

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

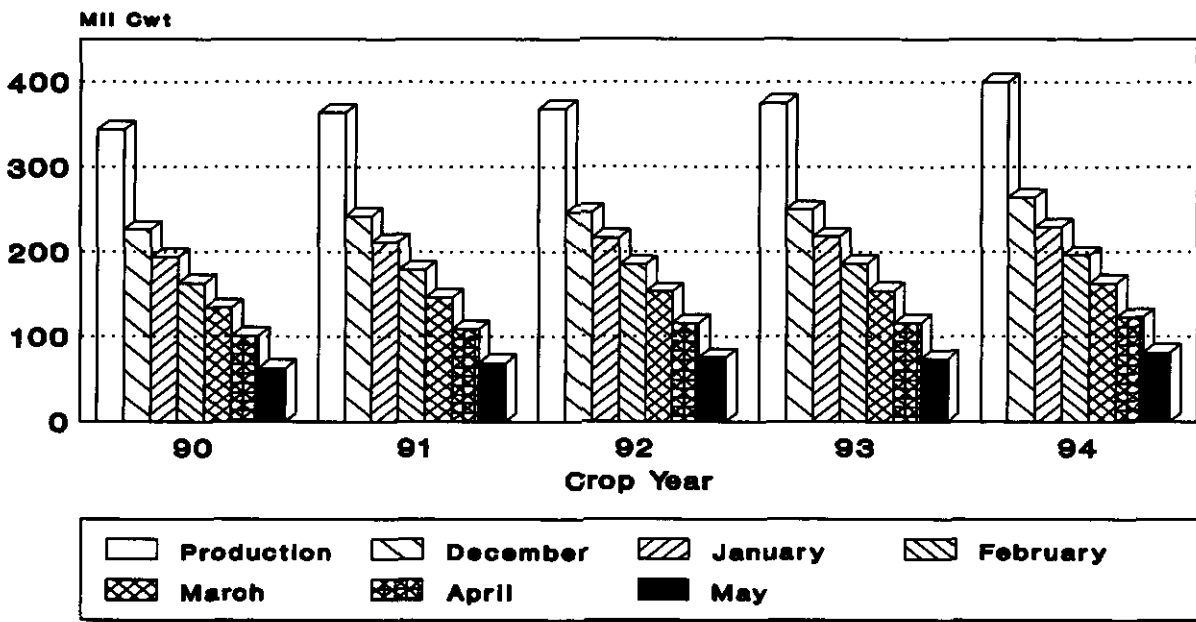
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Potato Stocks Up 10 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 81.5 million cwt on May 1, 1995, up 10 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. May stocks include considerably more seed than would normally be on hand because of late planting in many States. Disappearance for the season is a record high 319 million cwt of potatoes, 6 percent above last year and 9 percent above 1993. Shrink and loss of 30.9 million cwt was 8 percent above a year ago. Processors used a record high 152 million cwt of potatoes, up 8 percent for the season. April processing totaled 18.4 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent from a year earlier.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Production by crop year
Stocks by month following harvest

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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	81,495

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	34,230	42,330	49,890	57,990	66,680	
ME 2/							
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	3,330	
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	59,550	
Oth Sts 3/							
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	22,585	
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	152,145	

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, 1994-95

State	Crop of 1993			Crop of 1994		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1994	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1995	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	4,800	1,200	25	4,400	1,100	25
CO	25,270	6,100	24	25,795	6,000	23
ID	126,192	35,000	28	134,340	34,500	26
ME	19,890	3,500	18	17,250	2,800	16
MI	11,780	700	6	12,180	1,200	10
MN	12,650	2,300	18	17,755	4,200	24
MT	2,700	160	6	3,200	350	11
NE	3,008	100	3	3,888	300	8
NY						
Long Island	1,643	1/		1,617	1/	
Upstate	6,050	1/200		6,188	1/210	
ND	21,090	2,300	11	28,200	4,700	17
OH	1,140	1/		1,348	1/	
OR	23,103	5,400	23	25,784	6,800	26
PA	4,600	100	2	3,780	135	4
WA	88,500	13,500	15	88,920	17,000	19
WI	22,588	3,300	15	25,740	2,200	9
Total 15 State	375,004	73,860	20	400,385	81,495	20

1/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Up 10 Percent

May 1, 1995, stocks totaled 81.5 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 20 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, the same as a year ago. Disappearance was 6 percent more than last year. Processor usage was up 8 percent. Shrinkage and loss was 8 percent above a year ago.

Processing continued to move potatoes at a record high pace, accounting for 152 million cwt of potatoes from the 1994 crop, up 8 percent from the same period last year and 17 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 18.4 million cwt, up 7 percent from a year ago and 25 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled 319 million cwt of potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 30.9 million cwt, 8 percent above the 28.7 million cwt lost last year but 3 percent below the losses of two years ago.

Eastern States stored 3.14 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1995, down 17 percent from last year and 36 percent below two years ago. Maine's stocks were down 20 percent. Pennsylvania and New York are virtually finished shipping for the season.

Central States held 12.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 1995. This is 45 percent above last year and 11 percent higher than two years ago. Wisconsin's stocks are off 33 percent but each of the other Central States held more than a year ago. North Dakota's May stocks were more than double last year, partly because of late planting and slow movement of seed. Minnesota's stocks were up 83 percent and Michigan's storage was up 71 percent from last year. Nebraska's season is nearly finished.

Western States potato stocks totaled 65.8 million cwt in six States, up 7 percent from last year and 12 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks of 34.5 million cwt, were down 1 percent from a year ago, and made up 52 percent of the Western total. Colorado was off 2 percent from last year. Washington's stocks of 17.0 million cwt and Oregon's stocks of 6.8 million cwt, were each up 26 percent. Montana's stocks at the end of their seed season were more than twice the May 1 level a year ago. California's stocks were off 8 percent.

Changes in Summer and Fall Potato Estimates

Acreage, yield, and production estimates of "summer" and "fall" potatoes will be combined into the "fall" season for Michigan and Minnesota beginning in 1995. Eliminating "summer" potatoes in these two States will shift about 20,000 acres from the "summer" season to the "fall" season estimates. The first estimates of summer acreage, published in the "**Acreage**" report issued June 30, will exclude these two States. Stocks reports, starting in December 1995, will include potatoes from these former "summer" areas. Additionally, potato estimates for Long Island and Upstate New York will be combined in an "All" New York estimate. The first estimate of fall potato acreage is included in the July "**Crop Production**" report. These changes will provide estimates that more accurately reflect current marketing and production patterns.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 8.4 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 81.5 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 8.4 percent or approximately 6.8 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 14.5 percent or approximately 11.8 million cwt.

The 10-year 1985-94 record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates average 4.0 million cwt, ranging from 0.6 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, 1984-94

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	92.1	73,860
1994	81,495		

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.

