

Potato Stocks



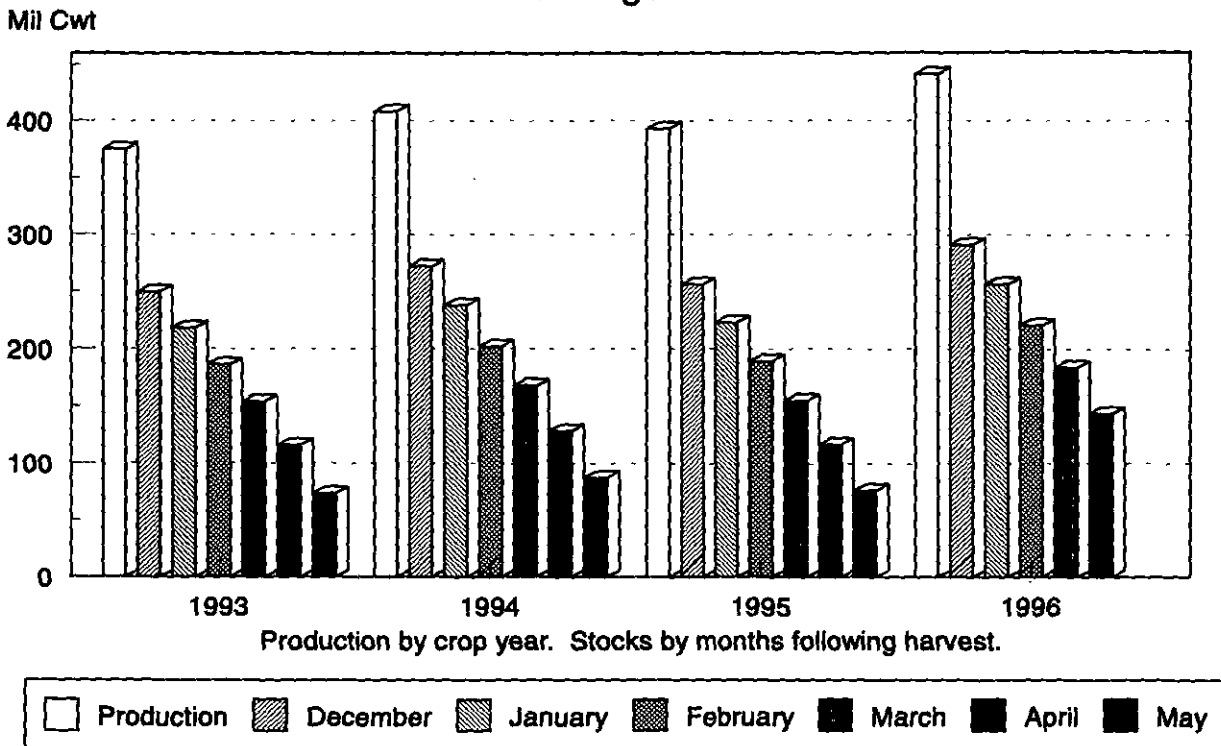
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Potato Stocks Up 23 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 143 million cwt on April 1, 1997, up 23 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Disappearance for the season was a record high 298 million cwt of potatoes, 7 percent above the past two years. Shrinkage and loss of 29.3 million cwt was 5 percent above a year ago. Processors used a record high 148 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent for the season.

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	168,970	128,825	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	184,565	143,235	

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	62,570		
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	3,135		
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	55,570		
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	27,005		
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	148,280		

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, 1996-97 1/

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 1997	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Percent
CA	5,330	1,700	32	4,600	1,700	37
CO	23,808	9,100	38	28,786	12,800	44
ID	132,657	49,500	37	139,960	52,000	37
ME	17,160	5,700	33	21,175	8,400	40
MI	16,350	2,700	17	13,800	2,500	18
MN	20,790	6,800	33	24,600	9,000	37
MT	2,940	1,750	60	3,213	1,900	59
NE	3,680	2/705		4,402	2/1,005	
NY	7,695	400		7,980	350	4
ND	25,410	7,000	28	28,820	9,300	32
OH	1,404	2/		1,275	2/	
OR	24,788	7,500	30	31,684	14,000	44
PA	4,080	400	10	4,208	280	7
WA	80,850	18,000	22	94,990	23,000	24
WI	26,000	5,000	19	31,590	7,000	22
Total 15 State	392,942	116,255	30	441,083	143,235	32

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1997 potatoes. 1996 crop seed usage totaled 30.4 million cwt.

2/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Up 23 Percent

April 1, 1997 **stocks** totaled 143 million cwt, up 23 percent from last year and 11 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 32 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, up two points from a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled a record 298 million cwt, up 7 percent from the last two years. Processor usage was also record high at 148 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 29.3 million cwt, 5 percent above a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest through March totaled 298 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent from the last two years. Shrinkage and loss was 29.3 million cwt, 5 percent above the 27.9 million cwt lost last year and 3 percent above losses two years ago.

Processing continued to move potatoes at a record pace for the season, totaling 148 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent from the same period last year and 11 percent above two years ago. March processor usage was 18.9 million cwt, up 5 percent from a year ago and 4 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 9.03 million cwt of potatoes on April 1, 1997, up 39 percent from last year and 49 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were up 47 percent. New York was down 12 percent, and Pennsylvania was down 30 percent, as their seasons draw to a close.

Central States held 28.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage on April 1, 1997. This is 30 percent above last year and 33 percent higher than two years ago. Wisconsin's stocks were up 40 percent while North Dakota's stocks were up 33 percent from last year. Minnesota's were up 32 percent. Nebraska's stocks were up 43 percent but Michigan's stocks were down 7 percent.

Stocks in the six **Western States** totaled 105 million cwt, up 20 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 5 percent. Washington's stocks gained 28 percent, and Oregon's stocks increased 87 percent. These three States contain 62 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 41 percent. Montana's stocks were up 9 percent, while California equaled a year ago.

Reliability of April 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the April 1 stocks estimate is 5.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 143 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 5.6 percent or approximately 8.0 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 9.7 percent or 13.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-95) record of differences between the April 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 4.7 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 9 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
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	97.1	116,255
1996	143,235		

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 May 14, 1997.

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