

# Potato Stocks



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

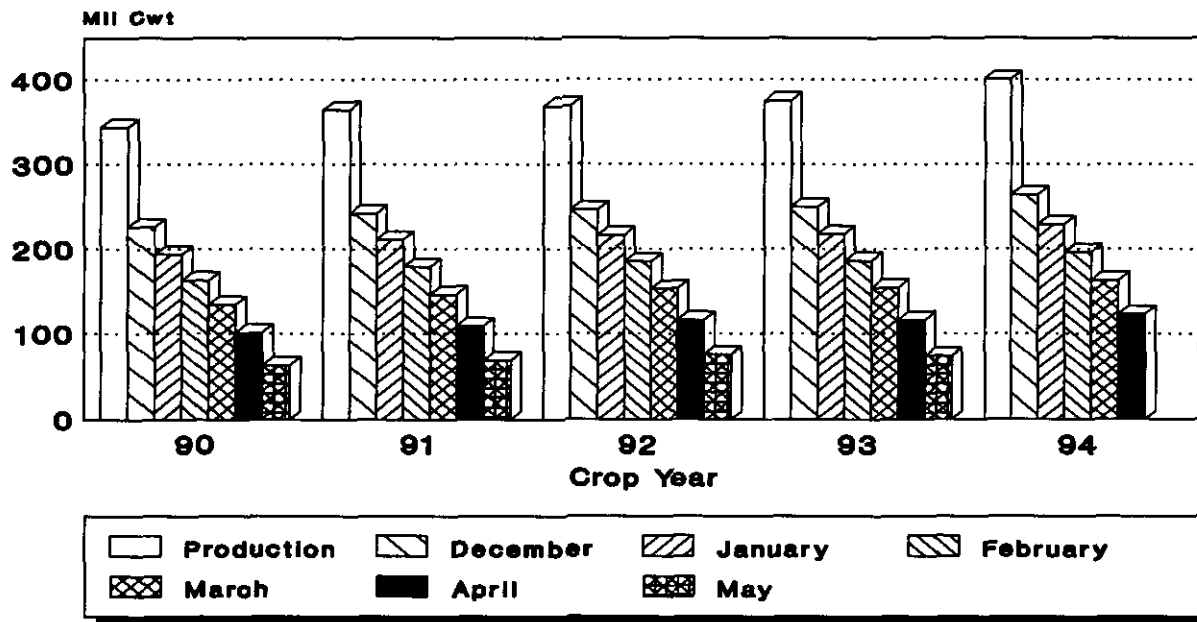
Washington, D.C.

Released April 13, 1995, by the Agricultural Statistics Board.

## Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 123 million cwt on April 1, 1995, up 6 percent from both last year and two years ago. April stocks cover 31 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as a year ago. Disappearance for the season is a record high 277 million cwt of potatoes, 7 percent above last year and 10 percent above 1993. Shrink and loss of 28.7 million cwt was 7 percent above a year ago. Processors used a record high 134 million cwt of potatoes, up 8 percent for the season. March processing totaled 18.1 million cwt of potatoes, up 4 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, 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	263,630	229,350	196,005	163,305	123,285	

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1992-94 <sup>1/</sup>

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	34,230	42,330	49,890	57,990		
ME <sup>2/</sup>							
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	1,840	2,275	2,535	2,975		
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	33,500	39,120	46,070	52,900		
Oth Sts <sup>3/</sup>							
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	12,045	14,605	17,095	19,840		
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	81,615	98,330	115,590	133,705		

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3/</sup> MI, MN, ND, and WI.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on April 1, 1994-95

State	Crop of 1993			Crop of 1994		
	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1994	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1995	% of Prod
	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	--- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	4.800	1,700	35	4,400	1,800	41
CO	25,270	8,350	33	25,795	8,400	33
ID	126,192	52,000	41	134,340	50,500	38
ME	19,890	5,800	29	17,250	5,200	30
MI	11,780	1,800	15	12,180	2,500	21
MN	12,650	3,700	29	17,755	6,100	34
MT	2,700	1,770	66	3,200	1,950	61
NE	3,008	420	14	3,888	650	17
NY						
Long Island	1,643	<u>1</u> /30		1,617	<u>1</u> /65	
Upstate	6,050	400	7	6,188	600	10
ND	21,090	5,200	25	28,200	7,500	27
OH	1,140	<u>1</u> /		1,348	<u>1</u> /	
OR	23,103	8,800	38	25,784	10,100	39
PA	4,600	400	9	3,780	420	11
WA	88,500	20,000	23	88,920	23,500	26
WI	22,588	5,600	25	25,740	4,000	16
Total 15 State:	375,004	115,970	31	400,385	123,285	31

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

## Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent

April 1, 1995, stocks totaled 123 million cwt, up 6 percent from both last year and two years ago. Stocks made up 31 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled 277 million cwt, 7 percent more than last year. Processor usage of 134 million cwt was up 8 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 28.7 million cwt, 7 percent above a year ago.

Processing continued to move potatoes at a record pace, accounting for 134 million cwt of potatoes from the 1994 crop, up 8 percent from the same period last year and 16 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 18.1 million cwt, up 4 percent from a year ago and 20 percent above two years ago.

**Disappearance** from the start of harvest through March totaled 277 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent from last year and 10 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 28.7 million cwt, 7 percent above the 26.9 million cwt lost last year but 1 percent below the losses of two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 6.27 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1995, down 5 percent from last year but 31 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were down 10 percent. Pennsylvania was up 5 percent. New York, Upstate was up 50 percent.

**Central States** held 20.8 million cwt of potato storage on April 1, 1995. This is 24 percent above last year's rain devastated crop and 1 percent higher than two years ago. Wisconsin's stocks are off 29 percent but each of the other Central States held more than a year ago. North Dakota's stocks were up 44 percent from last year, Minnesota was up 65 percent, and Michigan's stocks were up 39 percent from a year ago. Nebraska was up 55 percent, with late seed movement the reason.

**Western States** potato stocks totaled 96.3 million cwt in six States, up 4 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent, while Colorado was up 1 percent from last year. Washington's stocks of 23.5 million cwt, were up 18 percent and Oregon's stocks jumped 15 percent. Montana's stocks were up 10 percent and California gained 6 percent from a year ago.

### Reliability of April 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 5.8 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 123 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.8 percent or approximately 7.2 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 10.0 percent or approximately 12.3 million cwt.

The 10-year (1985-94) record of the differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 4.2 million cwt, ranging from .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.

#### Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final April Stocks, United States, 1984-94 Crop Year

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks <sup>1/</sup>
:	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	93.5	115,970
1994	123,285	--	--

<sup>1/</sup> 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.



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