

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

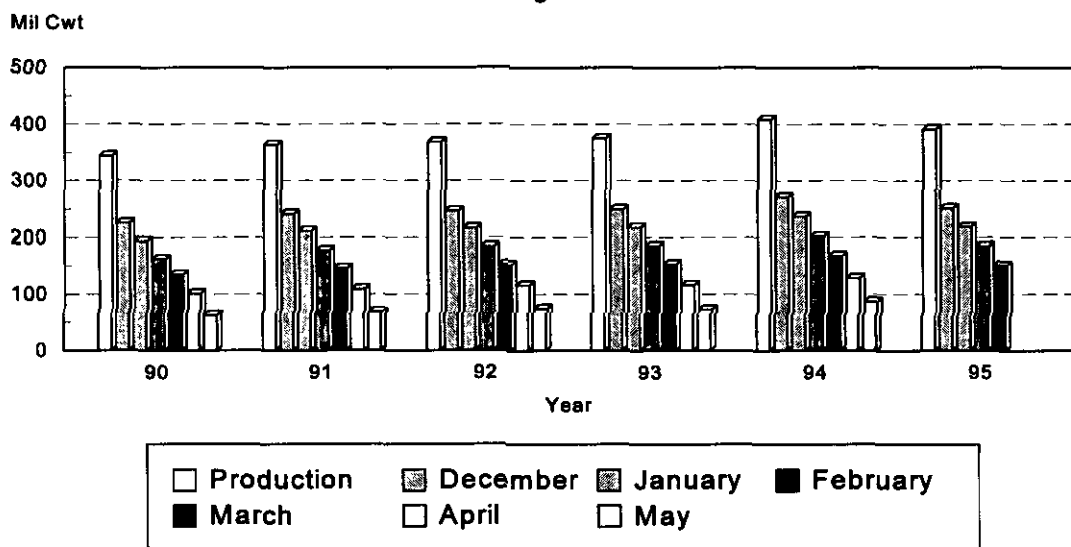
Washington, D.C.

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Potato Stocks Down 10 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 152 million cwt on the first of March 1996, down 10 percent from a year ago and 1 percent below two years ago. Disappearance, at 239 million cwt, was a little short of last year's record high 240 million cwt but was 8 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss of 25.6 million cwt was 2 percent less than a year ago. Processor usage, at 121 million cwt, was up 3 percent for the season. February usage was up slightly from the same month last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Production by crop year. Stocks by months after 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	152,255		

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	51,530			
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	2,540			
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	45,280			
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	21,485			
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	120,835			

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 March 1, 1995-96 1/

State	Crop of 1994			Crop of 1995		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1995	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1996	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct
CA	5,600	2,700	48	5,330	2,100	39
CO	25,795	11,300	44	23,808	11,200	47
ID	138,801	68,000	49	131,274	61,500	47
ME	18,375	7,700	42	17,160	8,500	50
MI	12,180	3,800	31	16,500	5,000	30
MN	17,755	8,000	45	20,790	8,700	42
MT	3,200	2,730	85	2,940	2,600	88
NE	3,996	1,420	36	3,680	2/1,355	
NY	7,805	2/920		7,695	1,400	18
ND	28,200	10,400	37	25,410	9,200	36
OH	1,348	2/		1,404	2/	
OR	27,514	13,000	47	23,760	8,600	36
PA	3,780	700	19	4,080	800	20
WA	88,920	30,500	34	80,850	24,000	30
WI	25,740	7,600	30	27,135	7,300	27
Total 15 State	409,009	168,770	41	391,816	152,255	39

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1996 crop. 1995 crop seed usage totaled 29.3 million cwt.
 2/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Down 10 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 152 million cwt on March 1, 1996, down 10 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Stocks now are 39 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, down two points from last year. Disappearance for the season was 239 million cwt, down slightly from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Processors used 121 million cwt, up 3 percent.

Disappearance from harvest through February totaled 239 million cwt of potatoes, down slightly from last year but 8 percent above two years ago. February disappearance of 32.5 million was down 2 percent from a year ago. Shrinkage and loss to date was 25.6 million cwt, down 2 percent from the 26.2 million cwt lost last year but 3 percent above 24.9 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processor usage totaled 121 million cwt to March 1, 1996, up 3 percent from a year ago and 14 percent above two years ago. February processing of 17.5 million cwt of potatoes was up slightly from last year and 9 percent above 1994. Heavy processor use in Central States made up for slow-downs in the Northwest.

Eastern States stored 10.7 million cwt of potatoes this year, up 16 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1994. Maine's stocks were up 10 percent and Pennsylvania's were up 14 percent. New York stocks rose more than half. Heavy U.S. imports from Canada resulted in slow movement from eastern storages.

Central States accounted for 31.6 million cwt of potato stocks this March, up 1 percent from last year and 25 percent above two years ago. Michigan and Minnesota, with new areas measuring stocks, are up 32 and 9 percent, respectively. North Dakota's stocks were down 12 percent and Wisconsin's were off 4 percent from a year ago. Nebraska's stocks were down 6 percent.

Western States held 110 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1996. This is down 14 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks were off 10 percent and accounted for 56 percent of the Western total. Oregon's stocks were down 34 percent and Washington was 21 percent below a year earlier. Colorado's stocks were down 1 percent from last year and California's storage was off 22 percent. Montana's stocks, mainly seed, were down 5 percent.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimate

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 4.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 152 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.0 percent or approximately 6.1 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.9 percent or approximately 10.5 million cwt.

The 10-year (1985-1994) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.7 million cwt, ranging from 0.4 million to 13.1 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt
1985	137,420	99.1		138,720
1986	124,820	97.0		128,720
1987	137,950	99.4		138,800
1988	118,960	95.6		124,485
1989	115,780	99.3		116,600
1990	126,030	93.7		134,470
1991	146,180	100.2		145,820
1992	139,665	91.4		152,795
1993	146,080	94.8		154,135
1994	163,305	96.8		168,770
1995	152,255			

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 April 12, 1996.

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