

# Potato Stocks



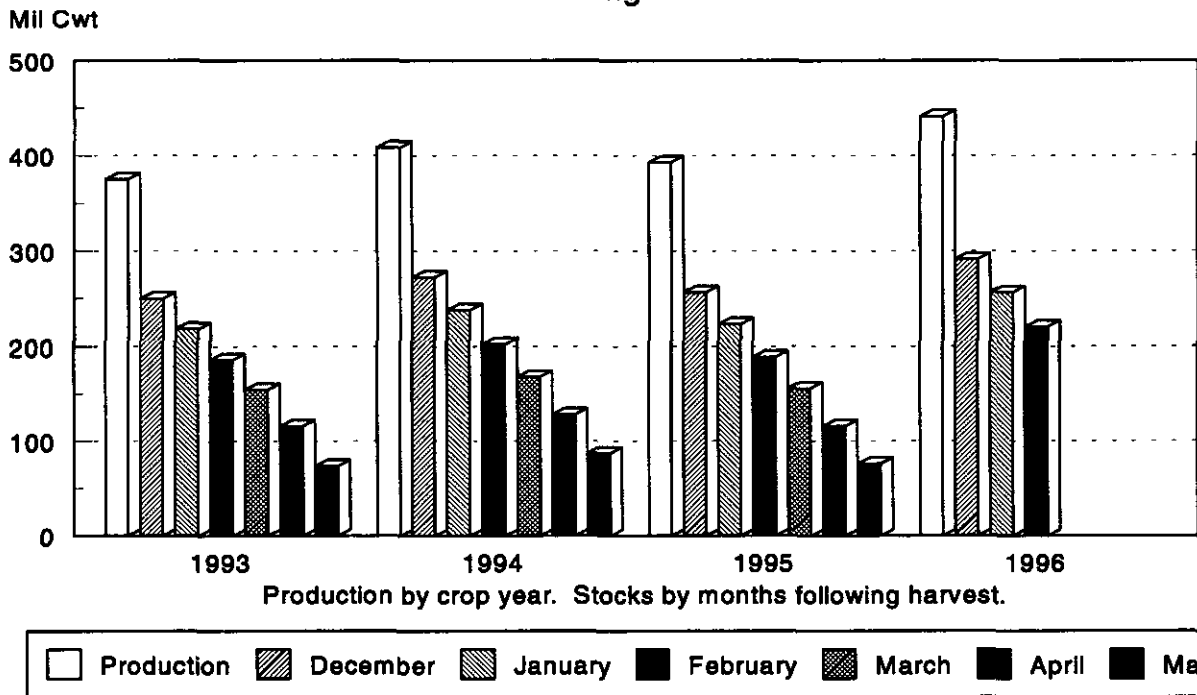
USDA  
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## Potato Stocks 17 Percent Above Last Year

February 1, 1997 potato stocks totaled 220 million cwt, up 17 percent from a year earlier and 9 percent above two years ago. Disappearance was 221 million cwt, 8 percent above a year ago and 7 percent above two years ago. Processing accounted for 109 million cwt through January, 6 percent more than last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss of 23.9 million cwt was up 4 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	220,465			

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							
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	89,250
1996	31,060	38,210	45,420				
ME 2/							
1994	1,505	1,840	2,265	2,540	2,985	3,330	4,770
1995	1,335	1,690	2,180	2,520	3,025	3,465	5,225
1996	1,400	1,725	2,225				
WA & OR - Other							
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	70,250
1996	31,650	36,590	41,690				
Oth Sts 3/							
1994	8,785	12,070	14,605	17,095	19,840	22,595	32,260
1995	12,450	15,330	18,415	21,485	24,910	28,010	33,305
1996	13,660	16,570	20,140				
Total							
1994	65,580	81,620	98,320	115,595	133,755	152,145	204,110
1995	71,095	87,230	103,315	120,815	138,725	155,525	198,030
1996	77,770	93,095	109,475				

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, 1996-97 1/

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 1997	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	5,330	2,800	53	4,600	2,500	54
CO	23,808	13,400	56	28,786	17,900	62
ID	132,657	73,500	55	139,960	78,000	56
ME	17,160	10,400	61	21,175	13,100	62
MI	16,350	6,500	40	13,800	5,100	37
MN	20,790	10,200	49	24,600	13,200	54
MT	2,940	2,600	88	3,213	2,850	89
NE	3,680	2,000	54	4,402	2,440	55
NY	7,695	1,500	19	7,980	1,400	18
ND	25,410	11,500	45	28,820	13,800	48
OH	1,404	60	4	1,275	75	6
OR	24,788	12,300	50	31,684	20,000	63
PA	4,080	1,200	29	4,208	1,100	26
WA	80,850	30,500	38	94,990	36,500	38
WI	26,000	10,500	40	31,590	12,500	40
Total 15 State	392,942	188,960	48	441,083	220,465	50

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

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Percent					
CO	6	6			94	94
ID			10	10	90	90
ME	3	2	66	61	31	37
MI			75	75	25	25
MN	11	14	18	16	71	70
NY	5	5	93	93	2	2
ND	16	16	29	31	55	53
OR	1	1	3	2	96	97
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA	1	1	3	3	96	96
WI	2	5	26	21	72	74
11 State Avg	3	3	17	15	80	82

## Potato Stocks Up 17 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 220 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1997, up 17 percent from a year earlier and 9 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 50 percent of 1996 fall production in the storage States, up two points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent reds, 15 percent whites, and 82 percent russets with more russets and fewer whites than a year ago.

**Disappearance** from the start of harvest to February 1 was 221 million cwt of potatoes, up 8 percent from the same period a year earlier and 7 percent above two years ago. Disappearance during January was 36.1 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year but slightly less than two years ago. Shrink and loss to date was estimated at 23.9 million cwt, up 4 percent from last year.

**Processing** gained 6 percent to 109 million cwt so far this season and was 11 percent above two years ago. In January, processors claimed 16.4 million cwt of potatoes, up 2 percent from last year but 2 percent short of two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 15.6 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1997, up 19 percent from a year ago and 27 percent above 1995. Stocks in Maine were up 26 percent from last year. Pennsylvania's stocks were down 8 percent, while New York's holdings were off 7 percent.

**Central States'** storage accounted for 47.1 million cwt of potatoes this month, up 16 percent from 1996 and 20 percent above 1995. Minnesota's stocks jumped 29 percent, North Dakota's stocks increased 20 percent and Wisconsin's rose 19 percent from last year. Nebraska's stocks increased 22 percent, and Ohio's storage held 25 percent more than a year ago. Michigan's stocks dropped 22 percent.

**Western States** held 158 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1997, 17 percent above a year ago and 5 percent above two years ago. Oregon's stocks were up substantially at 63 percent above last year, and Colorado jumped 34 percent from year-ago levels. Both States were more than 30 percent above two years ago. Washington's stocks were up 20 percent, and Montana's were up 10 percent. Idaho, with about half the Western stocks, was up 6 percent. California's potato stocks were 11 percent below a year ago.

### Reliability of February 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 3.3 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 220 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.3 percent or approximately 7.3 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.7 percent or approximately 12.6 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-97) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 5.2 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, 1986-96

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent		1,000 Cwt
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	97.8		188,960
1996	220,465			

1/ As reported in the September "Potatoes" 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 March 14, 1997.

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