

Potato Stocks



United States
Department of
Agriculture

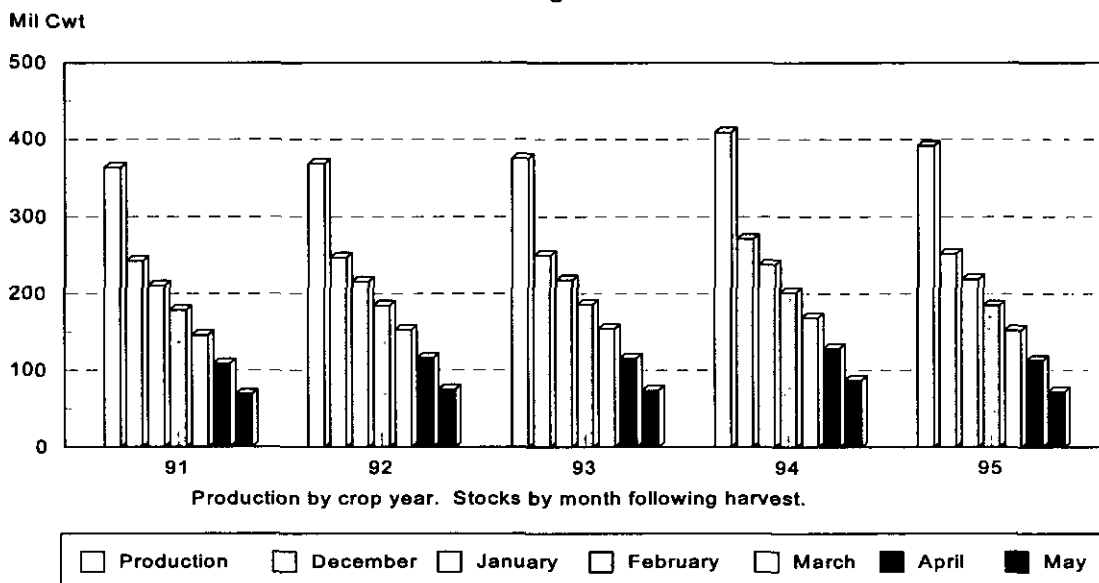
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Lowest May Stocks Since 1991

Potato stocks totaled 72.2 million cwt on May 1, 1996, down 17 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. This is the lowest May 1 potato stocks level since 1991. Disappearance for the season totaled 320 million cwt of potatoes, 1 percent below last year but 6 percent above 1994. Shrink and loss of 30.0 million cwt was 2 percent below a year ago. Processors used a record high 156 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent for the season. April processing totaled 16.8 million cwt, down 10 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	72,210

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	66,690	
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	3,465	
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	57,360	
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	28,010	
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	155,525	

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 May 1, 1995-96 1/

State	Crop of 1994			Crop of 1995		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1995	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1996	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct
CA	5,600	1,400	25	5,330	1,200	23
CO	25,795	6,100	24	23,808	6,200	26
ID	138,801	39,500	28	131,274	34,500	26
ME	18,375	2,800	15	17,160	2,800	16
MI	12,180	1,200	10	16,500	1,200	7
MN	17,755	4,100	23	20,790	4,500	22
MT	3,200	350	11	2,940	310	11
NE	3,996	310	8	3,680	2/220	
NY	7,805	2/105		7,695	200	3
ND	28,200	4,700	17	25,410	4,500	18
OH	1,348	2/		1,404	2/	
OR	27,514	7,000	25	23,760	3,000	13
PA	3,780	135	4	4,080	180	4
WA	88,920	17,000	19	80,850	11,500	14
WI	25,740	2,800	11	27,135	1,900	7
Total 15 State	409,009	87,500	21	391,816	72,210	18

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

2/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Down 17 Percent

May 1, 1995 stocks totaled 72.2 million cwt, down 17 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago. Stocks made up 18 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, down three percentage points from last year. Disappearance was down 1 percent from last year. Processor usage was up 1 percent. Shrinkage and loss was 2 percent below a year ago.

Processors accounted for 156 million cwt of potatoes from the 1995 crop, up 1 percent from the same period last year and 11 percent above two years ago. April processor usage was 16.8 million cwt, down 10 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through April totaled 320 million cwt of potatoes, down 1 percent from last year but 6 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss was 30.0 million cwt, 2 percent below the 30.7 million cwt lost last year but 5 percent above the losses of two years ago.

Eastern States stored 3.18 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1996, up 5 percent from last year but 16 percent below 1994. Maine's stocks were even with last year. Pennsylvania and New York are virtually finished shipping for the season.

Central States held 12.3 million cwt of potato in storage on May 1, 1996. This is 6 percent below last year but 42 percent above 1994. Wisconsin's stocks are off 32 percent, Nebraska is off 29 percent, and North Dakota is down 4 percent. Michigan's stocks are the same as last year while Minnesota is up 10 percent.

Western States potato stocks totaled 56.7 million cwt in six States, down 21 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks of 34.5 million cwt were down 13 percent from a year ago, making up 60 percent of the Western total. Washington's stocks of 11.5 million cwt and Oregon's stocks of 3.0 million cwt, were off 32 and 57 percent, respectively. Colorado's stocks of 6.2 million cwt were 2 percent above last year. Montana's stocks at the end of their seed season were down 11 percent. California's stocks were off 14 percent.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 8.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 72.2 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 8.6 percent or approximately 6.2 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 14.9 percent or 10.8 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-95) record of differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 4.5 million cwt, ranging from 0.55 million cwt to 11.5 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1985	63,380	96.9	65,380
1986	57,040	95.4	59,790
1987	71,640	102.3	70,030
1988	54,390	91.6	59,355
1989	50,125	98.9	50,675
1990	54,400	86.3	63,040
1991	70,020	101.3	69,110
1992	63,550	84.7	75,040
1993	68,060	92.1	73,860
1994	81,495	93.1	87,500
1995	72,210		

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 December 16, 1996.

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