

Potato Stocks



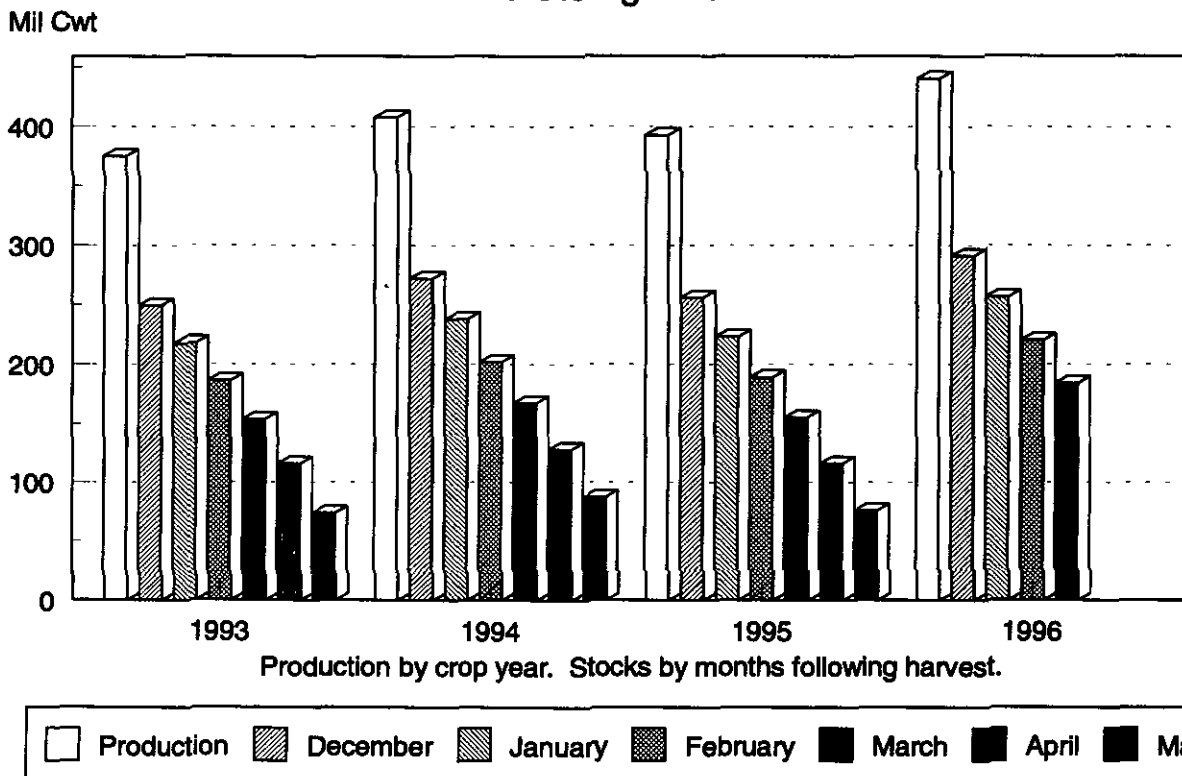
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Potato Stocks Up 19 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 185 million cwt on March 1, 1997, up 19 percent from a year ago and 9 percent above two years ago. Disappearance, at 257 million cwt, was record high, 8 percent above last year and 7 percent above the previous record high from the 1994 crop. Shrink and loss of 26.7 million cwt was up 4 percent from a year ago. Processor usage, at 129 million cwt, was up 7 percent for the season. February processing was up 14 percent from the same month a year earlier.

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	87,395
1995	392,942	256,310	223,150	188,960	155,720	116,255	76,170
1996	441,083	291,300	256,520	220,465	184,565		

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	54,640			
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	2,520			
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	48,740			
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	23,500			
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	129,400			

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, 1996-97 1/

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1997	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	5,330	2,300	43	4,600	2,200	48
CO	23,808	11,200	47	28,786	15,300	53
ID	132,657	62,500	47	139,960	66,000	47
ME	17,160	8,500	50	21,175	11,200	53
MI	16,350	4,800	29	13,800	4,000	29
MN	20,790	8,700	42	24,600	11,500	47
MT	2,940	2,500	85	3,213	2,700	84
NE	3,680	2/1,420		4,402	2/1,915	
NY	7,695	900	12	7,980	900	11
ND	25,410	9,200	36	28,820	11,500	40
OH	1,404	2/		1,275	2/	
OR	24,788	9,900	40	31,684	16,800	53
PA	4,080	800	20	4,208	750	18
WA	80,850	25,000	31	94,990	30,000	32
WI	26,000	8,000	31	31,590	9,800	31
Total 15 State	392,942	155,720	40	441,083	184,565	42

- 1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1997 crop. A total of 30.4 million cwt was used to plant the 1996 crop.
2/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Up 19 Percent

March 1, 1997 potato stocks totaled 185 million cwt, up 19 percent from last year and 9 percent above two years ago. Stocks account for 42 percent of the 1996 fall potato production in the 15 storage States, up two points from a year ago.

Disappearance from harvest through February totaled a record high 257 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. February disappearance of 35.9 million was 8 percent above a year ago. This includes potatoes fed to livestock. Shrinkage and loss to date was 26.7 million cwt, up 4 percent from the 25.6 million cwt lost last year and 2 percent above 26.2 million cwt lost two years ago.

Processors used 129 million cwt to March 1, 1997, up 7 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above two years ago. February processing of 19.9 million cwt of potatoes gained 14 percent on a year ago and 15 percent on the 1994 crop.

Eastern States March 1 storage totaled 12.9 million cwt of potatoes, up 26 percent from last year and 39 percent above 1995. Maine's stocks were up 32 percent from a year ago. New York's stocks were equal to last year and, Pennsylvania's were down 6 percent.

Central States accounted for 38.7 million cwt of potato stocks this March, up 21 percent from last year and 24 percent above two years ago. Minnesota's stocks were up 32 percent from last year, while Nebraska's storage was up 35 percent. North Dakota gained 25 percent and Wisconsin was up 23 percent from a year ago. Michigan's stocks were down 17 percent.

Western States held 133 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1997. This is up 17 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 6 percent and accounted for 50 percent of the Western total. Oregon's stocks were up 70 percent and Washington was 20 percent above a year earlier. Colorado's stocks were up 37 percent from last year and Montana's storage was up 8 percent. California's stocks were down 4 percent.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimate

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.8 percent. This means that chances are two out of three that the current estimate of 185 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.8 percent or approximately 7.0 million cwt. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.6 percent or approximately 12.2 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-1995) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.9 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 nine out of 10 years.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March Stocks,
United States, 1986-96

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt
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		97.2	168,050
1995	152,255		97.8	155,720
1996	184,565			

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 April 14, 1997.

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