

# Potato Stocks



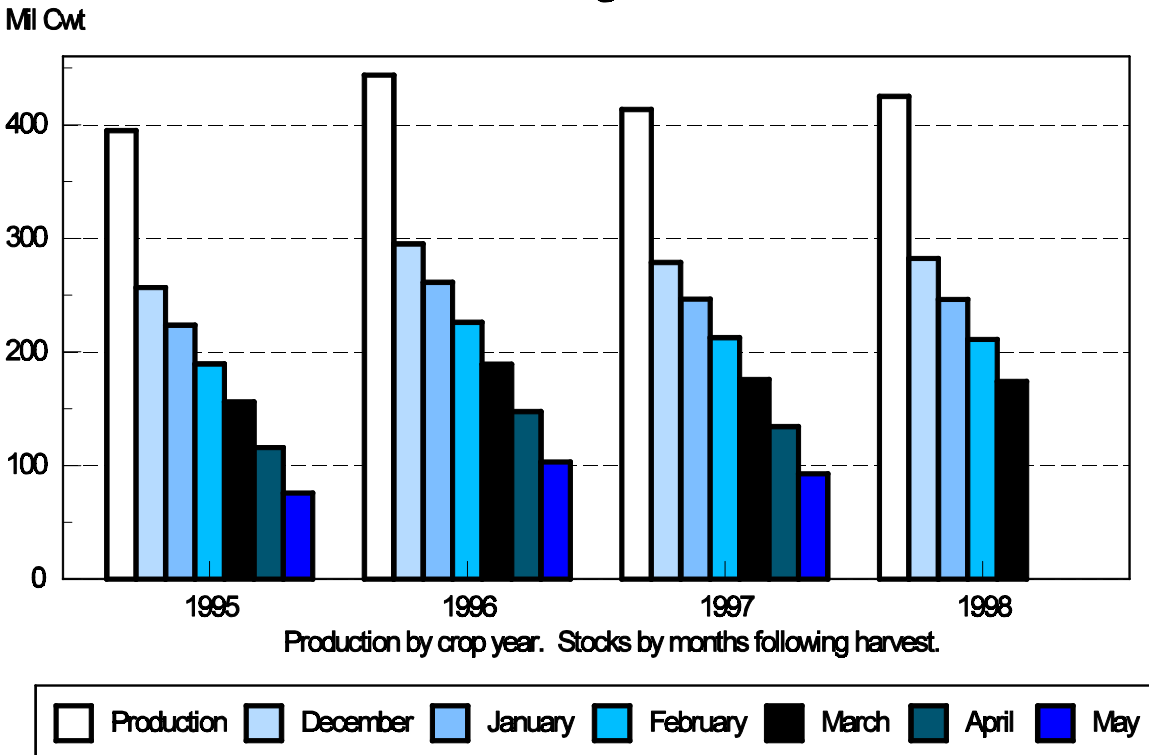
USDA  
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## March Potato Stocks Down 1 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 174 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1999, down 1 percent from last year and 8 percent below March 1997. Storage accounted for 41 percent of 1998 fall production, down 2 percent from a year ago. Disappearance, at 251 million cwt, is up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high from the 1996 crop. Processor usage in the 8 major States, totaled 129 million cwt, up 9 percent from last year. Shrinkage and loss to date gained 17 percent from a year ago.

## Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1989-98**

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	376,954	249,410	217,300	185,490	153,435	115,170	72,860
1994	410,839	273,290	238,560	202,470	169,570	129,825	87,600
1995	394,785	256,710	223,550	189,360	156,020	115,855	75,870
1996	443,704	295,100	261,320	226,080	189,210	147,585	103,210
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840
1998	424,897	282,300	246,220	211,100	174,100		

**Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 8 States, 1995-98 <sup>1</sup>**

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Season
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
<b>ID &amp; OR-Malheur Co</b>							
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	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750	91,450
1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210			
<b>ME <sup>2</sup></b>							
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	1,250	1,720	2,265	2,735	3,355	3,900	5,870
1998	1,180	1,710	2,260	2,983			
<b>WA &amp; OR - Other</b>							
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	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780	76,930
1998	33,460	38,895	45,650	53,290			
<b>Oth Sts <sup>3</sup></b>							
1995	12,650	15,630	18,815	21,985	25,510	28,610	33,580
1996	13,720	17,000	20,645	24,085	27,650	30,830	43,100
1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365	37,842
1998	11,020	13,785	17,510	21,185			
<b>Total</b>							
1995	71,415	87,690	103,965	121,645	139,735	156,625	198,805
1996	78,240	93,985	110,585	130,745	149,610	168,290	227,535
1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795	212,092
1998	73,170	89,090	108,090	128,668			

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3</sup> MI, MN, ND, and WI.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on March 1, 1998-99**

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1998	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1999 <sup>1</sup>	% of Prod
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	4,200	1,800	43	3,708	1,600	43
CO	24,993	12,800	51	25,360	11,800	47
ID	140,314	69,500	50	139,650	67,500	48
ME	19,080	10,300	54	18,060	8,450	47
MI	14,250	3,800	27	14,725	3,900	26
MN	20,440	8,800	43	21,170	8,900	42
MT	3,328	2,350	71	3,180	2,650	83
NE <sup>2</sup>	7,761	2,430		8,175	2,500	
NY	7,150	800	11	7,290	900	12
ND	22,000	9,300	42	28,670	11,800	41
OH <sup>2</sup>	1,170			1,200		
OR	27,319	13,000	48	26,229	13,000	50
PA	3,173	890	28	3,360	600	18
WA	88,160	29,500	33	93,225	29,500	32
WI	30,175	10,600	35	30,895	11,000	36
15 States	413,513	175,870	43	424,897	174,100	41

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1999 crop. Seed usage in 1998 totaled 30.0 million cwt.

<sup>2</sup> Combined to prevent disclosure of individual operations.

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 90.8 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.2 percent. Most seed for use the following year is still on hand March 1, but remains part of stocks until moved or planted.

**Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,  
United States, 1993-98**

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes					Amount Used for Seed All Seasons Following year
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
1993	387,885	353,052	91.0	34,833	9.0	29,076
1994	422,345	380,818	90.2	41,527	9.8	29,428
1995	404,852	370,679	91.6	34,173	8.4	30,561
1996	454,388	408,247	89.8	46,141	10.2	29,138
1997	423,190	387,089	91.5	36,101	8.5	29,975
1998	434,368					

**Fall Potatoes: Production, March 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 States and Fall Season, 1995-98 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Mar 1	Total Used For Seed	Farm Disposition		
					Where Grown		Sold
					Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrinkage and Loss	
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	1995	5,330	2,300	242	10	460	4,860
	1996	4,600	2,200	200	23	472	4,105
	1997	4,200	1,800	206	20	340	3,840
	1998	3,708	1,600				
CO	1995	23,808	11,200	1,950	1,285	2,048	20,475
	1996	29,175	15,500	1,925	1,485	3,975	23,715
	1997	24,993	12,800	1,895	1,340	2,773	20,880
	1998	25,360	11,800				
ID	1995	132,657	62,500	8,700	1,785	8,920	121,952
	1996	142,800	70,000	8,600	1,500	10,100	131,200
	1997	140,314	69,500	8,700	1,130	9,258	129,926
	1998	139,650	67,500				
ME	1995	17,160	8,500	1,716	420	1,025	15,715
	1996	21,175	11,200	1,584	395	1,800	18,980
	1997	19,080	10,300	1,430	275	1,760	17,045
	1998	18,060	8,450				
MI	1995	16,350	4,800	962	168	690	15,492
	1996	13,800	3,300	768	300	1,300	12,200
	1997	14,250	3,800	864	200	1,300	12,750
	1998	14,725	3,900				
MN	1995	20,790	8,700	1,573	346	1,757	18,687
	1996	24,600	11,000	1,348	445	4,158	19,997
	1997	20,440	8,800	1,640	450	1,717	18,273
	1998	21,170	8,900				
MT	1995	2,940	2,500	239	128	147	2,665
	1996	3,213	2,700	239	137	221	2,855
	1997	3,328	2,350	244	152	208	2,968
	1998	3,180	2,650				
NE <sup>1</sup>	1995	3,680	1,420	292	187	284	3,209
	1996	4,402	1,930	451	169	439	3,794
	1997	7,761	2,430	462	203	380	7,178
	1998	8,175	2,500				
NY	1995	7,425	900	594	155	290	6,980
	1996	7,420	800	583	127	341	6,952
	1997	7,150	800	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	900				

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**Fall Potatoes: Production, March 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,  
15 States and Fall Season, 1995-98 (continued)**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Mar 1	Total Used For Seed	Farm Disposition		
					Where Grown		Sold
					Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrinkage and Loss	
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
ND	1995	25,410	9,200	2,211	280	2,800	22,330
	1996	28,820	12,400	2,188	360	5,270	23,190
	1997	22,000	9,300	2,142	355	2,266	19,379
	1998	28,670	11,800				
OH <sup>1</sup>	1995	1,404		107	4	10	1,390
	1996	1,275		109	5	35	1,235
	1997	1,170		105	8	37	1,125
	1998	1,200					
OR	1995	24,788	9,900	1,475	148	1,450	23,190
	1996	30,124	16,000	1,345	305	2,560	27,259
	1997	27,319	13,000	1,405	195	1,555	25,569
	1998	26,229	13,000				
PA	1995	4,080	800	314	20	102	3,958
	1996	4,160	880	266	81	320	3,759
	1997	3,173	890	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	600				
WA	1995	80,850	25,000	3,912	300	6,400	74,150
	1996	94,990	30,000	3,648	300	6,800	87,890
	1997	88,160	29,500	3,840	300	6,400	81,460
	1998	93,225	29,500				
WI	1995	28,113	8,300	1,806	298	1,350	26,465
	1996	33,150	11,300	1,710	320	1,425	31,405
	1997	30,175	10,600	1,764	275	1,448	28,452
	1998	30,895	11,000				
15 Sts	1995	394,785	156,020	26,093	5,534	27,733	361,518
	1996	443,704	189,210	24,964	5,952	39,216	398,536
	1997	413,513	175,870	25,580	5,120	29,933	378,460
	1998	424,897	174,100				
23 Fall Sts	1995	404,852		26,813	5,569	28,604	370,679
	1996	454,388		25,608	6,054	40,087	408,247
	1997	423,190		26,224	5,260	30,841	387,089
	1998	434,368					

<sup>1</sup> Combined to prevent disclosure of individual operations.

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States,  
1995-97 Marketing Years**

State	Crop Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	1995			4	8	10	10	11	10	10	12	10	9	6
	1996			4	7	9	9	10	9	10	11	10	11	10
	1997		1	4	8	9	11	10	8	11	11	10	10	7
ID	1995		4	16	17	6	7	6	6	9	8	8	7	6
	1996		6	14	18	7	5	6	6	9	8	8	6	7
	1997		6	15	12	8	8	8	6	7	7	9	7	7
ME	1995		2	5	7	9	9	11	11	17	18	7	4	
	1996		1	8	7	7	8	10	9	14	16	9	11	
	1997		1	6	7	8	8	10	9	15	17	10	9	
MI	1995		5	11	15	13	13	11	6	9	11	6		
	1996	1	9	10	11	11	9	12	11	10	9	5	2	
	1997	3	9	10	8	11	11	11	12	11	8	6		
MN	1995		2	30	26	6	4	5	5	6	8	6	2	
	1996		6	22	19	11	5	5	7	8	8	5	4	
	1997		5	22	25	11	7	5	6	7	7	5		
NY	1995		6	15	15	17	16	12	8	6	4	1		
	1996		7	17	17	14	14	10	8	7	4	2		
	1997		8	15	15	16	15	13	9	5	3	1		
ND	1995		3	14	16	9	10	9	9	8	9	11	2	
	1996		4	12	22	8	7	7	8	10	7	6	7	2
	1997		1	12	16	13	8	12	9	9	8	6	5	1
OR	1995	1	12	16	25	7	6	6	5	5	7	7	1	2
	1996	1	14	16	26	7	5	5	5	4	6	5	5	1
	1997	1	9	14	30	8	6	5	6	6	5	6	3	1
PA	1995		18	18	18	13	13	9	5	3	2	1		
	1996	1	12	15	13	11	9	10	8	9	6	4	2	
	1997	1	13	13	12	12	12	10	8	7	8	3	1	
WA	1995		16	13	32	7	3	4	4	7	5	4	4	1
	1996		17	11	31	8	3	4	4	5	5	5	5	2
	1997		12	14	31	7	4	4	4	6	6	6	5	1
WI	1995	1	9	17	13	12	7	10	9	11	8	3		
	1996	1	6	20	14	10	7	8	11	9	7	4	3	
	1997	1	7	17	14	10	9	8	11	10	7	4	2	

## Potato Stocks Down 1 Percent

March 1, 1999 **potato stocks** totaled 174 million cwt, down 1 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 41 percent of 1998 fall production, down 2 percentage points from a year ago.

**Disappearance** from the start of harvest to March 1 totaled 251 million cwt, up 6 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high two years ago. February disappearance totaled a record high 37.0 million cwt, 1 percent above last year and up slightly from two years ago. Shrink and loss to date of 25.2 million cwt was up 17 percent from last year but 3 percent below two years ago.

**Processing** of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 129 million cwt, up 9 percent from the 1997 crop but 2 percent below the 1996 crop. February processing used a record 20.6 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 6 percent from last year and 2 percent above the previous record two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 9.9 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1999, down 17 percent from a year ago and 23 percent below two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 18 percent from a year ago and Pennsylvania's stocks were off 33 percent. New York's stocks were up 13 percent from last year.

**Central States** accounted for 38.1 million cwt of potato stocks this March, up 9 percent from 1998 but 5 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks were up 27 percent and Wisconsin was up 4 percent. Michigan was up 3 percent and Minnesota was 1 percent above last year.

**Western States** held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 1999, down 2 percent from last year and 8 percent below March 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent and accounted for 54 percent of the Western total. California's stocks were down 11 percent and Colorado dropped 8 percent. Washington and Oregon potato stocks were equal to last year. Montana's storage was up 13 percent.

## Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 174 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.9 percent or approximately 6.8 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.7 percent or approximately 11.7 million cwt.

The 10-year (1989-98) record of the differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 5.5 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 9 out of 10 years.

### Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March Stocks, United States, 1988-98

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	95.2	153,435
1994	163,305	96.3	169,570
1995	152,255	97.6	156,020
1996	184,565	97.5	189,210
1997	170,325	96.8	175,870
1998	174,100		



The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 14, 1999.

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