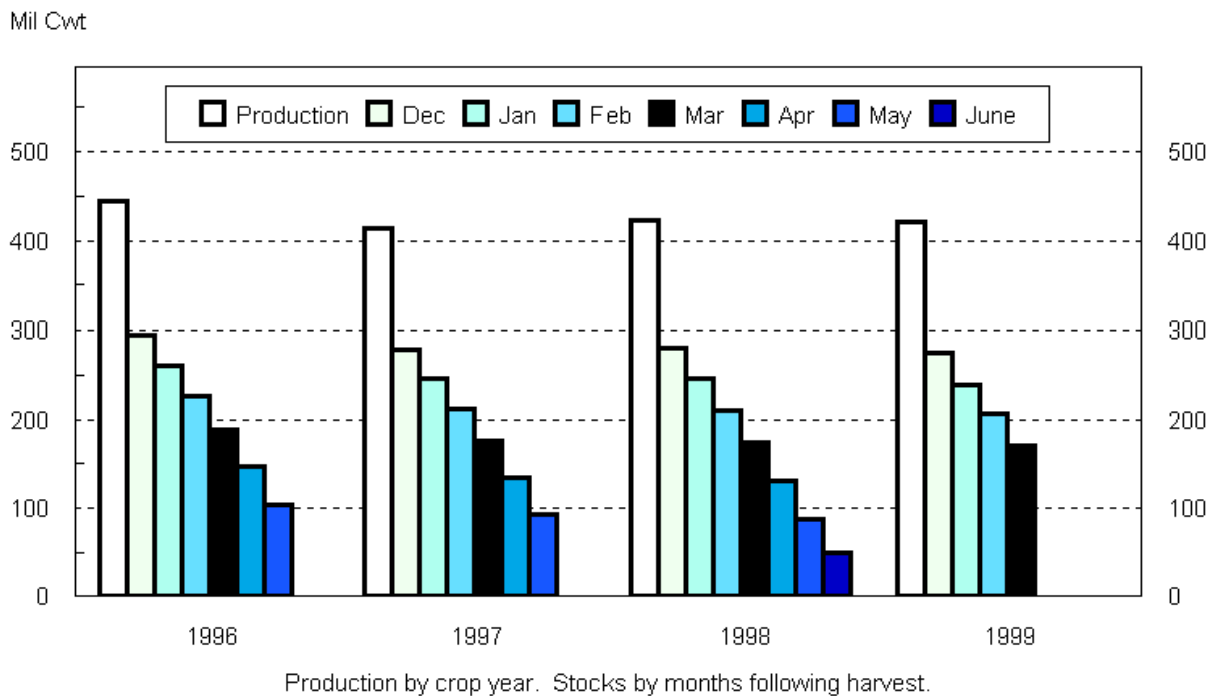


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March Potato Stocks Down 2 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 170 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2000, down 2 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Stocks accounted for 40 percent of 1999 fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. Disappearance of 251 million cwt for the season, is slightly above last year and 5 percent above two years ago. Processing, at 126 million cwt is down 2 percent from last year, but 6 percent above two years ago.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1990-99

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 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>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	147,635	103,210	
1997	413,513	278,830	246,550	212,562	175,870	134,190	92,840	
1998	423,170	280,910	246,230	209,640	173,650	131,220	87,895	50,270
1999	420,567	274,370	238,160	205,780	170,050			

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 8 States, 1996-99 ¹

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1 ²	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>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
ID & OR-Mal								
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	76,410	92,860
1999	27,970	34,490	40,790	49,220				
ME ³								
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	1,430	1,935	2,530	2,985	3,595	4,180	4,705	5,945
1999	1,375	1,670	2,310	2,995				
WA & OR-Oth								
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	33,630	38,890	45,650	53,290	60,930	67,180	74,190	83,730
1999	33,440	39,620	45,500	53,350				
Oth Sts ⁴								
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	11,615	14,550	18,150	20,900	24,710	27,855	31,635	37,662
1999	11,785	14,495	17,295	19,970				
Total								
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	74,185	90,075	109,000	128,385	149,275	167,765	186,940	220,197
1999	74,570	90,275	105,895	125,535				

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 Data not available prior to 1998.

³ Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

⁴ MI, MN, ND, and WI.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on March 1, 1999-00 ¹

State	Crop of 1998			Crop of 1999		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 1999 ²	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2000 ²	% 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	3,708	1,600	43	4,005	1,800	45
CO	25,360	12,000	47	25,762	12,900	50
ID	138,000	66,000	48	133,330	65,000	49
ME	18,060	8,450	47	17,813	9,400	53
MI	14,648	4,100	28	14,963	4,200	28
MN	21,170	8,900	42	18,020	6,200	34
MT	3,180	2,650	83	3,325	2,700	81
NE	8,175			8,904		
NY	7,290	800	11	6,758	800	12
ND	28,670	12,800	45	26,400	8,300	31
OH	1,200			987		
OR	26,229	13,000	50	28,020	15,900	57
PA	3,360	700	21	3,080	750	24
WA	93,225	29,500	32	95,200	28,000	29
WI	30,895	11,000	36	34,000	11,700	34
Other States		2,150			2,400	
15 States	423,170	173,650	41	420,567	170,050	40

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2000 crop. Seed usage in 1999 totaled 29.5 million cwt.

² Blank States combined into "Other States".

Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 15 Fall Storage States, 1996-99

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	Total Jun 1	Season
	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>
1996	24.2	26.1	28.2	30.0	32.3	34.8		39.2
1997	15.3	17.3	19.3	21.3	23.5	25.6		30.0
1998	19.8	21.7	23.6	25.3	27.3	29.2	30.9	33.1
1999	17.2	21.1	23.4	25.7				

**Fall Potatoes: Production, March 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1996-99 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Mar 1 ¹	Total Used For Fall 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	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	171	29	720	2,959
	1999	4,005	1,800				
CO	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	12,000	1,930	1,615	2,615	21,130
	1999	25,762	12,900				
ID	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	138,000	66,000	8,400	1,280	9,756	126,964
	1999	133,330	65,000				
ME	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	1,496	360	1,740	15,960
	1999	17,813	9,400				
MI	1996	13,800	3,300	768	300	1,300	12,200
	1997	14,250	3,800	864	200	1,300	12,750
	1998	14,648	4,100	888	200	1,348	13,100
	1999	14,963	4,200				
MN	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	1,400	254	1,440	19,476
	1999	18,020	6,200				
MT	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	253	145	265	2,770
	1999	3,325	2,700				
NE	1996	4,402		451	169	439	3,794
	1997	7,761		462	203	380	7,178
	1998	8,175		469	166	881	7,128
	1999	8,904					
NY	1996	7,420	800	583	127	341	6,952
	1997	7,150	800	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	800	572	110	330	6,850
	1999	6,758	800				

--continued

**Fall Potatoes: Production, March 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1996-99 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Mar 1 ¹	Total Used For Fall 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	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	12,800	2,250	395	2,840	25,435
	1999	26,400	8,300				
OH	1996	1,275		109	5	35	1,235
	1997	1,170		105	8	37	1,125
	1998	1,200		100	8	37	1,155
	1999	987					
OR	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	1,382	195	2,206	23,828
	1999	28,020	15,900				
PA	1996	4,160	880	266	81	320	3,759
	1997	3,173	890	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	700	261	50	252	3,058
	1999	3,080	750				
WA	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	4,080	300	6,500	86,425
	1999	95,200	28,000				
WI	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	1,720	265	2,360	28,270
	1999	34,000	11,700				
Oth Sts	1996		1,930				
	1997		2,430				
	1998		2,150				
	1999		2,400				
15 Sts	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	423,170	173,650	25,372	5,372	33,290	384,508
	1999	420,567	170,050				
23 Fall Sts	1996	454,388		25,608	6,054	40,087	408,247
	1997	423,190		26,224	5,260	30,841	387,089
	1998	432,737		25,929	5,584	34,231	392,922
	1999	429,847					

¹ Nebraska and Ohio stocks combined into "Other States".

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States,
1996-98 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>
CA	1996													
	1997													
	1998				13	12	13	11	10	12	10	8	7	4
CO	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
	1998			5	8	9	12	10	10	12	11	10	9	4
ID	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
	1998		6	11	20	6	6	7	6	8	9	9	6	6
ME	1996		1	8	7	7	8	10	9	14	16	9	11	
	1997		1	6	7	8	8	10	9	15	17	10	9	
	1998		1	7	9	9	9	10	11	14	12	9	9	
MI	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		
	1998	3	8	9	9	9	12	14	9	12	10	5		
MN	1996		6	22	19	11	5	5	7	8	8	5	4	
	1997		5	22	25	11	7	5	6	7	7	5		
	1998		11	16	14	10	5	7	6	8	9	6	8	
NY	1996		7	17	17	14	14	10	8	7	4	2		
	1997		8	15	15	16	15	13	9	5	3	1		
	1998		7	16	16	16	15	11	8	6	4	1		
ND	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
	1998		3	13	14	10	10	8	7	7	9	10	6	3
OR	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
	1998	2	12	15	27	8	5	4	5	6	6	4	4	2
PA	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	
	1998		14	12	11	12	15	11	9	7	6	2	1	
WA	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
	1998		16	13	25	7	3	5	6	7	5	6	6	1
WI	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	
	1998	1	6	18	13	10	10	10	9	9	8	4	2	

Potato Stocks Down 2 Percent

March 1, 2000 **potato stocks** totaled 170 million cwt, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 40 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 totaled 251 million cwt this season, up slightly from last year and 5 percent above two years ago. February disappearance of 35.7 million cwt was 1 percent below last year and down 3 percent from two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 25.7 million cwt was up 1 percent from last year and 20 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 crop potatoes so far this season totaled 126 million cwt, down 2 percent from the 1998 crop but 6 percent above the 1997 crop. In February, processors used 19.6 million cwt of potatoes, up 1 percent from the last two years.

Eastern States stored 11.0 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 2000, up 10 percent from a year ago but 9 percent below two years ago. Maine's holdings were up 11 percent, Pennsylvania's were up 7 percent, and New York's stocks were the same compared with last year.

Central States accounted for 32.8 million cwt of potato stocks this March, down 16 percent from 1999 and 6 percent below 1998. North Dakota's stocks fell 35 percent from last year and Minnesota's stocks dropped by 30 percent. Michigan was up 2 percent and Wisconsin gained 6 percent from last year.

Western States held 126 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2000, up 1 percent from last year but 2 percent below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 22 percent from a year ago, but were mostly offset by a 5 percent decline in Washington and a 2 percent dip in Idaho. Stocks in the three Northwest States were up less than 1 percent from last year and accounted for 64 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 8 percent and Montana's were up 2 percent. California's potato stocks were up 13 percent from last year.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 170 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.8 percent or approximately 6.4 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.5 percent or approximately 11.1 million cwt.

The 10-year (1990-99) record of differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates were up an average of 4.9 million cwt, ranging from 13.1 million cwt below the final to 0.45 million cwt above. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 out of 10 years.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March 1 Stocks, United States, 1989-99

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	% of Final <i>Percent</i>	Final Stocks <i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	100.3	173,650
1999	170,050		

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 90.7 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss and home use account for the remaining 9.3 percent. Most seed for use the following year is still on hand, but remains part of stocks until moved or planted.

Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed, United States, 1994-99

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes					Amount Used for Seed All Seasons Following year <i>1,000 Cwt</i>
	Production <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	Sold <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	Sold as % of Prod <i>Percent</i>	Not Sold <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	Not Sold as % of Prod <i>Percent</i>	
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	432,737	392,922	90.8	39,815	9.2	29,516
1999	429,847					

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 13, 2000.

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