

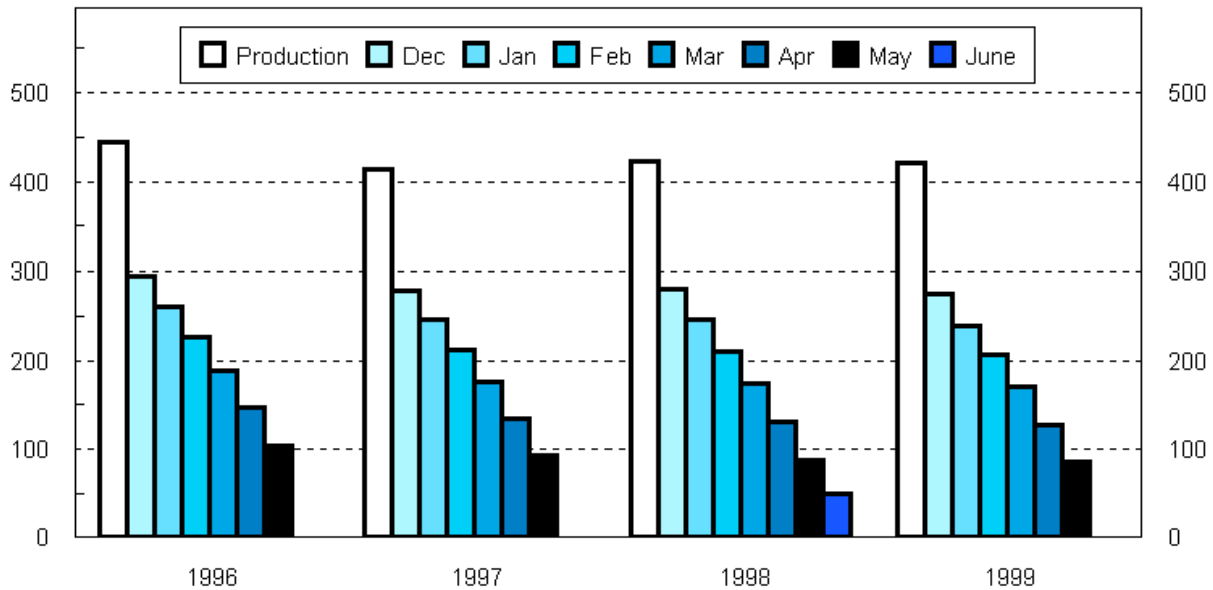
Released May 15, 2000, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Potato Stocks" call Arvin Budge at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

May 1 Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 85.7 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2000, down 3 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Stocks accounted for 20 percent of 1999 fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago. Disappearance of 335 million cwt for the season, is slightly below last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Processing, at 163 million cwt is down 3 percent from last year but 5 percent above two years ago.

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, 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	127,570	85,670	

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	57,820	66,080		
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	3,640	4,340		
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	61,080	67,230		
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	23,480	25,670		
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	146,020	163,320		

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 May 1, 1999-00¹

State	Crop of 1998			Crop of 1999		
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 1999 ²	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks May 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	900	24	4,005	1,100	27
CO	25,360	6,600	26	25,762	7,400	29
ID	138,000	37,000	27	133,330	36,000	27
ME	18,060	3,800	21	17,813	4,400	25
MI	14,648	800	5	14,963	1,300	9
MN	21,170	4,300	20	18,020	2,800	16
MT	3,180	290	9	3,325	300	9
NE	8,175			8,904		
NY	7,290	75	1	6,758	40	1
ND	28,670	7,500	26	26,400	3,600	14
OH	1,200			987		
OR	26,229	7,000	27	28,020	9,500	34
PA	3,360	130	4	3,080	450	15
WA	93,225	14,500	16	95,200	14,500	15
WI	30,895	4,800	16	34,000	3,700	11
Other States		200			580	
15 States	423,170	87,895	21	420,567	85,670	20

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2000 potatoes; 1999 crop seed usage total 29.5 million cwt.

² Nebraska and Ohio 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 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		29.9
1998	19.8	21.7	23.6	25.3	27.3	29.2	30.9	33.3
1999	17.2	21.1	23.4	25.7	27.9	29.9		

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

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

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks May 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	1,100	200	23	472	4,105
	1997	4,200	1,200	206	20	340	3,840
	1998	3,708	900	171	29	720	2,959
	1999	4,005	1,100				
CO	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	6,600	1,930	1,615	2,615	21,130
	1999	25,762	7,400				
ID	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	138,000	37,000	8,400	1,280	9,756	126,964
	1999	133,330	36,000				
ME	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	1,496	360	1,740	15,960
	1999	17,813	4,400				
MI	1996	13,800	1,000	768	300	1,300	12,200
	1997	14,250	1,000	864	200	1,300	12,750
	1998	14,648	800	888	200	1,348	13,100
	1999	14,963	1,300				
MN	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	1,400	254	1,440	19,476
	1999	18,020	2,800				
MT	1996	3,213	300	239	137	221	2,855
	1997	3,328	150	244	152	208	2,968
	1998	3,180	290	253	145	265	2,770
	1999	3,325	300				
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	160	583	127	341	6,952
	1997	7,150	100	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	75	572	110	330	6,850
	1999	6,758	40				

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

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks May 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	7,300	2,188	360	5,270	23,190
	1997	22,000	4,700	2,142	355	2,266	19,379
	1998	28,670	7,500	2,250	395	2,840	25,435
	1999	26,400	3,600				
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	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	1,382	195	2,206	23,828
	1999	28,020	9,500				
PA	1996	4,160	160	266	81	320	3,759
	1997	3,173	190	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	130	261	50	252	3,058
	1999	3,080	450				
WA	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	4,080	300	6,500	86,425
	1999	95,200	14,500				
WI	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	4,800	1,720	265	2,360	28,270
	1999	34,000	3,700				
Oth Sts	1996		390				
	1997		300				
	1998		200				
	1999		580				
15 Sts	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	423,170	87,895	25,372	5,372	33,290	384,508
	1999	420,567	85,670				
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 3 Percent

May 1, 2000 **potato stocks** totaled 85.7 million cwt, down 3 percent from a year ago and 8 percent below two years ago. Storage accounted for 20 percent of fall production, down 1 percentage point from a year ago.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to May 1 totaled 335 million cwt this season, down slightly from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. April disappearance of 41.9 million cwt was down 3 percent from last year but 1 percent above two years ago. Seasonal shrink and loss of 29.9 million cwt was up 2 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago.

Processing of 1999 crop potatoes this season totaled 163 million cwt, down 3 percent from the 1998 crop but 5 percent above the 1997 crop. In April, processors in the eight major States used 17.3 million cwt of potatoes, down 6 percent from last year and 2 percent below two years ago.

Eastern States stored 4.89 million cwt of potatoes on May 1, 2000, up 22 percent from a year ago and 2 percent above two years ago. Maine's holdings were up 16 percent, Pennsylvania's were up 3.5 times last year, while New York's stocks were off 47 percent from last year.

Central States accounted for 12.0 million cwt of potato stocks this May 1, down 32 percent from a year ago and 20 percent below 1998. North Dakota's stocks were off 52 percent from last year, Minnesota's stocks dropped 35 percent, and Wisconsin's stocks were down 23 percent. Michigan's stocks were up 63 percent from a year ago and the Nebraska - Ohio combination was nearly triple last year.

Western States held 68.8 million cwt of potatoes in storage on May 1, 2000, up 4 percent from last year but 6 percent below 1998. Oregon's stocks were up 36 percent from a year ago, Washington was equal to last year, and Idaho's stocks were down 3 percent. Stocks in these three Northwest States were up 3 percent from last year and accounted for 70 percent of U. S. stocks. Colorado's stocks were up 12 percent and California's storage was up 22 percent from last year. Montana's stocks, mostly seed, were up 3 percent.

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the May 1 stocks estimate is 7.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 85.7 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.4 percent or approximately 6.34 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.8 percent or about 11.0 million cwt.

The 10-year (1989-98) record of differences between the May 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates were up an average of 4.3 million cwt, ranging from 11.5 million cwt below the final to 0.91 million cwt above. During the 10-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	99.7	87,895
1999	85,670		

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
	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>
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 June 14, 2000.

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