

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

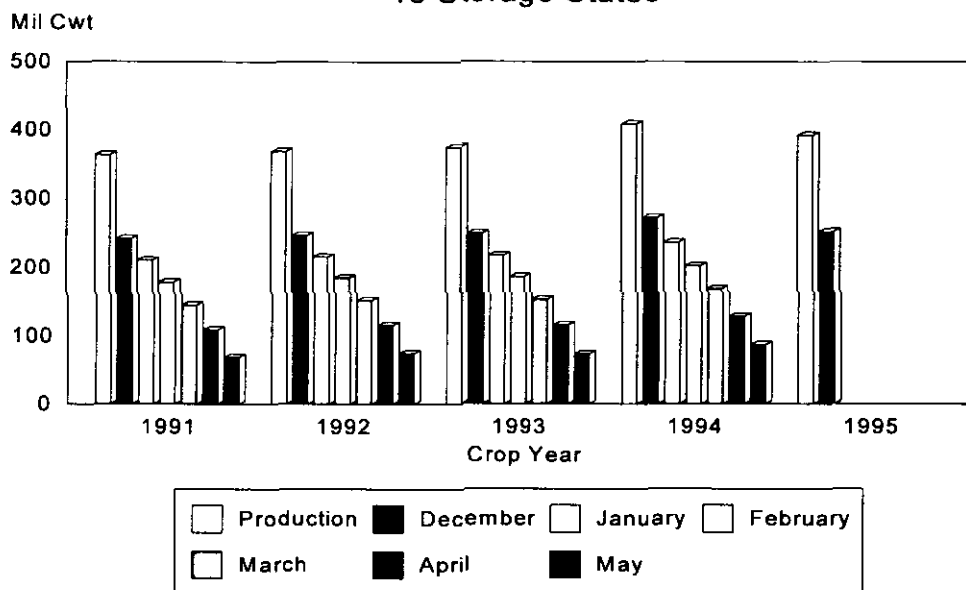
Washington, D.C.

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Stocks Down 8 Percent, Production Down 5 Percent

Production of fall potatoes is estimated at 402 million cwt in the 23 producing States in 1995, 5 percent below comparable totals in 1994 and 3 percent above 1993. December 1 stocks, at 252 million cwt in the 15 storage States, were down 8 percent on a comparable basis. Disappearance was up 2 percent, including a 7 percent gain in processor usage.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Production by crop year. Stocks by months following harvest.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1986-95

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	409,009	271,890	237,560	201,870	168,770	128,825	87,500
1995	392,086	252,030					

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1993-95 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							
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	90,300
1995	27,310						
ME 2/							
1993	1,350	1,720	2,210	2,505	2,890	3,275	4,555
1994	1,505	1,840	2,265	2,540	2,985	3,330	4,770
1995	1,335						
WA & OR - Other							
1993	28,260	33,350	39,010	45,020	51,290	57,180	70,690
1994	28,670	33,480	39,120	46,070	52,940	59,540	76,780
1995	30,000						
Oth Sts 3/							
1993	7,605	9,515	11,605	13,720	16,080	18,705	25,690
1994	9,725	13,110	15,630	18,260	21,115	24,060	32,260
1995	12,360						
Total							
1993	61,305	75,125	89,975	105,965	123,330	140,600	186,715
1994	66,520	82,660	99,345	116,760	135,030	153,610	204,110
1995	71,005						

- 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, 1994-95 1/

State	Crop of 1994			Crop of 1995		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1994	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1995	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	5,600	4,200	75	5,330	3,800	71
CO	25,795	18,900	73	23,808	18,200	76
ID	138,801	100,500	72	131,274	94,000	72
ME	18,375	13,400	73	17,160	13,800	80
MI	12,180	7,600	62	16,500	9,000	55
MN	17,755	12,500	70	20,790	13,500	65
MT	3,200	3,040	95	2,940	2,800	95
NE	3,996	2,300	58	3,680	2,530	69
NY	7,805	4,200	54	7,965	4,100	51
ND	28,200	19,300	68	25,410	17,000	67
OH	1,348	350	26	1,404	300	21
OR	27,514	20,300	74	23,760	16,100	68
PA	3,780	2,200	58	4,080	2,400	59
WA	88,920	47,500	53	80,850	39,000	48
WI	25,740	15,600	61	27,135	15,500	57
Total 15 State	409,009	271,890	66	392,086	252,030	64

1/ Stocks in 1995 included 2.05 million cwt from former summer area of MI and MN.

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
11 Major States, December 1, 1994-95

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1994	1995	1994	1995	1994	1995
	Percent					
CO	4	6			96	94
ID			5	10	95	90
ME	1	3	78	69	21	28
MI	7	2	84	78	9	20
MN	16	14	16	16	68	70
NY	5	5	93	93	2	2
ND	12	12	45	38	43	50
OR		1	1	3	99	96
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA	2	2	5	5	93	93
WI	2	3	20	27	78	70
11 State Avg.	3	3	17	20	80	77

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1993-95

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995
	1,000 Acres					
CA	12.0	14.0	13.0	12.0	14.0	13.0
CO	72.5	74.0	77.0	72.2	73.7	76.8
ID	390.0	410.0	400.0	388.0	408.0	398.0
10 SW Co	24.0	27.0	27.0	24.0	27.0	27.0
Other ID	366.0	383.0	373.0	364.0	381.0	371.0
IN	4.5	4.4	5.0	4.2	4.1	4.6
ME	80.0	78.0	78.0	78.0	75.0	78.0
MA	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.0	3.1	3.3
MI 1/	53.0	58.0	57.0	50.5	55.0	55.0
MN 1/	77.2	81.7	83.0	62.1	74.6	77.0
MT	9.1	10.0	9.8	9.0	10.0	9.8
NE	9.6	11.3	12.0	9.4	11.1	11.5
NV	7.7	8.0	7.6	7.7	8.0	7.6
NM	5.8	6.3	6.3	5.8	6.0	6.3
NY	28.8	29.1	30.0	28.2	28.6	29.5
Long Is	6.3	6.1		6.2	6.1	
Upstate	22.5	23.0		22.0	22.5	
ND	143.0	133.0	125.0	111.0	120.0	121.0
OH	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.4
OR	50.4	56.4	52.0	49.4	55.8	51.0
Malheur	8.9	11.9	12.5	8.7	11.8	12.3
Other OR	41.5	44.5	39.5	40.7	44.0	38.7
PA	21.0	19.0	18.0	20.0	18.0	17.0
RI	1.1	1.1	.9	1.1	1.1	.9
SD	6.0	6.0	6.0	5.2	5.5	5.2
UT	6.3	6.1	5.2	6.2	6.0	5.1
WA	150.0	152.0	147.0	150.0	152.0	147.0
WI	71.5	73.0	83.0	69.5	71.5	81.0
WY	1.8	1.7	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.5
Total	1,210.1	1,241.8	1,226.1	1,150.0	1,208.3	1,205.5

1/ Includes acres in 1993 and 1994 formerly included in summer areas for comparative purposes.

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1993-95

State	Yield			Production		
	1993	1994	1995	1993	1994	1995
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
CA	400	400	410	4,800	5,600	5,330
CO	350	350	310	25,270	25,795	23,808
ID	325	340	330	126,192	138,801	131,274
10 SW Co	435	470	410	10,440	12,690	11,070
Other ID	318	331	324	115,752	126,111	120,204
IN	250	280	260	1,050	1,148	1,196
ME	255	245	220	19,890	18,375	17,160
MA	215	240	260	645	744	858
MI 1/	303	271	300	15,280	14,910	16,500
MN 1/	238	269	270	14,780	20,035	20,790
MT	300	320	300	2,700	3,200	2,940
NE	320	360	320	3,008	3,996	3,680
NV	380	345	365	2,926	2,760	2,774
NM	495	500	380	2,871	3,000	2,394
NY	273	273	270	7,693	7,805	7,965
Long Is	265	265		1,643	1,617	
Upstate	275	275		6,050	6,188	
ND	190	235	210	21,090	28,200	25,410
OH	200	245	260	1,140	1,348	1,404
OR	468	493	466	23,103	27,514	23,760
Malheur	410	430	390	3,567	5,074	4,797
Other OR	480	510	490	19,536	22,440	18,963
PA	230	210	240	4,600	3,780	4,080
RI	205	225	265	226	248	239
SD	205	280	190	1,066	1,540	988
UT	265	265	240	1,643	1,590	1,224
WA	590	585	550	88,500	88,920	80,850
WI	325	360	335	22,588	25,740	27,135
WY	280	280	260	504	476	390
Total	340	352	334	391,565	425,525	402,149

1/ Includes production in 1993 and 1994 formerly included in summer areas for comparative purposes.

1995 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 11 major fall producing States in 1995. These 11 States account for 94 percent of the 1995 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, 1994-95 1/

State and Year	Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
Cwt per Acre				
CO 1994			15	15
CO 1995			20	20
ID 1994		18	31	31
ID 1995		21	28	28
ME 1994		11	25	15
ME 1995	10	14	22	16
MI 1994		17	20	18
MI 1995		17	10	16
MN 1994	22	20	29	25
MN 1995	9	16	20	16
NY 1994		12		12
NY 1995		15		15
ND 1994	30	26	22	25
ND 1995	16	19	27	19
OR 1994		20	15	17
OR 1995	8	23	21	21
PA 1994		13		13
PA 1995		13		13
WA 1994		27	19	19
WA 1995		17	19	19
WI 1994		14	18	16
WI 1995		15	16	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, 1994-95 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	1994 : 2	15,488			31	13,081
	1995 : 2	13,625			67	12,906
ID	1994 :		23	15,428	248	12,286
	1995 :		27	13,573	243	12,377
ME	1994 : 2/	2/	119	13,604	38	9,704
	1995 : 8	13,252	105	14,454	44	10,368
MI	1994 : 4	12,188	64	12,143	26	11,126
	1995 : 2/	2/	79	12,304	16	10,970
MN	1994 : 30	10,096	33	11,189	39	13,134
	1995 : 37	11,139	37	10,707	45	13,144
NY	1994 : 2/	2/	136	13,338	2/	2/
	1995 : 3	12,230	86	14,031	2/	2/
ND	1994 : 22	10,786	85	10,436	57	11,014
	1995 : 37	10,234	100	10,363	80	11,184
OR	1994 : 2/	2/	36	13,548	111	14,292
	1995 : 2	16,739	58	13,335	90	14,313
PA	1994 : 2/	2/	82	12,807		
	1995 : 3	11,002	49	13,426		
WA	1994 : 6	15,279	16	13,616	150	14,722
	1995 : 3	15,811	21	14,101	121	14,465
WI	1994 : 15	15,251	28	13,502	89	12,567
	1995 : 10	13,805	34	13,069	82	12,520

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

2/ Insufficient sample size.

Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 252 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1995, including 2.05 million cwt of potatoes stored in areas of Michigan and Minnesota that were not counted last year. Comparable stocks (by subtracting 2.05 million cwt this year) are down 8 percent from a year earlier and 1 percent less than two years ago. Storage accounted for 64 percent of 1995 fall production compared with 66 percent in 1994. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 20 percent white, and 77 percent russet, with more whites and fewer russets than a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 140 million cwt, up 2 percent from the same period in 1994. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 18.3 million cwt, down 1 percent from the 18.6 million cwt lost in 1994 but 5 percent above the 17.5 million cwt lost from the 1993 crop.

Processing is heavy, with 71.0 million cwt taken by fryers and dehydrators in eight major States so far this season. This is a gain of 7 percent over a year ago and 16 percent above 1993.

Eastern States stored 20.3 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1995, a gain of 3 percent from last year but 17 percent below 1993. Pennsylvania's stocks were up 9 percent, Maine's were up 3 percent, while New York was off 2 percent.

Central States accounted for 57.8 million cwt of potato stocks this December, including 2.05 million cwt coming from former "summer" areas. Comparable stocks are down 3 percent from 1994 but 18 percent above 1993. Michigan stocks increased 18 percent from a year ago, and Minnesota gained 8 percent, although 2.05 million cwt of their total increase came from former summer areas. The "fall" areas in the two States increased 2 percent. Nebraska's stocks were up 10 percent, but the other three Central States were down from last year. North Dakota's stocks dropped 12 percent, Wisconsin slipped 1 percent, and Ohio fell 14 percent.

Western States held 174 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, 1995, off 11 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below 1993. Oregon dropped 21 percent and Washington was off 18 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks were down 6 percent. These three States cover 86 percent of Western stocks with a combined drop of 11 percent from last year. Colorado's stocks were down 4 percent and Montana held 8 percent fewer potatoes than a year ago. California's storage was down 10 percent.

Fall Potato Production Down 5 Percent

Production of fall potatoes in 1995 is estimated at 402 million cwt, the second largest fall potato crop produced in the United States, after last year's record large crop. Comparable percent change (with the addition of summer crops from Michigan and Minnesota) places this crop 5 percent below 1994 but 3 percent above 1993. Area harvested, at 1.21 million acres, is down slightly from last year. The average yield is estimated at 334 cwt per acre, down 18 cwt from last year and 6 cwt below two years ago. Planting and harvest were late in most States resulting in smaller crops than last year.

Five Eastern States produced 30.3 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1995, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent less than two years ago. Area for harvest was 128,700 acres, up 2 percent from last year. The average yield of 235 cwt per acre is off 11 cwt. The Maine crop fell 7 percent from a year ago, but New York gained 2 percent and Pennsylvania was up 8 percent. Massachusetts gained 15 percent and Rhode Island slipped 4 percent. Hot, dry weather during much of the growing season hurt yields but kept a mild blight situation in check.

Central States production is forecast at 97.1 million cwt this year, up fractionally from comparable totals a year ago (including summer crops from Minnesota and Michigan) and 21 percent greater than the poor crops of 1993. Harvested area is estimated at 360,700 acres, a gain of 4 percent from last year. The average yield of 269 cwt per acre is 10 cwt below last year. Growing weather throughout the summer were favorable for healthy potato development across most of the region. Yields were generally good with Minnesota growers achieving a record high. Harvest brought additional rains causing some fields and parts of fields to go un-dug. Larger crops were grown this year in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Lower production was shown in North and South Dakota and Nebraska.

Ten Western States produced 275 million cwt in 1995, down 8 percent from the last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Acreage for harvest at 716,100 acres, was down 3 percent, while the average yield of 384 cwt per acre dropped 21 cwt from a year ago. Idaho's production of 131 million cwt is the second largest on record, 5 percent below last year. Open fall weather allowed potatoes to put on extra weight in the latter part of the season. Production in Washington dropped 9 percent below the last two years as blight hurt yields in the southern Basin. Oregon's production slid 14 percent from last year but remained 3 percent above two years ago. Blight damage cut sharply into production potential of Idaho and Oregon's Treasure Valley. The late start and early frost reduced Colorado's potato crop 8 percent from their record high last year. Weather problems in California, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and New Mexico contributed to smaller crops than a year ago. Nevada was the only Western State with a larger crop than a year ago.

Reliability of December 1 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 252 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 6.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.6 percent or approximately 11.6 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year 1985-94 record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimate 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 5.9 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimate has 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

Estimate	Root Mean Square Error			Ten Year Record of Difference Between Dec 1 and Final Estimate				
	Percent	90% Confidence Level	Quant	Avg	Small	Large	Below Final	Above Final
Stocks	2.6	4.6	11.59	5.89	.65	14.50	10	0
Production	1.6	2.7	10.46	5.01	.05	13.46	8	2

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December Stocks,
United States, 1985-95

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	97.1	271,890
1995	252,030		

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 90.4 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.6 percent. Most seed for use the following year is on hand but remains as part of stocks until planted.

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

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes				Amount Used for Seed	
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	All Seasons Following year
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1989	352,507	320,033	90.8	32,474	9.2	28,061
1990	371,730	334,893	90.1	36,837	9.9	27,021
1991	379,525	341,209	89.9	38,316	10.1	28,275
1992	385,935	351,161	91.0	34,774	9.0	29,031
1993	420,515	379,047	90.1	41,468	9.9	29,274
1994	402,149					

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 12, 1996.

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