

# Potato Stocks



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

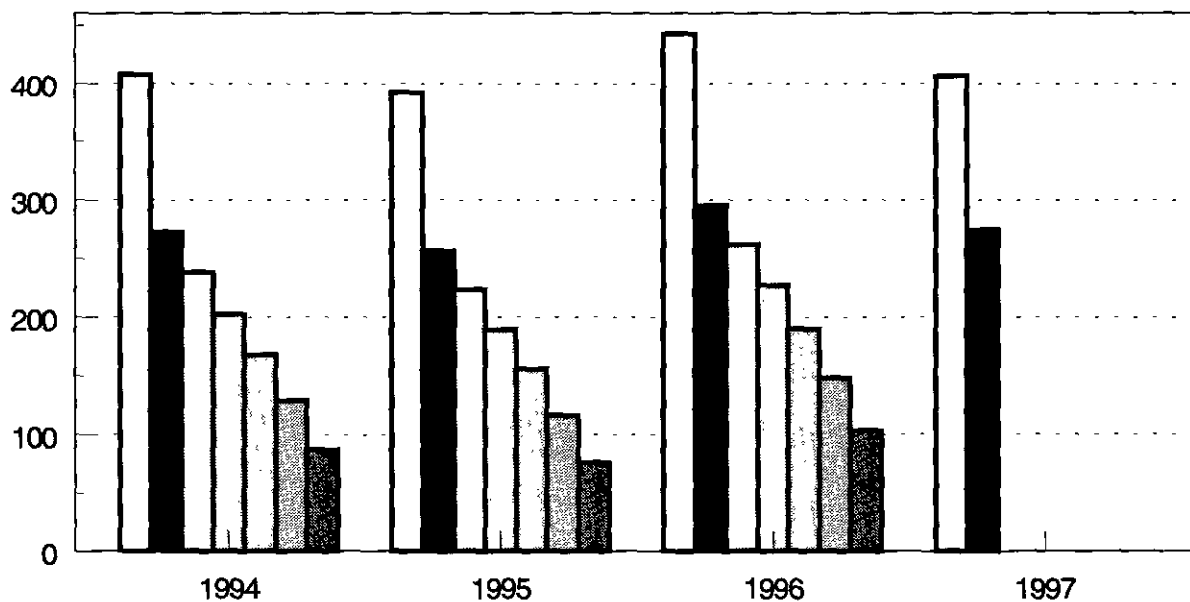
Released December 16, 1997, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Potato Stocks" call Arvin Budge at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent, Fall Production Off 8 Percent

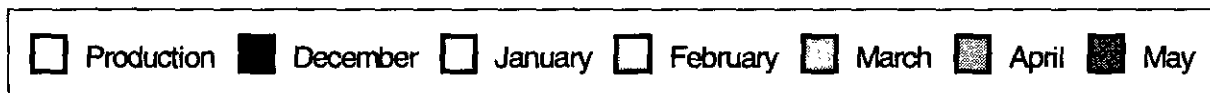
Production of fall potatoes is estimated at 417 million cwt in 1997, down 8 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above 1995. December 1 stocks, at 274 million cwt in the 15 storage States, are down 7 percent from last year but 7 percent above 1995. Disappearance in the 15 storage States this year is down 10 percent, with processing off 13 percent.

## Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States

Mil Cwt



Production by crop year. Stocks by months following harvest.



Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1988-97

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	442,752	295,100	262,120	227,080	189,410	147,885	102,810
1997	406,964	274,250					

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 8 States, 1995-97 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	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	96,970
1997	26,880						
ME 2/							
1995	1,455	1,850	2,430	2,850	3,435	3,965	5,725
1996	1,790	2,115	2,820	3,280	3,820	4,420	6,495
1997	1,245						
WA & OR - Other							
1995	30,000	35,170	39,460	45,280	51,730	57,360	70,250
1996	31,670	36,660	41,700	48,740	55,570	62,320	80,970
1997	28,580						
Oth Sts 3/							
1995	12,650	15,630	18,815	21,985	25,510	28,610	33,580
1996	13,660	16,570	20,140	23,510	26,990	29,890	40,275
1997	11,335						
Total							
1995	71,415	87,690	103,965	121,645	139,735	156,625	198,805
1996	78,180	93,555	110,080	130,170	148,950	167,350	224,710
1997	68,040						

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, 15 Major States,  
on December 1, 1996-97

State	Crop of 1996			Crop of 1997		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1997	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct	---- 1,000 Cwt ---		Pct
CA	4,600	3,500	76	4,200	3,400	81
CO	29,175	23,100	79	25,377	19,900	78
ID	142,800	102,000	71	135,430	97,000	72
ME	21,175	16,900	80	19,170	15,600	81
MI	13,800	8,000	58	14,250	8,500	60
MN	24,600	16,500	67	20,440	13,500	66
MT	3,213	3,050	95	3,328	3,180	96
NE	4,402	3,160	72	7,431	5,580	75
NY	7,980	3,700	46	8,408	4,000	48
ND	28,820	20,500	71	21,525	16,000	74
OH	1,275	290	23	1,175	290	25
OR	30,124	23,600	78	27,057	21,500	79
PA	4,208	2,800	67	3,190	1,600	50
WA	94,990	48,000	51	88,060	47,000	53
WI	31,590	20,000	63	27,923	17,200	62
Total 15 State	442,752	295,100	67	406,964	274,250	67

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

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Percent					
CO	6	5		2	94	93
ID			10	8	90	92
ME	3	4	61	59	36	37
MI	3	1	78	72	19	27
MN	13	12	17	13	70	75
NY	5	5	93	93	2	2
ND	18	12	35	24	47	64
OR	1	1	2	3	97	96
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA	2	1	6	7	92	92
WI	3	3	17	19	80	78
11 State Avg	4	3	17	16	79	81

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1995-97

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres					
CA	13.0	11.5	10.5	13.0	11.5	10.5
CO	77.0	78.0	77.0	76.8	77.8	76.9
ID	400.0	415.0	390.0	398.0	413.0	388.0
10 SW Co	27.0	28.0	27.0	27.0	28.0	27.0
Other ID	373.0	387.0	363.0	371.0	385.0	361.0
IN	5.0	5.7	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.9
ME	78.0	78.0	71.0	78.0	77.0	71.0
MA	3.3	2.7	2.7	3.3	2.6	2.7
MI	55.0	52.0	47.5	54.5	46.0	47.5
MN	83.0	85.0	77.0	77.0	82.0	73.0
MT	9.8	10.4	10.4	9.8	10.2	10.4
NE	12.0	12.7	19.6	11.5	12.4	19.3
NV	7.6	8.0	7.0	7.6	7.9	6.9
NM	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3
NY	29.0	29.0	30.0	28.5	28.5	29.5
ND	125.0	134.0	125.0	121.0	131.0	105.0
OH	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.0
OR	54.0	62.0	54.5	53.2	61.0	53.5
Malheur	13.0	13.6	11.0	12.8	13.3	10.9
Other OR	41.0	48.4	43.5	40.4	47.7	42.6
PA	18.0	17.0	15.0	17.0	16.5	14.5
RI	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
SD	6.0	5.0	4.5	5.2	4.8	4.2
UT	5.2	4.3	3.1	5.1	4.2	3.1
WA	147.0	163.0	148.0	147.0	161.0	148.0
WI	82.0	83.0	78.0	80.0	81.0	76.5
WY	1.5	0.9	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.5
Total	1,224.1	1,269.9	1,189.0	1,205.2	1,246.7	1,158.0

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1995-97

State	Yield			Production		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
CA	410	400	400	5,330	4,600	4,200
CO	310	375	330	23,808	29,175	25,377
ID	333	346	349	132,657	142,800	135,430
10 SW Co	420	425	470	11,340	11,900	12,690
Other ID	327	340	340	121,317	130,900	122,740
IN	260	260	270	1,196	1,352	1,323
ME	220	275	270	17,160	21,175	19,170
MA	260	260	250	858	676	675
MI	300	300	300	16,350	13,800	14,250
MN	270	300	280	20,790	24,600	20,440
MT	300	315	320	2,940	3,213	3,328
NE	320	355	385	3,680	4,402	7,431
NV	365	400	430	2,774	3,160	2,967
NM	380	400	420	2,394	2,560	2,646
NY	270	280	285	7,695	7,980	8,408
ND	210	220	205	25,410	28,820	21,525
OH	260	250	235	1,404	1,275	1,175
OR	466	494	506	24,788	30,124	27,057
Malheur	390	400	450	4,992	5,320	4,905
Other OR	490	520	520	19,796	24,804	22,152
PA	240	255	220	4,080	4,208	3,190
RI	270	240	265	243	192	208
SD	190	280	250	988	1,344	1,050
UT	240	280	295	1,224	1,176	915
WA	550	590	595	80,850	94,990	88,060
WI	325	390	365	26,000	31,590	27,923
WY	260	280	280	390	224	140
Total	334	364	360	403,009	453,436	416,888

1997 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 7 major fall producing States in 1997. These 7 States account for 83 percent of the 1997 fall potato production. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements

Sample data from the objective yield surveys presented in the following tables are not Agricultural Statistics Board official estimates. They are provided only to show current information about the crop and trends in potato production practices.

Potatoes: Harvest Loss of Potatoes by Type, 7 Major States, 1996-97 1/

State and Year	Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
Cwt per Acre				
ID 1996		16	31	28
1997		14	28	28
ME 1996	7	15	19	16
1997	13	11	18	14
MN 1996	11		21	22
1997	10	9	32	27
ND 1996	26	26	30	27
1997	12	19	43	25
OR 1996		43	25	29
1997		14	16	15
WA 1996		27	30	30
1997		15	24	23
WI 1996	8	24	22	20
1997	20	27	19	20

1/ Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post-harvest samples.

Potatoes: Average Number of Hills per Acre by Type, 1996-97 1/

State and Year	Reds		Whites		Russets		
	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	
ID	1996		36	13,032	235	12,224	
	1997		27	13,998	262	11,953	
ME	1996	9	14,923	105	13,547	50	9,739
	1997	6	15,551	92	13,896	48	9,289
MN	1996	33	11,480	11	10,859	59	13,170
	1997	26	11,799	16	11,142	67	12,440
ND	1996	29	7,690	71	9,981	62	11,368
	1997	28	10,198	33	10,075	37	11,424
OR	1996	2	11,636	53	13,474	108	14,557
	1997			39	12,926	124	13,626
WA	1996	4	12,147	24	13,809	119	14,119
	1997	4	16,442	15	14,734	147	13,868
WI	1996	14	13,684	31	13,372	76	12,435
	1997	17	12,810	26	13,147	104	12,626

1/ Based on row measurements and counts in potato field selected for objective yield samples.

### Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 274 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1997, down 7 percent from last year but 7 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 67 percent of 1997 fall production, the same as last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 16 percent white, and 81 percent russet; more russets and fewer reds and whites are in storage than a year ago.

**Disappearance** in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1 was 133 million cwt of potatoes, down 10 percent from the same period in 1996 and 3 percent less than 1995. Shrink and loss so far was estimated at 15.9 million cwt, down 14 percent from the 18.5 million cwt lost in 1996 and 9 percent below the 17.4 million cwt lost from the 1995 crop.

**Processing** of 1997 potatoes totaled 68.0 million cwt used so far this season. This is down 13 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 21.2 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, down 9 percent from last year but 8 percent above 1995. Maine's stocks were down 8 percent, Pennsylvania's stocks fell 43 percent, but New York's storage gained 8 percent.

**Central States** accounted for 61.1 million cwt of potato stocks this December, down 11 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. Minnesota's stocks were down 18 percent, North Dakota dropped 22 percent, and Wisconsin's stocks were down 14 percent. Nebraska's storage jumped 77 percent, while Michigan gained 6 percent over last year.

**Western States** held 192 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 6 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Montana was alone among Western States with an increase in storage over last year. Colorado was down 14 percent, Oregon's storage was off 9 percent, Idaho's storage decreased 5 percent, California dropped 3 percent, and Washington stored 2 percent fewer potatoes than last year.



### Fall Potato Production Down 8 Percent

Production of **fall potatoes** in 1997 is estimated at 417 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. The December 1 forecast is down less than 1 percent from the November forecast. Area harvested, at 1.16 million acres, is off 7 percent from last year and 4 percent short of 1995. The average yield is estimated at 360 cwt per acre, down 4 cwt from last year but 26 cwt above two years ago.

**Total U.S.** potato production from all four seasons was 459 million cwt in 1997, a downturn of 8 percent from a year earlier but 3 percent above 1995.

**Five Eastern States** produced 31.7 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1997, down 8 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Potatoes were harvested from 118,500 acres, a decline of 5 percent from last year. The average yield of 267 cwt per acre was down 6 cwt from last year. Maine growers produced 19.2 million cwt, 10 percent less than last year. Both acreage and yield were down. Pennsylvania's production dropped 24 percent, while New York's output gained 5 percent over a year ago. The Massachusetts potato crop was fractionally smaller than last year, but Rhode Island gained 8 percent.

**Eight Central States'** production is forecast at 95.1 million cwt this year, down 11 percent from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 335,400 acres, off 9 percent from last year. The average yield of 284 cwt per acre was down 8 cwt from last year. Nebraska's production jumped 69 percent with increased acreage and yield gains. Michigan's production gained 3 percent over last year's rain damaged crop. The rest of the Central States had smaller crops. North Dakota's production dropped 25 percent, South Dakota's production fell 22 percent, Minnesota's output slipped 17 percent, and Wisconsin potatoes were off 12 percent from their levels of a year ago. Ohio dropped 8 percent, and Indiana slipped 2 percent.

**Ten Western States** produced 290 million cwt in 1997, down 7 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Acreage for harvest, at 704,100 acres, was down 7 percent, while the average yield of 412 cwt per acre was off 2 cwt from a year ago. Lower harvested acreage from last year dropped total production in most Western States below last year's levels. However, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah all had record high yields. Production in Idaho was down 5 percent, Oregon was off 10 percent, and Washington dropped 7 percent. Colorado was down 13 percent, with declines in both acreage and yield. Wyoming's production fell 38 percent, Utah potatoes declined 22 percent, California dropped 9 percent, and Nevada declined 6 percent. Montana registered a 4 percent increase in potato production over last year, and New Mexico gained 3 percent.

Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 274 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 7.1 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.4 percent or approximately 12.1 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year (1987-96) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 4.9 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate each year. Production estimates have been below the final 8 years and above 2 years.

Reliability of December 1 Fall Potato Estimates

Estimate	Root Mean Square Error		Ten Year Record of Difference Between Dec 1 and Final Estimate					
	: 90% Confidence Level	: Percent	: Quantity	: Avg	: Small	: Large	: Below Final	: Above Final
	----- Million Cwt -----							
Stocks	: 2.6	4.4	12.07	6.09	0.65	14.50	10	0
Production	: 1.7	3.0	12.51	4.90	0.05	13.46	8	2

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December Stocks,  
United States, 1987-97

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1986	223,720	99.0	225,890
1987	198,520	96.2	206,420
1988	201,400	99.7	202,050
1989	217,300	96.4	225,500
1990	240,660	99.4	242,070
1991	232,320	94.1	246,820
1992	240,370	96.3	249,710
1993	264,090	97.0	272,290
1994	252,030	98.3	256,310
1995	291,650	98.8	295,100
1996	274,250		

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 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.

Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,  
United States, 1992-97

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes				Amount Used	
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	All Seasons Following year
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1992	379,525	341,209	89.9	38,316	10.1	28,275
1993	385,935	351,161	91.0	34,774	9.0	29,031
1994	419,645	382,333	91.2	41,312	9.8	29,348
1995	403,009	368,946	91.5	34,063	8.5	30,582
1996	453,436	407,326	89.8	46,110	10.2	28,941
1997	416,888					

Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 States and Fall Season, 1994-97

State and Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Seed	Farm Disposition		
				Where Grown	Shrinkage	Sold
				Seed, Feed, Home Use	and	Loss
				1,000 Cwt		
CA 1994	5,600	4,200	286	60	500	5,040
1995	5,330	4,000	242	10	460	4,860
1996	4,600	3,500	200	23	472	4,105
1997	4,200	3,400				
CO 1994	25,795	18,900	1,925	1,210	2,040	22,545
1995	23,808	18,200	1,950	1,285	2,048	20,475
1996	29,175	23,100	1,925	1,485	3,975	23,715
1997	25,377	19,900				
ID 1994	138,801	100,500	8,400	1,535	9,659	127,607
1995	132,657	96,000	8,700	1,785	8,920	121,952
1996	142,800	102,000	8,400	1,500	10,100	131,200
1997	135,430	97,000				
ME 1994	18,375	13,400	1,716	525	2,850	15,000
1995	17,160	13,800	1,716	420	1,025	15,715
1996	21,175	16,900	1,628	395	1,800	18,980
1997	19,170	15,600				
MI 1994	11,310	8,000	963	174	1,350	9,786
1995	16,350	9,600	962	168	690	15,492
1996	13,800	8,000	784	300	1,300	12,200
1997	14,250	8,500				
MN 1994	17,755	12,500	1,693	458	1,668	15,629
1995	20,790	13,500	1,573	346	1,757	18,687
1996	24,600	16,500	1,383	445	4,158	19,997
1997	20,440	13,500				
MT 1994	3,200	3,040	216	142	192	2,866
1995	2,940	2,800	239	128	147	2,665
1996	3,213	3,050	239	137	221	2,855
1997	3,328	3,180				
NE 1994	3,996	2,300	300	217	311	3,468
1995	3,680	2,600	292	187	284	3,209
1996	4,402	3,160	449	169	439	3,794
1997	7,431	5,580				

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Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 States and Fall Season, 1994-97 (continued)

State and Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Seed	Farm Disposition		
				Where Grown	Shrinkage	Sold
				Seed, Feed, Home Use		
1,000 Cwt						
NY 1994	7,805	4,200	648	131	417	7,257
1995	7,695	3,400	648	155	290	7,250
1996	7,980	3,700	660	140	370	7,470
1997	8,408	4,000				
ND 1994	28,200	19,300	2,125	335	4,365	23,500
1995	25,410	17,000	2,211	280	2,800	22,330
1996	28,820	20,500	2,188	360	5,270	23,190
1997	21,525	16,000				
OH 1994	1,348	350	110	22	11	1,315
1995	1,404	310	107	4	10	1,390
1996	1,275	290	105	5	35	1,235
1997	1,175	290				
OR 1994	27,514	20,300	1,242	222	2,055	25,237
1995	24,788	17,200	1,475	148	1,450	23,190
1996	30,124	23,600	1,357	305	2,560	27,259
1997	27,057	21,500				
PA 1994	3,780	2,200	342	17	362	3,401
1995	4,080	2,400	323	20	102	3,958
1996	4,208	2,800	361	83	325	3,800
1997	3,190	1,600				
WA 1994	88,920	47,500	3,528	300	7,000	81,620
1995	80,850	39,500	3,912	300	6,400	74,150
1996	94,990	48,000	3,552	300	6,800	87,890
1997	88,060	47,000				
WI 1994	25,740	15,600	1,640	257	1,802	23,681
1995	26,000	16,000	1,743	288	1,250	24,462
1996	31,590	20,000	1,560	305	1,360	29,925
1997	27,923	17,200				
15 Sts						
1994	408,139	272,290	25,134	5,605	34,582	367,952
1995	392,942	256,310	26,093	5,524	27,633	359,785
1996	442,752	295,100	24,791	5,952	39,185	397,615
1997	406,964	274,250				
23 Fall Sts						
1994	419,645		25,872	5,671	35,641	378,333
1995	403,009		26,813	5,559	28,504	368,946
1996	453,436		25,444	6,054	40,056	407,326
1997	416,888					

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on January 13, 1998.

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# Potato Stocks



USDA  
Washington, D.C.

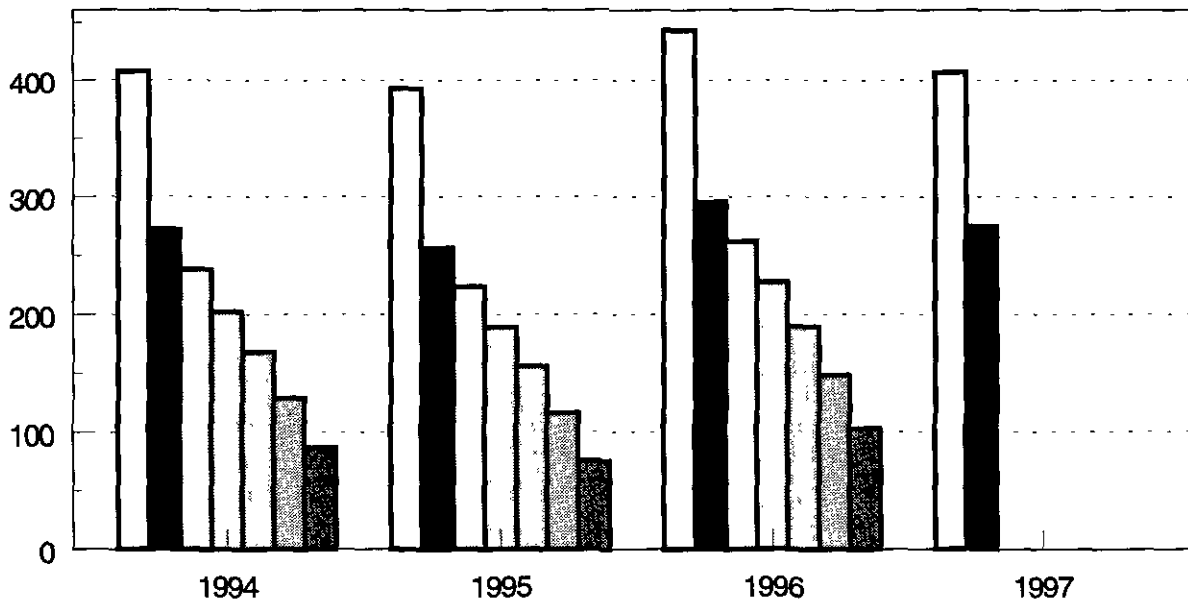
Released December 16, 1997, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Potato Stocks" call Arvin Budge at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent, Fall Production Off 8 Percent

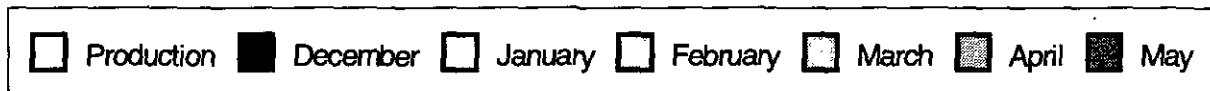
Production of fall potatoes is estimated at 417 million cwt in 1997, down 8 percent from a year ago but 3 percent above 1995. December 1 stocks, at 274 million cwt in the 15 storage States, are down 7 percent from last year but 7 percent above 1995. Disappearance in the 15 storage States this year is down 10 percent, with processing off 13 percent.

## Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States

Mil Cwt



Production by crop year. Stocks by months following harvest.





Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1988-97

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
1,000 Cwt							
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	442,752	295,100	262,120	227,080	189,410	147,885	102,810
1997	406,964	274,250					

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 8 States, 1995-97 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	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	96,970
1997	26,880						
ME 2/							
1995	1,455	1,850	2,430	2,850	3,435	3,965	5,725
1996	1,790	2,115	2,820	3,280	3,820	4,420	6,495
1997	1,245						
WA & OR - Other							
1995	30,000	35,170	39,460	45,280	51,730	57,360	70,250
1996	31,670	36,660	41,700	48,740	55,570	62,320	80,970
1997	28,580						
Oth Sts 3/							
1995	12,650	15,630	18,815	21,985	25,510	28,610	33,580
1996	13,660	16,570	20,140	23,510	26,990	29,890	40,275
1997	11,335						
Total							
1995	71,415	87,690	103,965	121,645	139,735	156,625	198,805
1996	78,180	93,555	110,080	130,170	148,950	167,350	224,710
1997	68,040						

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, 15 Major States,  
on December 1, 1996-97

State	Crop of 1996			Crop of 1997		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1996	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1997	% of Prod
	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Pct	---- 1,000 Cwt ----		Pct
CA	4,600	3,500	76	4,200	3,400	81
CO	29,175	23,100	79	25,377	19,900	78
ID	142,800	102,000	71	135,430	97,000	72
ME	21,175	16,900	80	19,170	15,600	81
MI	13,800	8,000	58	14,250	8,500	60
MN	24,600	16,500	67	20,440	13,500	66
MT	3,213	3,050	95	3,328	3,180	96
NE	4,402	3,160	72	7,431	5,580	75
NY	7,980	3,700	46	8,408	4,000	48
ND	28,820	20,500	71	21,525	16,000	74
OH	1,275	290	23	1,175	290	25
OR	30,124	23,600	78	27,057	21,500	79
PA	4,208	2,800	67	3,190	1,600	50
WA	94,990	48,000	51	88,060	47,000	53
WI	31,590	20,000	63	27,923	17,200	62
Total 15 State	442,752	295,100	67	406,964	274,250	67

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

State	Potato Types					
	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	1996	1997	1996	1997	1996	1997
	Percent					
CO	6	5		2	94	93
ID			10	8	90	92
ME	3	4	61	59	36	37
MI	3	1	78	72	19	27
MN	13	12	17	13	70	75
NY	5	5	93	93	2	2
ND	18	12	35	24	47	64
OR	1	1	2	3	97	96
PA	3	3	97	97		
WA	2	1	6	7	92	92
WI	3	3	17	19	80	78
11 State Avg	4	3	17	16	79	81

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1995-97

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	1,000 Acres					
CA	13.0	11.5	10.5	13.0	11.5	10.5
CO	77.0	78.0	77.0	76.8	77.8	76.9
ID	400.0	415.0	390.0	398.0	413.0	388.0
10 SW Co	27.0	28.0	27.0	27.0	28.0	27.0
Other ID	373.0	387.0	363.0	371.0	385.0	361.0
IN	5.0	5.7	5.3	4.6	5.2	4.9
ME	78.0	78.0	71.0	78.0	77.0	71.0
MA	3.3	2.7	2.7	3.3	2.6	2.7
MI	55.0	52.0	47.5	54.5	46.0	47.5
MN	83.0	85.0	77.0	77.0	82.0	73.0
MT	9.8	10.4	10.4	9.8	10.2	10.4
NE	12.0	12.7	19.6	11.5	12.4	19.3
NV	7.6	8.0	7.0	7.6	7.9	6.9
NM	6.3	6.7	6.3	6.3	6.4	6.3
NY	29.0	29.0	30.0	28.5	28.5	29.5
ND	125.0	134.0	125.0	121.0	131.0	105.0
OH	5.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.1	5.0
OR	54.0	62.0	54.5	53.2	61.0	53.5
Malheur	13.0	13.6	11.0	12.8	13.3	10.9
Other OR	41.0	48.4	43.5	40.4	47.7	42.6
PA	18.0	17.0	15.0	17.0	16.5	14.5
RI	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
SD	6.0	5.0	4.5	5.2	4.8	4.2
UT	5.2	4.3	3.1	5.1	4.2	3.1
WA	147.0	163.0	148.0	147.0	161.0	148.0
WI	82.0	83.0	78.0	80.0	81.0	76.5
WY	1.5	0.9	0.5	1.5	0.8	0.5
Total	1,224.1	1,269.9	1,189.0	1,205.2	1,246.7	1,158.0

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1995-97

State	Yield			Production		
	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
	Cwt			1,000 Cwt		
CA	410	400	400	5,330	4,600	4,200
CO	310	375	330	23,808	29,175	25,377
ID	333	346	349	132,657	142,800	135,430
10 SW Co	420	425	470	11,340	11,900	12,690
Other ID	327	340	340	121,317	130,900	122,740
IN	260	260	270	1,196	1,352	1,323
ME	220	275	270	17,160	21,175	19,170
MA	260	260	250	858	676	675
MI	300	300	300	16,350	13,800	14,250
MN	270	300	280	20,790	24,600	20,440
MT	300	315	320	2,940	3,213	3,328
NE	320	355	385	3,680	4,402	7,431
NV	365	400	430	2,774	3,160	2,967
NM	380	400	420	2,394	2,560	2,646
NY	270	280	285	7,695	7,980	8,408
ND	210	220	205	25,410	28,820	21,525
OH	260	250	235	1,404	1,275	1,175
OR	466	494	506	24,788	30,124	27,057
Malheur	390	400	450	4,992	5,320	4,905
Other OR	490	520	520	19,796	24,804	22,152
PA	240	255	220	4,080	4,208	3,190
RI	270	240	265	243	192	208
SD	190	280	250	988	1,344	1,050
UT	240	280	295	1,224	1,176	915
WA	550	590	595	80,850	94,990	88,060
WI	325	390	365	26,000	31,590	27,923
WY	260	280	280	390	224	140
Total	334	364	360	403,009	453,436	416,888

1997 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 7 major fall producing States in 1997. These 7 States account for 83 percent of the 1997 fall potato production. Sample plots were located in potato fields that were selected on a random basis using a scientifically designed sampling procedure. Field workers recorded counts and measurements

Sample data from the objective yield surveys presented in the following tables are not Agricultural Statistics Board official estimates. They are provided only to show current information about the crop and trends in potato production practices.

Potatoes: Harvest Loss of Potatoes by Type, 7 Major States, 1996-97 1/

State		Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
and					
Year					
Cwt per Acre					
ID	1996		16	31	28
	1997		14	28	28
ME	1996	7	15	19	16
	1997	13	11	18	14
MN	1996	11		21	22
	1997	10	9	32	27
ND	1996	26	26	30	27
	1997	12	19	43	25
OR	1996		43	25	29
	1997		14	16	15
WA	1996		27	30	30
	1997		15	24	23
WI	1996	8	24	22	20
	1997	20	27	19	20

1/ Potatoes left in the field at time of harvest. Based on counts in potato fields selected for post-harvest samples.

Potatoes: Average Number of Hills per Acre by Type, 1996-97 1/

State and Year	Reds		Whites		Russets	
	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. of Hills per Acre
ID	1996		36	13,032	235	12,224
	1997		27	13,998	262	11,953
ME	1996	9	14,923	105	13,547	9,739
	1997	6	15,551	92	13,896	9,289
MN	1996	33	11,480	11	10,859	13,170
	1997	26	11,799	16	11,142	12,440
ND	1996	29	7,690	71	9,981	11,368
	1997	28	10,198	33	10,075	11,424
OR	1996	2	11,636	53	13,474	14,557
	1997			39	12,926	13,626
WA	1996	4	12,147	24	13,809	14,119
	1997	4	16,442	15	14,734	13,868
WI	1996	14	13,684	31	13,372	12,435
	1997	17	12,810	26	13,147	12,626

1/ Based on row measurements and counts in potato field selected for objective yield samples.

### Potato Stocks Down 7 Percent

The **15 major potato States** held 274 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 1997, down 7 percent from last year but 7 percent above 1995. Storage accounted for 67 percent of 1997 fall production, the same as last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 16 percent white, and 81 percent russet; more russets and fewer reds and whites are in storage than a year ago.

**Disappearance** in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1 was 133 million cwt of potatoes, down 10 percent from the same period in 1996 and 3 percent less than 1995. Shrink and loss so far was estimated at 15.9 million cwt, down 14 percent from the 18.5 million cwt lost in 1996 and 9 percent below the 17.4 million cwt lost from the 1995 crop.

**Processing** of 1997 potatoes totaled 68.0 million cwt used so far this season. This is down 13 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 21.2 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, down 9 percent from last year but 8 percent above 1995. Maine's stocks were down 8 percent, Pennsylvania's stocks fell 43 percent, but New York's storage gained 8 percent.

**Central States** accounted for 61.1 million cwt of potato stocks this December, down 11 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. Minnesota's stocks were down 18 percent, North Dakota dropped 22 percent, and Wisconsin's stocks were down 14 percent. Nebraska's storage jumped 77 percent, while Michigan gained 6 percent over last year.

**Western States** held 192 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, down 6 percent from a year ago but 8 percent above two years ago. Montana was alone among Western States with an increase in storage over last year. Colorado was down 14 percent, Oregon's storage was off 9 percent, Idaho's storage decreased 5 percent, California dropped 3 percent, and Washington stored 2 percent fewer potatoes than last year.

### Fall Potato Production Down 8 Percent

Production of **fall potatoes** in 1997 is estimated at 417 million cwt, down 8 percent from last year but 3 percent above two years ago. The December 1 forecast is down less than 1 percent from the November forecast. Area harvested, at 1.16 million acres, is off 7 percent from last year and 4 percent short of 1995. The average yield is estimated at 360 cwt per acre, down 4 cwt from last year but 26 cwt above two years ago.

**Total** U.S. potato production from all four seasons was 459 million cwt in 1997, a downturn of 8 percent from a year earlier but 3 percent above 1995.

**Five Eastern States** produced 31.7 million cwt of fall potatoes in 1997, down 8 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Potatoes were harvested from 118,500 acres, a decline of 5 percent from last year. The average yield of 267 cwt per acre was down 6 cwt from last year. Maine growers produced 19.2 million cwt, 10 percent less than last year. Both acreage and yield were down. Pennsylvania's production dropped 24 percent, while New York's output gained 5 percent over a year ago. The Massachusetts potato crop was fractionally smaller than last year, but Rhode Island gained 8 percent.

**Eight Central States'** production is forecast at 95.1 million cwt this year, down 11 percent from last year. Harvested area is estimated at 335,400 acres, off 9 percent from last year. The average yield of 284 cwt per acre was down 8 cwt from last year. Nebraska's production jumped 69 percent with increased acreage and yield gains. Michigan's production gained 3 percent over last year's rain damaged crop. The rest of the Central States had smaller crops. North Dakota's production dropped 25 percent, South Dakota's production fell 22 percent, Minnesota's output slipped 17 percent, and Wisconsin potatoes were off 12 percent from their levels of a year ago. Ohio dropped 8 percent, and Indiana slipped 2 percent.

**Ten Western States** produced 290 million cwt in 1997, down 7 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago. Acreage for harvest, at 704,100 acres, was down 7 percent, while the average yield of 412 cwt per acre was off 2 cwt from a year ago. Lower harvested acreage from last year dropped total production in most Western States below last year's levels. However, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah all had record high yields. Production in Idaho was down 5 percent, Oregon was off 10 percent, and Washington dropped 7 percent. Colorado was down 13 percent, with declines in both acreage and yield. Wyoming's production fell 38 percent, Utah potatoes declined 22 percent, California dropped 9 percent, and Nevada declined 6 percent. Montana registered a 4 percent increase in potato production over last year, and New Mexico gained 3 percent.



Reliability of December 1 Production and Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 274 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 7.1 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.4 percent or approximately 12.1 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year (1987-96) record of the differences between the December 1 production and stocks estimates and the final estimates. Using stocks again as an example, changes between the December 1 estimate and the final estimate during the 10 years have averaged 4.9 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate each year. Production estimates have been below the final 8 years and above 2 years.

Reliability of December 1 Fall Potato Estimates

Estimate	Root Mean Square Error		Ten Year Record of Difference Between Dec 1 and Final Estimate					
	: 90% Confidence Level	: Percent	: Quantity	: Avg	: Small	: Large	: Below Final	: Above Final
	----- Million Cwt -----							
Stocks	2.6	4.4	12.07	6.09	0.65	14.50	10	0
Production	1.7	3.0	12.51	4.90	0.05	13.46	8	2

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December Stocks,  
United States, 1987-97

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks 1/
	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1986	223,720	99.0	225,890
1987	198,520	96.2	206,420
1988	201,400	99.7	202,050
1989	217,300	96.4	225,500
1990	240,660	99.4	242,070
1991	232,320	94.1	246,820
1992	240,370	96.3	249,710
1993	264,090	97.0	272,290
1994	252,030	98.3	256,310
1995	291,650	98.8	295,100
1996	274,250		

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 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.

Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,  
United States, 1992-97

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes				Amount Used for Seed	
	Production	Sold	as % of Prod	Not Sold	as % of Prod	All Seasons Following year
	1,000 Cwt		Percent	1,000 Cwt	Percent	1,000 Cwt
1992	379,525	341,209	89.9	38,316	10.1	28,275
1993	385,935	351,161	91.0	34,774	9.0	29,031
1994	419,645	382,333	91.2	41,312	9.8	29,348
1995	403,009	368,946	91.5	34,063	8.5	30,582
1996	453,436	407,326	89.8	46,110	10.2	28,941
1997	416,888					

Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 States and Fall Season, 1994-97

State and Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Seed	Farm Disposition			
				Where Grown	Shrinkage	Sold	
				Seed, Feed, Home Use	and	Loss	
1,000 Cwt							
CA	1994	5,600	4,200	286	60	500	5,040
	1995	5,330	4,000	242	10	460	4,860
	1996	4,600	3,500	200	23	472	4,105
	1997	4,200	3,400				
CO	1994	25,795	18,900	1,925	1,210	2,040	22,545
	1995	23,808	18,200	1,950	1,285	2,048	20,475
	1996	29,175	23,100	1,925	1,485	3,975	23,715
	1997	25,377	19,900				
ID	1994	138,801	100,500	8,400	1,535	9,659	127,607
	1995	132,657	96,000	8,700	1,785	8,920	121,952
	1996	142,800	102,000	8,400	1,500	10,100	131,200
	1997	135,430	97,000				
ME	1994	18,375	13,400	1,716	525	2,850	15,000
	1995	17,160	13,800	1,716	420	1,025	15,715
	1996	21,175	16,900	1,628	395	1,800	18,980
	1997	19,170	15,600				
MI	1994	11,310	8,000	963	174	1,350	9,786
	1995	16,350	9,600	962	168	690	15,492
	1996	13,800	8,000	784	300	1,300	12,200
	1997	14,250	8,500				
MN	1994	17,755	12,500	1,693	458	1,668	15,629
	1995	20,790	13,500	1,573	346	1,757	18,687
	1996	24,600	16,500	1,383	445	4,158	19,997
	1997	20,440	13,500				
MT	1994	3,200	3,040	216	142	192	2,866
	1995	2,940	2,800	239	128	147	2,665
	1996	3,213	3,050	239	137	221	2,855
	1997	3,328	3,180				
NE	1994	3,996	2,300	300	217	311	3,468
	1995	3,680	2,600	292	187	284	3,209
	1996	4,402	3,160	449	169	439	3,794
	1997	7,431	5,580				

--continued

Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 States and Fall Season, 1994-97 (continued)

State and Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Seed	Farm Disposition			
				Where Grown	Shrinkage	Sold	
				Seed, Feed, Home Use	and Loss		
				1,000 Cwt			
NY 1994	7,805	4,200	648	131	417		7,257
1995	7,695	3,400	648	155	290		7,250
1996	7,980	3,700	660	140	370		7,470
1997	8,408	4,000					
ND 1994	28,200	19,300	2,125	335	4,365		23,500
1995	25,410	17,000	2,211	280	2,800		22,330
1996	28,820	20,500	2,188	360	5,270		23,190
1997	21,525	16,000					
OH 1994	1,348	350	110	22	11		1,315
1995	1,404	310	107	4	10		1,390
1996	1,275	290	105	5	35		1,235
1997	1,175	290					
OR 1994	27,514	20,300	1,242	222	2,055		25,237
1995	24,788	17,200	1,475	148	1,450		23,190
1996	30,124	23,600	1,357	305	2,560		27,259
1997	27,057	21,500					
PA 1994	3,780	2,200	342	17	362		3,401
1995	4,080	2,400	323	20	102		3,958
1996	4,208	2,800	361	83	325		3,800
1997	3,190	1,600					
WA 1994	88,920	47,500	3,528	300	7,000		81,620
1995	80,850	39,500	3,912	300	6,400		74,150
1996	94,990	48,000	3,552	300	6,800		87,890
1997	88,060	47,000					
WI 1994	25,740	15,600	1,640	257	1,802		23,681
1995	26,000	16,000	1,743	288	1,250		24,462
1996	31,590	20,000	1,560	305	1,360		29,925
1997	27,923	17,200					
15 Sts 1994	408,139	272,290	25,134	5,605	34,582		367,952
1995	392,942	256,310	26,093	5,524	27,633		359,785
1996	442,752	295,100	24,791	5,952	39,185		397,615
1997	406,964	274,250					
23 Fall Sts 1994	419,645		25,872	5,671	35,641		378,333
1995	403,009		26,813	5,559	28,504		368,946
1996	453,436		25,444	6,054	40,056		407,326
1997	416,888						

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3:00 p.m. ET on January 13, 1998.

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