

# Potato Stocks



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

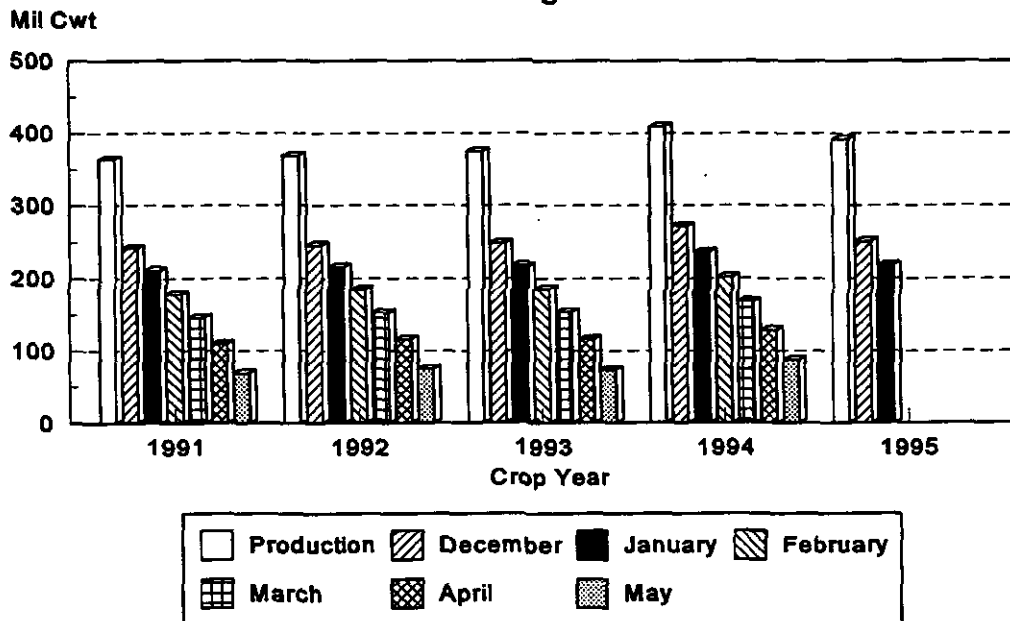
Washington, D.C.

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## Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent

January 1, 1996 potato stocks totaled 219 million cwt in the 15 storage States, down 8 percent from a year earlier but 1 percent above two years ago. Disappearance so far this season was up 1 percent, helped by a 6 percent gain in processing. Shrink and loss of 20.1 million cwt was 5 percent below last year and slightly below two years ago.

## 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
1,000 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	391,816	252,080	218,970				

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	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	35,040					
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	1,685					
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	35,170					
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	15,330					
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	87,225					

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 January 1, 1995-96

State	Crop of 1994			Crop of 1995			
	Prod	Stocks Jan 1, 1995	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1995 1/	Stocks Jan 1, 1996	Jan % of Prod
	---	1,000 Cwt	Pct	-----	1,000 Cwt	-----	Pct
CA	5,600	3,700	66	5,330	3,800	3,500	66
CO	25,795	16,300	63	23,808	18,200	16,100	68
ID	138,801	89,500	64	131,274	94,000	83,500	64
ME	18,375	11,400	62	17,160	13,800	12,400	72
MI	12,180	6,100	50	16,500	9,000	7,700	47
MN	17,755	10,800	61	20,790	13,500	11,700	56
MT	3,200	3,000	94	2,940	2,800	2,700	92
NE	3,996	2,100	53	3,680	2,530	2,220	60
NY	7,805	3,000	38	7,695	4,100	3,200	42
ND	28,200	16,200	57	25,410	17,000	14,000	55
OH	1,348	260	19	1,404	350	150	11
OR	27,514	17,600	64	23,760	16,100	14,100	59
PA	3,780	1,600	42	4,080	2,400	1,900	47
WA	88,920	43,000	48	80,850	39,000	33,000	41
WI	25,740	13,000	51	27,135	15,500	12,800	47
US	409,009	237,560	58	391,816	252,080	218,970	56

1/ Revised.

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,  
11 Major States, January 1, 1995-96

State	Potato Types								
	Reds			Whites			Russets		
	Jan 1995	Dec 1995 1/	Jan 1996	Jan 1995	Dec 1995 1/	Jan 1996	Jan 1995	Dec 1995 1/	Jan 1996
	Percent								
CO	4	6	6				96	94	94
ID				5	10	10	95	90	90
ME	1	3	3	82	69	66	17	28	31
MI		2		75	78	75	25	20	25
MN	14	14	12	17	16	20	69	70	68
NY	5	5	5	93	93	93	2	2	2
ND	13	16	16	43	36	32	44	48	52
OR		1	1	1	3	3	99	96	96
PA	3	3	3	97	97	97			
WA	1	2	1	3	5	3	96	93	96
WI	3	3	2	20	27	27	77	70	71
US	2	3	3	16	19	18	82	78	79

1/ Revised.

### Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 219 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1996, down 8 percent from a year earlier but 1 percent above 1994. Storage accounted for 56 percent of 1995 fall production down 2 points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 18 percent white, and 79 percent russet.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 was a record 173 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent from the same period in 1995. Disappearance in December 1995 was 33.1 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 20.1 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year.

Processing swelled 6 percent to 87.2 million cwt so far this season and was 16 percent above two years ago. In December, processors claimed 16.2 cwt of potatoes, fractionally above a year ago and 17 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 17.5 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1996, up 9 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above 1994. Pennsylvania's stocks were up 19 percent, Maine's holdings were up 9 percent, while New York stocks rose 7 percent.

Central States accounted for 48.6 million cwt of potato stocks this January, slightly above 1995 and 21 percent above 1994. Minnesota stocks gained 8 percent, including potatoes from former summer areas that were not counted last year. Michigan stocks jumped 26 percent, also including some from former summer areas. North Dakota was off 14 percent and Wisconsin slipped 2 percent. Nebraska stocks increased 6 percent as Ohio's storage shrank 42 percent.

Western States held 153 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1996, off 12 percent from a year previous and 5 percent below two years ago. Each of the Western storage States are below a year ago. Idaho is down 7 percent, Oregon fell 20 percent and Washington dropped 23 percent. Colorado stocks slipped 1 percent below last January. These four States accounted for two-thirds of U.S. Potato stocks and are down 12 percent from last year. California stored 5 percent fewer potatoes than a year earlier and Montana held 10 percent less.

**Reliability of January 1 Stocks Estimates**

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1 stocks estimate is 2.9 percent. This means the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 219 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.9 percent or approximately 6.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.1 percent or approximately 11.2 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-95) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 5.2 million cwt, ranging from 0.1 million to 14.3 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the January 1 estimate has been below the final estimate each year.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1985	201,300	99.3	202,800
1986	176,600	97.6	180,915
1987	195,880	99.6	196,760
1988	171,560	96.5	177,750
1989	173,400	99.9	173,550
1990	186,160	95.7	194,460
1991	210,935	100.0	211,005
1992	201,690	93.4	215,990
1993	209,270	96.1	217,800
1994	229,350	96.5	237,560
1995	218,970		

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 91.0 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.0 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 February 14, 1996.

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