

# Potato Stocks



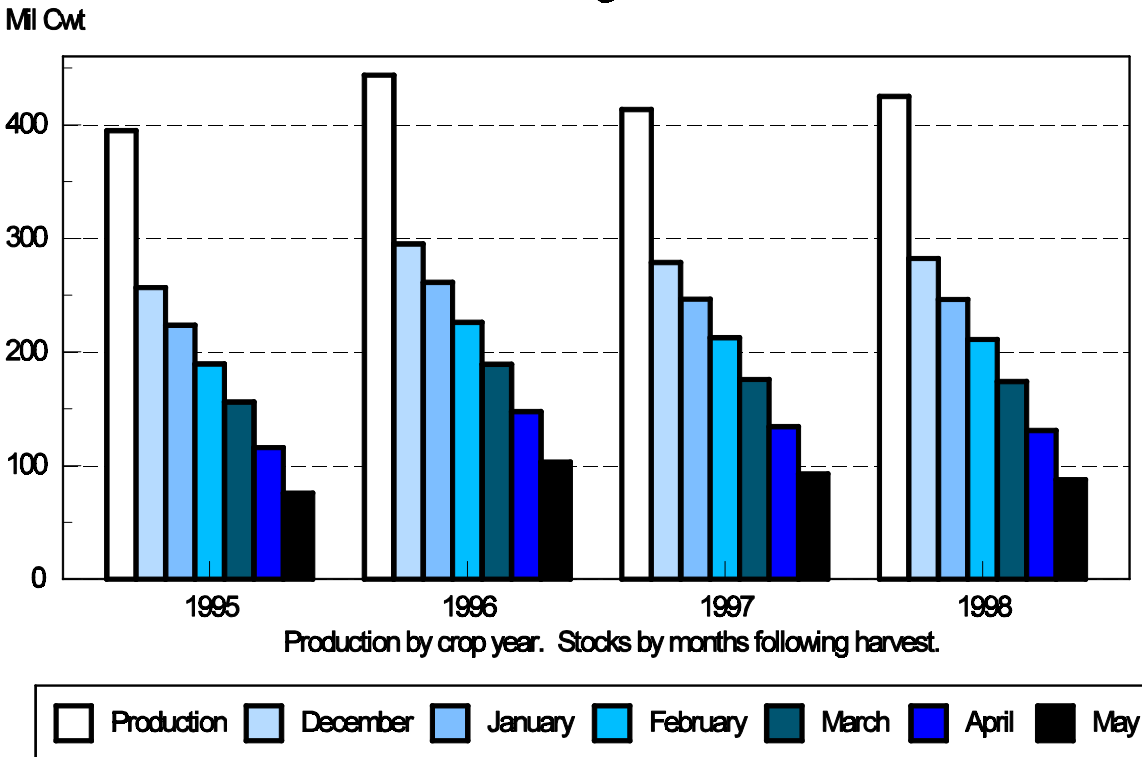
USDA  
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## May Potato Stocks Down 6 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 87.6 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1999, down 6 percent from last year and 15 percent below May 1997. Storage accounted for 21 percent of 1998 fall production, 1 percent less than a year ago. Disappearance, at 337 million cwt, is up 5 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high from the 1996 crop. Processor usage in the eight major States, totaled 168 million cwt, up 8 percent from last year.

## 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	130,890	87,640

**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>
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	33,950	41,050	49,470	57,620	65,750	91,450
1998	27,510	34,700	42,670	51,210	60,040	68,550	
ME <sup>2</sup>							
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	3,595	4,190	
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	33,990	38,690	46,400	53,720	59,780	76,930
1998	33,460	38,895	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	
Oth Sts <sup>3</sup>							
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	24,485	28,370	
Total							
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	149,050	168,290	

<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 May 1, 1998-99**

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1998	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 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	1,200	29	3,708	900	24
CO	24,993	7,700	31	25,360	6,400	25
ID	140,314	41,500	30	139,650	39,000	28
ME	19,080	4,500	24	18,060	3,800	21
MI	14,250	1,000	7	14,725	800	5
MN	20,440	4,500	22	21,170	4,300	20
MT	3,328	150	5	3,180	270	8
NE <sup>2</sup>	7,761	300		8,175	400	
NY	7,150	100	1	7,290	140	2
ND	22,000	4,700	21	28,670	6,500	23
OH <sup>2</sup>	1,170			1,200		
OR	27,319	6,500	24	26,229	7,000	27
PA	3,173	190	6	3,360	130	4
WA	88,160	16,000	18	93,225	14,500	16
WI	30,175	4,500	15	30,895	3,500	11
15 States	413,513	92,840	22	424,897	87,640	21

<sup>1</sup> Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 1999 potatoes; 1998 crop seed usage total 30 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 five years averaged 90.8 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.2 percent.

**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	91.000	34,833	9.0	29,076
1994	422,345	380,818	90.200	41,527	9.8	29,428
1995	404,852	370,679	91.600	34,173	8.4	30,561
1996	454,388	408,247	89.800	46,141	10.2	29,138
1997	423,190	387,089	91.500	36,101	8.5	29,975
1998	434,368					

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

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks May 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	1,100	242	10	460	4,860
	1996	4,600	1,100	200	23	472	4,105
	1997	4,200	1,200	206	20	340	3,840
	1998	3,708	900				
CO	1995	23,808	6,200	1,950	1,285	2,048	20,475
	1996	29,175	9,900	1,925	1,485	3,975	23,715
	1997	24,993	7,700	1,895	1,340	2,773	20,880
	1998	25,360	6,400				
ID	1995	132,657	36,000	8,700	1,785	8,920	121,952
	1996	142,800	41,000	8,600	1,500	10,100	131,200
	1997	140,314	41,500	8,700	1,130	9,258	129,926
	1998	139,650	39,000				
ME	1995	17,160	2,800	1,716	420	1,025	15,715
	1996	21,175	5,300	1,584	395	1,800	18,980
	1997	19,080	4,500	1,430	275	1,760	17,045
	1998	18,060	3,800				
MI	1995	16,350	1,200	962	168	690	15,492
	1996	13,800	1,000	768	300	1,300	12,200
	1997	14,250	1,000	864	200	1,300	12,750
	1998	14,725	800				
MN	1995	20,790	4,500	1,573	346	1,757	18,687
	1996	24,600	5,500	1,348	445	4,158	19,997
	1997	20,440	4,500	1,640	450	1,717	18,273
	1998	21,170	4,300				
MT	1995	2,940	340	239	128	147	2,665
	1996	3,213	300	239	137	221	2,855
	1997	3,328	150	244	152	208	2,968
	1998	3,180	270				
NE <sup>1</sup>	1995	3,680	200	292	187	284	3,209
	1996	4,402	390	451	169	439	3,794
	1997	7,761	300	462	203	380	7,178
	1998	8,175	400				
NY	1995	7,425	150	594	155	290	6,980
	1996	7,420	160	583	127	341	6,952
	1997	7,150	100	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	140				

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

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks May 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	4,500	2,211	280	2,800	22,330
	1996	28,820	7,300	2,188	360	5,270	23,190
	1997	22,000	4,700	2,142	355	2,266	19,379
	1998	28,670	6,500				
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	4,500	1,475	148	1,450	23,190
	1996	30,124	9,200	1,345	305	2,560	27,259
	1997	27,319	6,500	1,405	195	1,555	25,569
	1998	26,229	7,000				
PA	1995	4,080	180	314	20	102	3,958
	1996	4,160	160	266	81	320	3,759
	1997	3,173	190	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	130				
WA	1995	80,850	12,500	3,912	300	6,400	74,150
	1996	94,990	16,500	3,648	300	6,800	87,890
	1997	88,160	16,000	3,840	300	6,400	81,460
	1998	93,225	14,500				
WI	1995	28,113	1,700	1,806	298	1,350	26,465
	1996	33,150	5,400	1,710	320	1,425	31,405
	1997	30,175	4,500	1,764	275	1,448	28,452
	1998	30,895	3,500				
15 Sts	1995	394,785	75,870	26,093	5,534	27,733	361,518
	1996	443,704	103,210	24,964	5,952	39,216	398,536
	1997	413,513	92,840	25,580	5,120	29,933	378,460
	1998	424,897	87,640				
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 6 Percent

May 1, 1999 **potato stocks** totaled 87.6 million cwt, down 6 percent from a year ago and 15 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 21 percent of 1998 fall production, 1 percent less than a year ago.

**Disappearance** from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 337 million cwt, up 5 percent from last year but 1 percent below the record high two years ago. April disappearance totaled 43.3 million cwt, 5 percent above last year but down 3 percent from April 1997. Shrink and loss to date is estimated at 30.1 million cwt, up 18 percent from last year.

**Processing** of 1998 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 168 million cwt, up 8 percent from the 1997 crop and equal to the 1996 crop. April processing used a record 19.2 million cwt of raw potatoes, up 9 percent from last year and 3 percent above two years ago.

**Eastern States** stored 4.1 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 1999, down 15 percent from a year ago and 28 percent below two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 16 percent from a year ago and Pennsylvania's were off 32 percent. New York's stocks were up 40 percent.

**Central States** accounted for 15.5 million cwt of potato stocks this May, up 3 percent from May 1998 but 21 percent below two years ago. North Dakota's stocks were up 38 percent from last year. Wisconsin's stocks were off 22 percent, Michigan was down 20 percent, and Minnesota was down 4 percent from last year.

**Western States** held 68.1 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 1999, down 7 percent from last year and 15 percent below May 1997. Idaho's stocks were down 6 percent and account for 57 percent of the Western States' total. California's stocks were down 25 percent and Colorado dropped 17 percent. Washington's stocks were down 9 percent but Oregon stored 8 percent more than a year ago. Montana's seed movement is late with remaining storage 80 percent above last year at this time.

## Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 7.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 87.6 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.6 percent or approximately 6.7 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 13.1 percent or about 11.5 million cwt.

The 10-year (1989-98) record of the differences between the May 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.7 million cwt, ranging from 0.6 million to 11.5 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the May 1 stocks forecast has been below the final 9 out of 10 years.

### Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final May 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	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	93.4	72,860
1994	81,495	93.0	87,600
1995	72,210	95.2	75,870
1996	100,780	97.6	103,210
1997	87,113	93.8	92,840
1998	87,640		



The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on June 15, 1999.

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