

# Potato Stocks



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

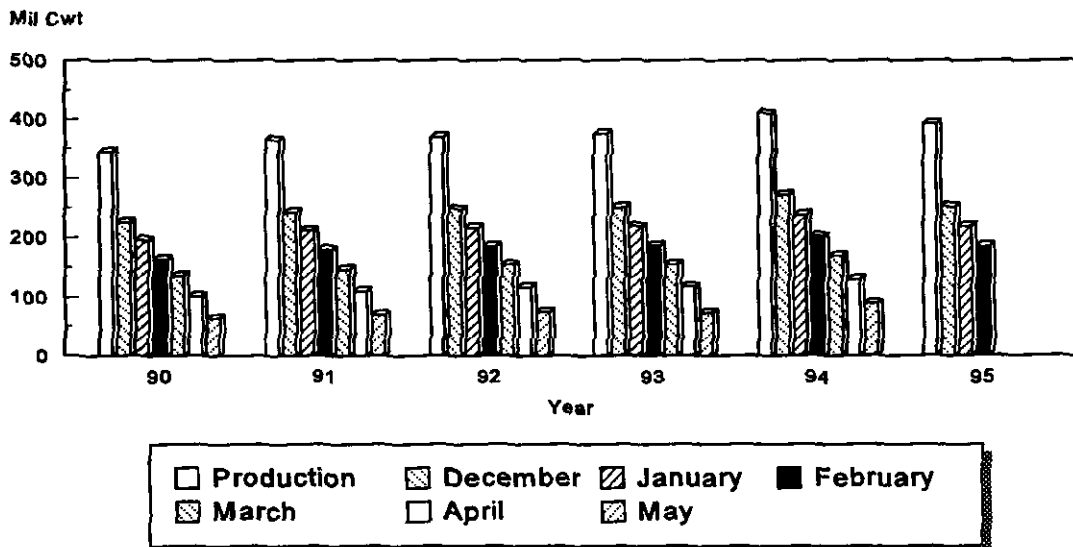
Washington, D.C.

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## Potato Stocks 8 Percent Below Last Year

February 1, 1996 potato stocks totaled 185 million cwt, down 8 percent from a year earlier and 1 percent below two years ago. Disappearance was 207 million cwt, slightly below a year ago but 10 percent above two years ago. Processing accounted for 103 million cwt through January, 4 percent more than last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss of 22.9 million cwt was down 3 percent from last year.

## 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	391,816	252,080	218,970	184,755			

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	35,040	43,260				
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	2,200				
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	39,460				
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	18,415				
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	103,335				

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 February 1, 1995-96

State	Crop of 1994			Crop of 1995		
	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 1995	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 1996	% of Prod
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt		Percent
CA	5,600	3,200	57	5,330	2,600	49
CO	25,795	13,700	53	23,808	13,400	56
ID	138,801	78,000	56	131,274	72,500	55
ME	18,375	9,400	51	17,160	10,400	61
MI	12,180	5,000	41	16,500	6,000	36
MN	17,755	9,400	53	20,790	10,200	49
MT	3,200	2,860	89	2,940	2,650	90
NE	3,996	1,780	45	3,680	1,880	51
NY	7,805	1,600	23	7,695	2,250	29
ND	28,200	12,500	44	25,410	11,500	45
OH	1,348	130	10	1,404	75	5
OR	27,514	15,200	55	23,760	11,700	49
PA	3,780	1,100	29	4,080	1,200	29
WA	88,920	37,500	42	80,850	28,500	35
WI	25,740	10,300	40	27,135	9,900	36
Total 15 State	409,009	201,870	49	391,816	184,755	47

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

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1995	1996	1995	1996	1995	1996
	Percent					
CO	4	6			96	94
ID			5	10	95	90
ME	1	3	81	66	18	31
MI			75	75	25	25
MN	12	11	16	18	72	71
NY	5	5	93	93	2	2
ND	12	16	44	29	44	55
OR		1	1	3	99	96
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA		1		3	100	96
WI	2	2	17	26	81	72
11 State Avg.	2	3	14	17	84	80

### Reliability of February 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 3.4 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 185 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.4 percent or approximately 6.3 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.9 percent or approximately 10.9 million cwt.

The 10-year 1986-95 record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 5.0 million cwt, ranging from 0.2 million to 14.2 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1985	169,810	99.0	171,510
1986	150,640	97.5	154,545
1987	167,110	99.9	167,325
1988	144,625	95.7	151,050
1989	143,150	99.2	144,290
1990	154,310	94.8	162,850
1991	178,965	100.3	178,515
1992	170,385	92.3	184,560
1993	178,070	95.7	186,090
1994	196,005	97.1	201,870
1995	184,755		

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.

### Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 185 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1996, down 8 percent from a year earlier and 1 percent below 1994. Storage accounted for 47 percent of 1995 fall production down two points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 17 percent white, and 80 percent russets with fewer russets and more whites and reds than a year ago.

**Disappearance** from the start of harvest to February 1 was 207 million cwt of potatoes, down slightly from the same period a year earlier. Disappearance in January was 34.2 million cwt, down 4 percent from last year but 8 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 22.9 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year.

**Processing** swelled 4 percent to 103 million cwt so far this season and was 15 percent above two years ago. In January, processors claimed 16.1 million cwt of potatoes, down 3 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 13.9 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1996, up 13 percent from a year ago and 7 percent above 1994. Pennsylvania's stocks were up 9 percent. Maine's holdings were up 11 percent, while New York rose 25 percent.

**Central States** accounted for 39.6 million cwt of potato stocks this month, up 1 percent from 1995 and 22 percent above 1994. Minnesota's stocks gained 9 percent, including potatoes from former summer areas that were not counted last year. Michigan's stocks jumped 20 percent, also including some from former summer areas. North Dakota's stocks were off 8 percent and Wisconsin slipped 4 percent. Nebraska's stocks increased 6 percent as Ohio's storage shrank 42 percent.

**Western States** held 131 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1996, off 13 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below two years ago. Each of the Western storage States are below a year ago. Idaho is down 7 percent, Oregon fell 23 percent, and Washington dropped 24 percent. Colorado's stocks slipped 2 percent below last year. These four States account for 68 percent of U. S. Potato stocks and are down 13 percent from last year. California stored 19 percent fewer potatoes than a year earlier and Montana dropped 7 percent.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on March 14, 1996.

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