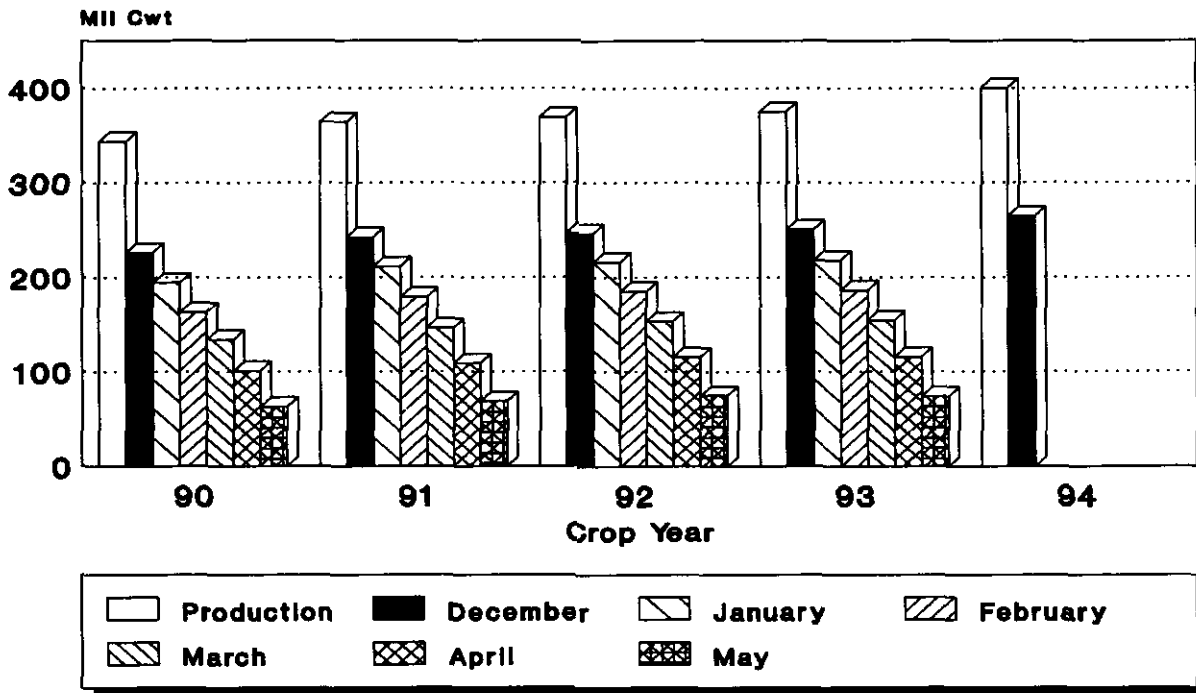
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent, Fall Production Up 7 Percent

Production of fall potatoes is estimated at 412 million cwt in the 23 producing States in 1994, 7 percent above 1993 and 9 percent above 1992. December 1 stocks, at 264 million cwt in the 15 storage States, were up 6 percent. Disappearance was up 9 percent, including an 7 percent gain in processor usage.

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, 1985-94

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	375,004	249,710	217,800	186,090	154,135	115,970	73,860
1994	400,385	264,090					

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1992-94 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:							
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	85,780
1994	26,620						
ME <u>2/</u>							
1992	1,195	1,630	2,205	2,720	3,390	4,020	5,055
1993	1,350	1,720	2,210	2,505	2,890	3,275	4,555
1994	1,510						
WA & OR-Other							
1992	26,840	31,550	35,950	41,670	46,530	51,630	63,510
1993	28,260	33,350	39,010	45,020	51,290	57,180	70,690
1994	28,690						
Oth Sts <u>3/</u>							
1992	7,140	9,220	11,265	13,305	15,550	17,555	25,070
1993	7,605	9,515	11,605	13,720	16,080	18,705	25,690
1994	8,790						
Total							
1992	57,355	71,480	85,130	100,495	115,560	130,295	174,205
1993	61,305	75,125	89,975	105,965	123,330	140,600	186,715
1994	65,610						

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 December 1, 1993-94

State	Crop of 1993			Crop of 1994		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1993	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1994	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	4,800	3,700	77	4,400	3,300	75
CO	25,270	18,250	72	25,795	18,900	73
ID	126,192	94,500	75	134,340	95,500	71
ME <u>1/</u>	19,890	14,700	74	17,250	13,400	78
MI	11,780	7,300	62	12,180	7,600	62
MN	12,650	8,600	68	17,755	12,500	70
MT	2,700	2,580	96	3,200	3,000	94
NE	3,008	1,890	63	3,888	1,990	51
NY						
Long Is	1,643	650	40	1,617	700	43
Upstate	6,050	3,000	50	6,188	3,500	57
ND	21,090	14,800	70	28,200	18,500	66
OH	1,140	240	21	1,348	300	22
OR	23,103	19,000	82	25,784	20,200	78
PA	4,600	2,600	57	3,780	2,200	58
WA	88,500	43,500	49	88,920	48,000	54
WI	22,588	14,400	64	25,740	14,500	56
Total 15 State	375,004	249,710	67	400,385	264,090	66

1/ 1994 production excludes 1,125,000 cwt dumped from storage before November 1.

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
11 Major States, December 1, 1993-94

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1993	1994	1993	1994	1993	1994
	Percent					
CO	7	4			93	96
ID			7	5	93	95
ME		1	79	78	21	21
MI		7	70	84	30	9
MN	12	16	18	16	70	68
NY	7	5	92	93	1	2
ND	20	12	50	45	30	43
OR			2	1	98	99
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA	2	2	4	5	94	93
WI	5	2	20	20	75	78
11 State Avg.	3	3	18	17	79	80

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1992-94

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994
	1,000 Acres					
CA	14.0	12.0	11.0	14.0	12.0	11.0
CO	66.5	72.5	74.0	66.0	72.2	73.7
ID						
10 SW Co	22.0	24.0	27.0	22.0	24.0	27.0
Other ID	358.0	366.0	383.0	356.0	364.0	381.0
IN	4.6	4.5	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.1
ME	82.0	80.0	78.0	81.0	78.0	75.0
MA	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1
MI	37.0	40.0	44.0	36.0	38.0	42.0
MN	71.0	70.0	74.0	67.0	55.0	67.0
MT	8.6	9.1	10.0	8.5	9.0	10.0
NE	8.6	9.6	11.0	8.3	9.4	10.8
NV	7.5	7.7	8.0	7.5	7.7	8.0
NM	5.1	5.8	6.3	5.1	5.8	6.3
NY						
Long Is	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.1
Upstate	22.0	22.5	23.0	20.8	22.0	22.5
ND	146.0	143.0	133.0	142.0	111.0	120.0
OH	7.0	5.8	5.6	6.0	5.7	5.5
OR						
Malheur	7.6	8.9	10.3	7.5	8.7	10.2
Other OR	38.4	41.5	43.2	37.5	40.7	43.0
PA	20.0	21.0	19.0	19.0	20.0	18.0
RI	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.1
SD	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.2	5.5
UT	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.0	6.2	6.0
WA	132.0	150.0	152.0	132.0	150.0	152.0
WI	69.0	71.5	73.0	68.0	69.5	71.5
WY	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	1.7
Total	1,151.7	1,189.9	1,213.9	1,132.6	1,130.4	1,182.1

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1992-94

State	Yield			Production		
	1992	1993	1994	1992	1993	1994
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
Fall						
CA	400	400	400	5,600	4,800	4,400
CO	335	350	350	22,110	25,270	25,795
ID						
10 SW Co	435	435	460	9,570	10,440	12,420
Other ID	330	318	320	117,480	115,752	121,920
IN	230	250	280	989	1,050	1,148
ME	300	255	230	24,300	19,890	17,250
MA	275	215	250	825	645	775
MI	300	310	290	10,800	11,780	12,180
MN	240	230	265	16,080	12,650	17,755
MT	290	300	320	2,465	2,700	3,200
NE	325	320	360	2,698	3,008	3,888
NV	390	380	345	2,925	2,926	2,760
NM	450	495	500	2,295	2,871	3,150
NY						
Long Is	320	265	265	1,984	1,643	1,617
Upstate	280	275	275	5,824	6,050	6,188
ND	195	190	235	27,690	21,090	28,200
OH	240	200	245	1,440	1,140	1,348
OR						
Malheur	410	410	420	3,075	3,567	4,284
Other OR	480	480	500	18,000	19,536	21,500
PA	260	230	210	4,940	4,600	3,780
RI	290	205	230	377	226	253
SD	250	205	280	1,500	1,066	1,540
UT	275	265	265	1,650	1,643	1,590
WA	525	590	585	69,300	88,500	88,920
WI	370	325	360	25,160	22,588	25,740
WY	280	280	280	448	504	476
Total	335	341	349	379,525	385,935	412,077

1994 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1994. These 11 States account for 94 percent of the 1994 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, 1993-94 ^{1/}

State and Year	Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
Cwt per Acre				
CO				
1993			17	17
1994			15	15
ID				
1993			26	26
1994		18	31	31
ME	10	14	15	14
1994		11	25	15
MI		17	16	17
1994		17	20	18
MN	23	24	17	21
1994	22	20	29	25
NY		12		12
1994		13		13
ND	24	24	42	28
1994	30	26	22	25
OR		30	27	28
1994		20	15	17
PA		9		9
1994		13		13
WA	4	18	17	17
1994		27	19	19
WI	36	10	13	13
1994		14	18	16

^{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, 1993-94 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 1993	4	13.994			67	12.886
CO 1994	2	15.488			31	13.081
ID 1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	25	13.586	278	12.281
ID 1994			23	15.428	248	12.286
ME 1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	114	13.287	29	9.618
ME 1994	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	119	13.604	38	9.704
MI 1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	61	11.999	23	10.609
MI 1994	4	12.188	64	12.143	26	11.126
MN 1993	24	9.595	36	11.150	51	12.412
MN 1994	30	10.096	33	11.189	39	13.134
NY 1993	9	16.156	121	13.565	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
NY 1994	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	136	13.338	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>
ND 1993	27	10.546	104	10.341	29	11.450
ND 1994	22	10.786	85	10.436	57	11.014
OR 1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	34	13.667	102	14.229
OR 1994	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	36	13.548	111	14.292
PA 1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	81	12.257		
PA 1993	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	82	12.807		
WA 1993	5	13.494	16	13.641	155	14.682
WA 1994	6	15.279	16	13.616	150	14.722
WI 1993	7	13.321	26	12.338	76	11.813
WI 1994	15	15.251	28	13.502	89	12.567

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

2/ Insufficient sample size.

Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 264 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1994, up 6 percent from a year earlier and 7 percent above 1992. Storage accounted for 66 percent of 1994 fall production compared with 67 percent in 1993. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 17 percent white, and 80 percent russet—with more russet and fewer whites than a year ago. Reds were the same as last year.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 136 million cwt of potatoes, up 9 percent from the same period in 1993. Shrink and loss to date were estimated at 18.6 million cwt, up 6 percent from the 17.5 million cwt lost in 1993 and 8 percent above the 17.1 million cwt lost from the 1992 crop.

Processors continue to buy ever larger amounts of potatoes, using 65.6 million cwt so far this season. This is a gain of 7 percent from a year ago and 15 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 19.8 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1994, down 5 percent from a year ago and 19 percent below 1992. Pennsylvania stocks were down 15 percent, Maine was off 9 percent but New York gained 15 percent. Pockets of blight loss were reported in all three States.

Central States accounted for 55.4 million cwt of potato stocks this December, a gain of 17 percent from 1993 but 1 percent below 1992. Minnesota's stocks jumped 45 percent from a poor crop in 1993. North Dakota and Ohio each gained 25 percent and Wisconsin was up 1 percent. Michigan and Nebraska were up 4 and 5 percent, respectively.

Western States held 189 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1994, a gain of 4 percent from 1993 and 14 percent more than two years ago. Most of the Western stocks are held in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Idaho cellars held 1 percent more potatoes this year than last, with very heavy early movement. Washington's stocks were up 10 percent and Oregon gained 6 percent. Colorado's stocks were up 4 percent and Montana jumped 16 percent from a year ago. California stored 11 percent fewer potatoes than a year earlier.

Fall Potato Production Up 7 Percent

Fall Potatoes: Production of fall potatoes in 1994 was estimated at 412 million cwt, down slightly from the November 1 forecast but 7 percent above 1993 and 9 percent larger than 1992. This is the fourth consecutive record high potato production in the United States. Harvested area totaled 1.18 million acres, up 5 percent from 1993 and 4 percent above two years ago. The average yield of 349 cwt per acre, was an 8 cwt jump from a year earlier and 14 cwt above two years ago. The growing season was robust for potatoes with an early start, a long growing period, and nearly ideal harvest season. Eight Central and Western States produced record large fall potato crops including several record high yields. There were, however, some pockets of flood and blight damage in Central and Eastern States.

Five Eastern States produced 29.9 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1994, down 10 percent from 1993 and 22 percent below 1992. Area for harvest was estimated at 125,800 acres, off 3 percent from last year. The average yield of 237 cwt per acre was down 17 cwt. Maine's crop fell 13 percent from a year ago. Pennsylvania was down 18 percent but New York gained 1 percent. Pockets of field and storage breakdown occurred in all three States and are not counted as part of production. Considerable acreage in Maine was not harvested.

Eight Central States production was estimated at 91.8 million cwt in 1994, a jump of 23 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. Harvested area totaled 326,400 acres, a gain of 10 percent from 1993. The average yield of 281 cwt per acre was record high, up 31 cwt from last year. North Dakota and Minnesota suffered flooding from early summer rains and lost some acreage but it was minor compared with 1993's damage. Yields rebounded nicely, producing record highs in Nebraska, North and South Dakota, and Minnesota.

Ten Western States produced 290 million cwt in 1994, up 4 percent from 1993 and 14 percent above 1992. Acreage for harvest, at 729,900 acres, was up 4 percent. The average yield of 398 cwt per acre gained 1 cwt from a year ago. Idaho's production of 134 million cwt was a record high, up 6 percent from last year with the best quality in years. Washington's growers also had their largest crop ever, slightly larger than 1993 but somewhat rougher in quality because of hot spells during the summer. Oregon's yield was record high with good quality in all areas. Colorado's fall crop was also a record high production and was 2 percent above 1993. Montana and New Mexico also produced record high fall crops, up 19 and 10 percent, respectively, from the previous year. Production in California, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming were smaller than last year.

Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 264 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 6.9 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.4 percent or approximately 11.6 million cwt.

Also shown below is the 10-year (1984-93) 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 5.1 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

	Root Mean Square Error			Ten Year Record of Difference Between Dec 1 and Final Estimate					
Estimate	Percent	90% Confidence Level	Quant	Avg	Small	Large	Below Final	Above Final	Number of Years
	Percent	Level	Mil Cwt	Million Cwt					
Stocks	2.6	4.4	11.62	5.08	0.08	14.50	10	0	
Production	1.5	2.6	10.71	5.06	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
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	96.3	249,710
1994	264,090		

^{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 9.4 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand December 1st, but remains as part of stocks until moved or planted.

Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,
United States, 1989-94

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes						Amount Used for Seed All Seasons Following Year
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	1,000 Cwt	
	1,000 Cwt	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt	
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	28,275	
1993	385,935	351,161	91.0	34,774	9.0	28,721	
1994	412,077						

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 14, 1995.

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