

Potato Stocks



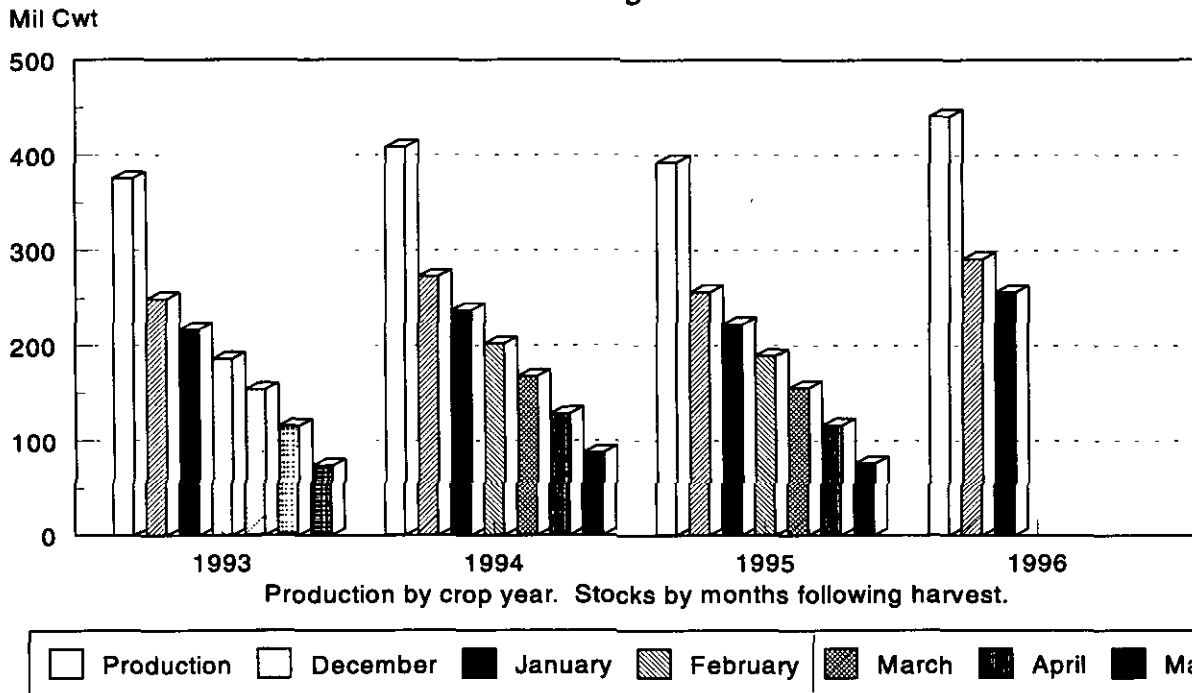
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Potato Stocks Jump 15 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 257 million cwt in the 15 major storage States on January 1, 1997. This is up 15 percent from last year and 8 percent above two years ago. Disappearance of potatoes this season totaled a record 185 million cwt from the start of harvest through December, up 9 percent from last year. Processing plants used 93.1 million cwt of raw product, a gain of 7 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1987-96

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	408,139	272,290	237,960	201,870	168,050	128,360	87,500
1995	392,942	256,310	223,150	188,960	155,720	116,255	76,170
1996	441,083	291,300	256,520				

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1994-96 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							
1995	26,620	34,230	42,330	49,890	57,990	66,680	90,300
1996	27,310	35,040	43,260	51,530	59,060	66,690	89,250
1997	31,060	38,210					
ME 2/							
1995	1,505	1,840	2,265	2,540	2,985	3,330	4,770
1996	1,335	1,690	2,180	2,520	3,025	3,465	5,225
1997	1,400	1,725					
WA & OR - Other							
1995	28,670	33,480	39,120	46,070	52,940	59,540	76,780
1996	30,000	35,170	39,460	45,280	51,730	57,360	70,250
1997	31,650	36,590					
Oth Sts 3/							
1995	8,785	12,070	14,605	17,095	19,840	22,595	32,260
1996	12,450	15,330	18,415	21,485	24,910	28,010	33,305
1997	13,660	16,570					
Total							
1995	65,580	81,620	98,320	115,595	133,755	152,145	204,110
1996	71,095	87,230	103,315	120,815	138,725	155,525	198,030
1997	77,770	93,095					

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, 1996-97

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996			
	Prod	Stocks : Jan 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks : Dec 1, 1996 1/	Stocks : Jan 1, 1997	% of Prod
	-- 1,000 Cwt --		Percent	----- 1,000 Cwt -----			Percent
CA	5,330	3,500	66	4,600	3,600	3,000	65
CO	23,808	16,100	68	28,786	22,800	20,500	71
ID	132,657	85,000	64	139,960	99,000	89,000	64
ME	17,160	12,400	72	21,175	16,900	15,300	72
MI	16,350	8,300	51	13,800	8,000	6,600	48
MN	20,790	11,700	56	24,600	16,500	14,900	61
MT	2,940	2,700	92	3,213	3,050	2,950	92
NE	3,680	2,300	63	4,402	3,160	2,800	64
NY	7,695	2,500	32	7,980	3,700	2,500	31
ND	25,410	14,000	55	28,820	20,000	17,000	59
OH	1,404	150	11	1,275	290	170	13
OR	24,788	14,100	57	31,684	25,000	22,500	71
PA	4,080	1,900	47	4,208	2,800	1,800	43
WA	80,850	35,000	43	94,990	48,000	42,000	44
WI	26,000	13,500	52	31,590	18,500	15,500	49
Total 15 States:	392,942	223,150	57	441,083	291,300	256,520	58

1/ Revised.

Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
11 Major States, January 1, 1996-97

State	Potato Types								
	Reds			Whites			Russets		
	Jan : 1996	Dec : 1996 1/	Jan : 1997	Jan : 1996	Dec : 1996 1/	Jan : 1997	Jan : 1996	Dec : 1996 1/	Jan : 1997
	Percent								
CO	6	6	6				94	94	94
ID				10	10	10	90	90	90
ME	3	3	2	66	61	63	31	36	35
MI		3	1	75	78	75	25	19	24
MN	12	13	14	20	17	18	68	70	68
NY	5	5	5	93	93	93	2	2	2
ND	16	18	19	32	35	32	52	47	49
OR	1	1	1	3	2	2	96	97	97
PA	3	3	3	97	97	97			
WA	1	2	1	3	6	3	96	92	96
WI	2	4	5	27	19	25	71	77	70
US	3	4	3	18	17	17	79	79	80

1/ Revised.

Potato Stocks Up 15 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 257 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1997, up 15 percent from a year earlier and 8 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 58 percent of 1996 fall production up 1 point from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 17 percent white, and 80 percent russet.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to January 1 was a record 185 million cwt of potatoes, up 9 percent from the same period a year ago. Disappearance in December 1996 was 34.8 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 21.1 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year.

Processing gained 7 percent to 93.1 million cwt so far this season and was 14 percent above two years ago. In December, processors used 15.3 million cwt of potatoes, down 5 percent from last year and 4 percent below two years ago.

Eastern States stored 19.6 million cwt of potatoes on January 1, 1997, up 17 percent from a year ago and 23 percent above 1995. Maine's holdings were up 23 percent, New York's storage stayed the same as last year, but Pennsylvania dropped 5 percent.

Central States accounted for 57.0 million cwt of potato stocks this January, 14 percent above 1996 and 17 percent above 1995. Minnesota's stocks gained 27 percent, Nebraska's cellars held 22 percent more, and North Dakota's stocks jumped 21 percent. Wisconsin's stocks were up 15 percent and Ohio gained 13 percent. Michigan's potato storage was off 20 percent from a year ago.

Western States held 180 million cwt of potatoes in storage on January 1, 1997, up 15 percent from a year previous and 4 percent above two years ago. Each of the Western storage States were above last year except California, where stocks dipped 14 percent.

Oregon is up 60 percent, Colorado's storage jumped 27 percent, and Washington stocks increased 20 percent from a year ago. Idaho is up 5 percent. These four States account for 68 percent of U.S. potato stocks, and their combined stocks are 16 percent above last year. Montana's stocks were up 9 percent.

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 257 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.9 percent or approximately 7.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.9 percent or approximately 12.6 million cwt.

The 10-year (1987-96) record of the differences between the January 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 5.6 million cwt, ranging from 0.70 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, 1986-96

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent		1,000 Cwt
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	96.4		237,960
1995	218,970	98.1		223,150
1996	256,520			

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 90.5 percent of the total fall production shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.5 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 3:00 p.m. ET on February 13, 1997.

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