

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

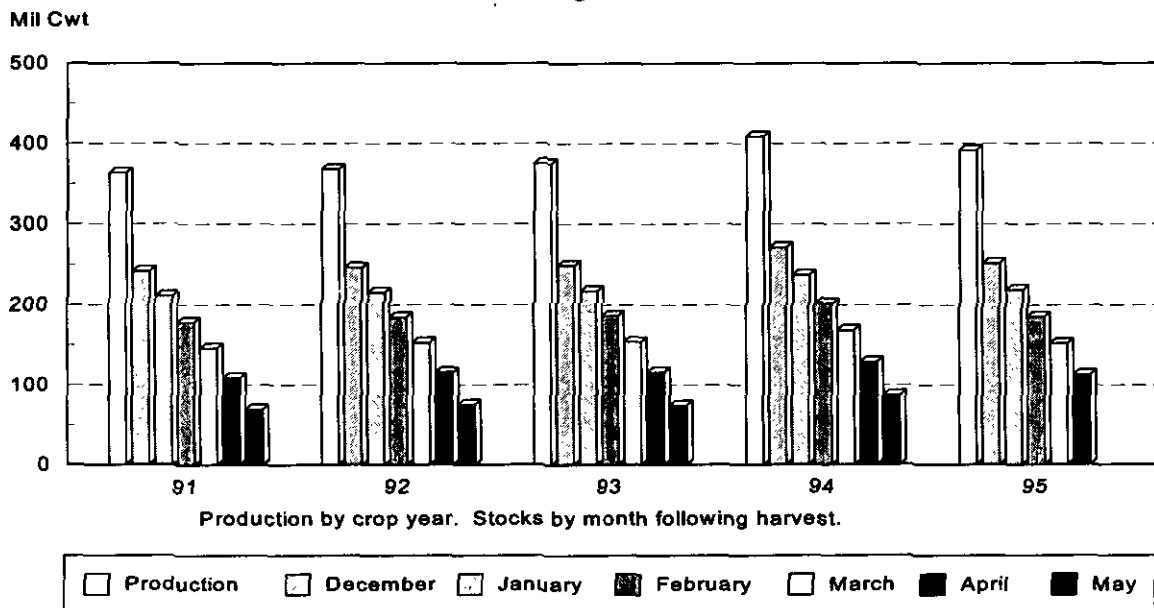
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Potato Stocks Down 12 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 113 million cwt on April 1, 1996, down 12 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. April stocks covered 29 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States compared with 31 percent a year ago. Disappearance for the season, at 279 million cwt of potatoes, was slightly less than last year but 8 percent above 1994. Shrink and loss of 27.9 million cwt was 2 percent below a year ago. Processors used a record high 139 million cwt of potatoes, up 3 percent for the season. March processing totaled 17.9 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year earlier.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



 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	112,925	

 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	59,060		
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	3,025		
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	51,730		
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	24,910		
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	138,725		

- 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 April 1, 1995-96 1/

State	Crop of 1994			Crop of 1995		
	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1995	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1996	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct
CA	5,600	2,100	38	5,330	1,600	30
CO	25,795	8,500	33	23,808	9,100	38
ID	138,801	55,000	40	131,274	48,000	37
ME	18,375	5,200	28	17,160	5,700	33
MI	12,180	2,500	21	16,500	3,500	21
MN	17,755	6,000	34	20,790	6,800	33
MT	3,200	1,950	61	2,940	1,880	64
NE	3,996	690	17	3,680	2/645	
NY	7,805	2/465		7,695	600	8
ND	28,200	7,500	27	25,410	7,000	28
OH	1,348	2/		1,404	2/	
OR	27,514	10,100	37	23,760	6,200	26
PA	3,780	420	11	4,080	400	10
WA	88,920	23,500	26	80,850	17,000	21
WI	25,740	4,900	19	27,135	4,500	17
Total 15 State	409,009	128,825	31	391,816	112,925	29

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1996 potatoes. 1995 crop seed usage totaled 29.3 million cwt.

2/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Down 12 Percent

April 1, 1996 stocks totaled 113 million cwt, down 12 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Stocks made up 29 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, down two points from a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled 279 million cwt, slightly less than last year but 8 percent above 1994. Processor usage of 139 million cwt was up 3 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 27.9 million cwt, 2 percent below a year ago.

Processing continued to move potatoes at a record pace for the season, accounting for 139 million cwt of potatoes, up 3 percent from the same period last year and 12 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 17.9 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through March totaled 279 million cwt of potatoes, down slightly from last year but 8 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 27.9 million cwt, 2 percent less than the 28.5 million cwt lost last year but 4 percent above losses two years ago.

Eastern States stored 6.70 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1996, up 10 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were up 10 percent. New York gained 33 percent. Pennsylvania was down 5 percent.

Central States held 22.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1996. This is 4 percent above last year and 34 percent higher than two years ago. Michigan's stocks were up 40 percent and Minnesota's were up 13 percent with the addition of former summer area potatoes included this year. Wisconsin's stocks were off 8 percent while North Dakota's stocks were off 7 percent from last year.

Western States potato stocks totaled 83.8 million cwt in six States, down 17 percent from last year and 10 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks were down 13 percent. Washington's stocks were off 28 percent and Oregon's stocks fell 39 percent. Montana's stocks were down 4 percent and California dropped 24 percent from a year ago. Colorado, with 7 percent more potatoes, was the only Western State with an increase over a year earlier. As we head for an apparent shortfall, some processing potatoes will be brought in from Arizona's and California's spring crop.

Reliability of April 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 5.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 113 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.8 percent or approximately 6.5 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 10.0 percent or 11.3 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-95) record of differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 4.6 million cwt, ranging from 0.01 million cwt to 12.8 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt
1985	102,590	98.1		104,540
1986	91,670	96.4		95,090
1987	105,895	100.0		105,905
1988	86,745	93.7		92,585
1989	83,540	99.1		84,320
1990	91,910	90.9		101,150
1991	109,600	100.7		108,865
1992	103,010	89.0		115,785
1993	108,455	93.5		115,970
1994	123,285	95.7		128,825
1995	112,925			

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 May 14, 1996.

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