

Potato Stocks



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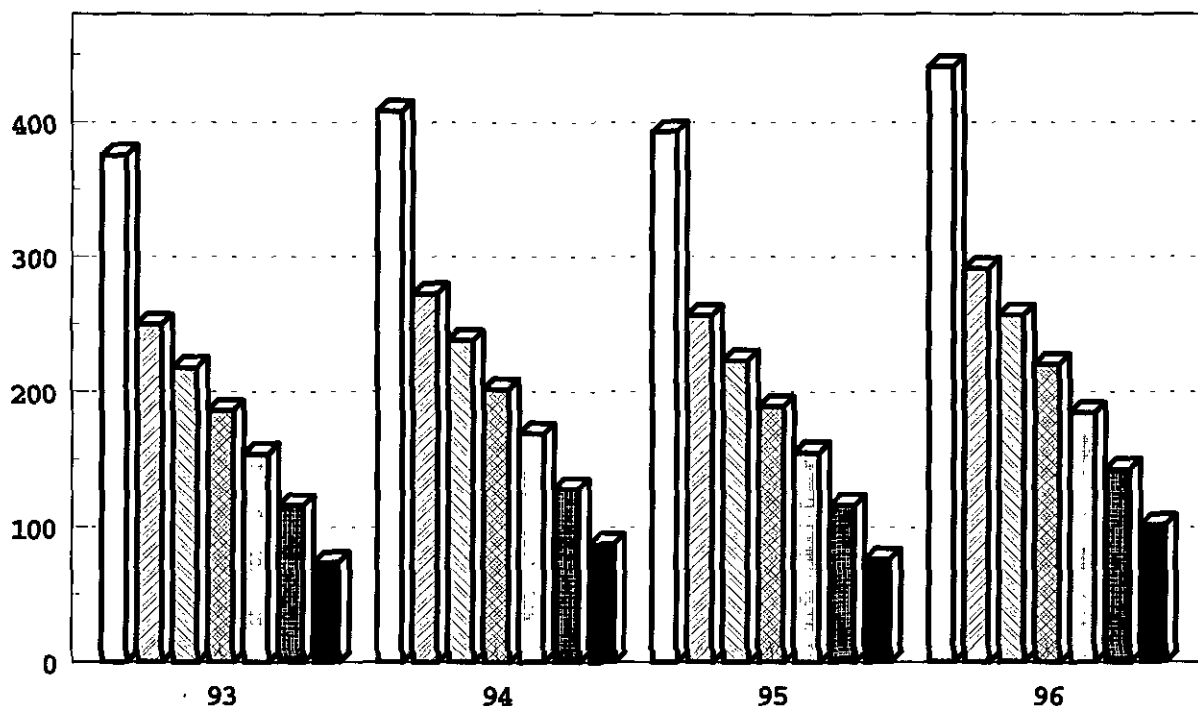
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Potato Stocks Up 32 Percent

Potato stocks totaled 101 million cwt on May 1, 1997, up 32 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Disappearance for the season was a record high 340 million cwt of potatoes, 7 percent above last year and 6 percent above two years ago. Shrinkage and loss of 32.8 million cwt was 9 percent above a year ago. Processors used a record high 166 million cwt of potatoes, up 7 percent for the season.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States

Mil Cwt



Production by crop year. Stocks by month following harvest.



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	100,780

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	70,720	
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	3,720	
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	62,140	
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	29,885	
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	166,465	

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, 1996-97 1/

State	Crop of 1995			Crop of 1996		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1997	% of Prod
	----- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent	----- 1,000 Cwt ---		Percent
CA	5,330	1,100	21	4,600	1,100	24
CO	23,808	6,200	26	28,786	9,800	34
ID	132,657	36,000	27	139,960	38,000	27
ME	17,160	2,800	16	21,175	5,200	25
MI	16,350	1,200	7	13,800	1,300	9
MN	20,790	4,500	22	24,600	6,500	26
MT	2,940	340	12	3,213	220	7
NE	3,680	2/200		4,402	2/390	
NY	7,695	150	2	7,980	160	2
ND	25,410	4,500	18	28,820	6,500	23
OH	1,404	2/		1,275	2/	
OR	24,788	4,500	18	31,684	11,000	35
PA	4,080	180	4	4,208	110	3
WA	80,850	12,500	15	94,990	16,500	17
WI	26,000	2,000	8	31,590	4,000	13
Total 15 State	392,942	76,170	19	441,083	100,780	23

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

2/ Combined to prevent possible disclosure of individual operations.

Potato Stocks Up 32 Percent

May 1, 1997 stocks totaled 101 million cwt, up 32 percent from last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Stocks made up 23 percent of fall potato production in the 15 storage States, up 4 points from a year ago. Season-to-date disappearance totaled a record high 340 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year and 6 percent above two years ago. Processor usage was also record high at 166 million cwt, up 7 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date was 32.8 million cwt, 9 percent above a year ago and 7 percent above losses two years ago.

Processing continued to move potatoes at a record pace for the season. April processor usage was 18.2 million cwt, up 8 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago.

Eastern States stored 5.47 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1997, up 75 percent from last year and 80 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks were up 86 percent. New York was up 7 percent. Pennsylvania was down 39 percent.

Central States held 18.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 1997. This is 51 percent above last year and 43 percent higher than two years ago. Wisconsin's stocks were doubled, while North Dakota's and Minnesota's stocks were up 44 percent from last year. Nebraska's stocks were up 95 percent, and Michigan's stocks were up 8 percent.

Western States potato stocks totaled 76.6 million cwt in six States, up 26 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. Idaho's stocks were up 6 percent. Washington's stocks gained 32 percent, and Oregon's stocks were more than double last year's level. These three States contain 65 percent of U.S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 58 percent. Montana's stocks were down 35 percent, while California equaled a year ago.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 7.7 percent. This means that chances are two out of three that the current estimate of 101 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.7 percent or approximately 7.8 million cwt. Chances are nine out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 13.3 percent or 13.4 million cwt.

The 10-year (1986-95) record of differences between the May 1 stocks estimate and the final estimates averaged 4.2 million cwt, ranging from 0.6 million cwt to 11.5 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate eight out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	%	of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt
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		94.8	76,170
1996	100,780			

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 December 16, 1997.

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