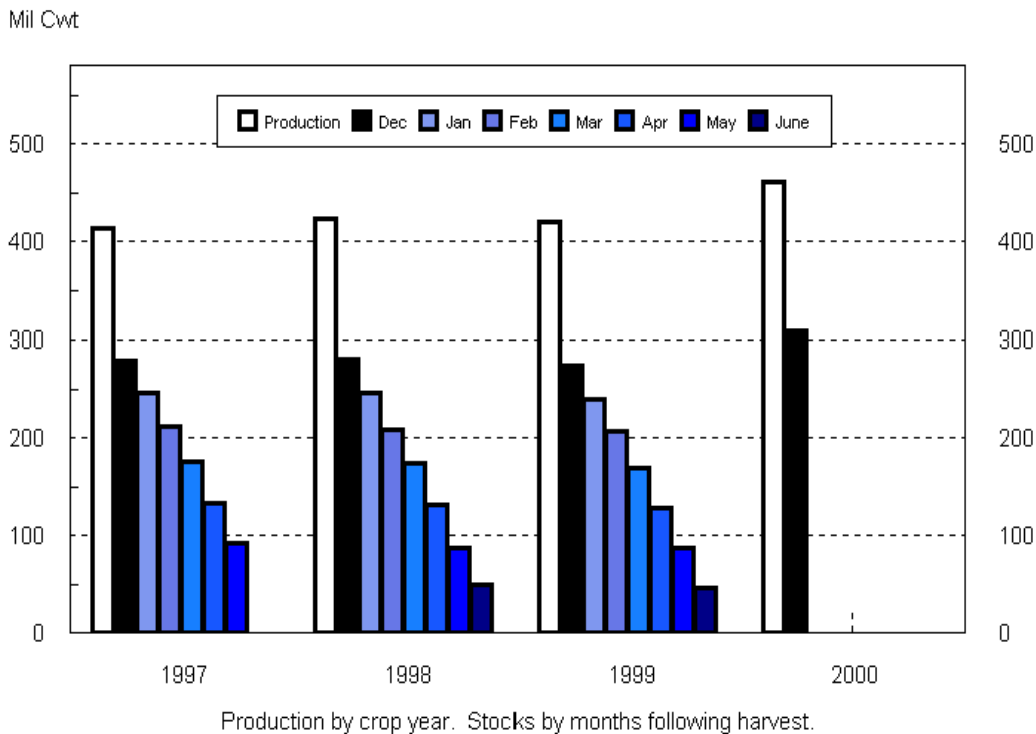


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Potato Production and December 1 Stocks Both Record High

Production of fall potatoes is a record high 471 million cwt in the 22 fall States this year, up 9 percent from a year ago and 8 percent above 1998. December 1 stocks in the 15 storage States are also at a record high 310 million cwt, up 13 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1998. The previous record highs were in 1996 when fall production was 454 million cwt and stocks were 295 million cwt. Seasonal disappearance of 152 million cwt in the 15 States is up 5 percent from last year. Processors used 78.5 million cwt so far this season, up 5 percent from last year.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States



Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, 1991-2000

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>
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	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000	461,827	309,520						

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, Eight States, 1997-2000 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								
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	74,110	88,210
2000	29,290							
ME ³								
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	1,270	1,700	2,385	3,070	3,765	4,560	5,150	6,670
2000	1,845							
WA & OR-Oth								
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	33,320	39,620	45,500	53,350	61,080	67,230	74,840	83,210
2000	34,670							
Oth Sts ⁴								
1997	11,645	13,960	17,115	19,905	23,515	26,365		37,842
1998	11,570	14,465	18,030	20,850	24,850	28,190	31,365	39,865
1999	12,455	15,035	17,950	20,855	24,305	27,220	30,410	36,435
2000	12,650							
Total								
1997	68,355	83,620	99,120	118,510	138,210	155,795		212,092
1998	74,140	89,990	108,880	128,335	149,415	168,100	186,670	222,400
1999	75,015	90,845	106,625	126,495	146,970	165,090	184,510	214,525
2000	78,455							

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, and WI.

² Data not available prior to 1998.

³ Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

⁴ MN, ND, NV, SD, and WI in 2000. MI, MN, ND, and WI in 1997-1999.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 15 Major States, December 1, 1999-2000 ¹

State	Crop of 1999			Crop of 2000		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 1999	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2000	% 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	4,005	3,200	80	3,741	2,700	72
CO	25,762	19,700	76	27,972	20,300	73
ID	133,330	96,000	72	152,320	110,500	73
ME	17,813	14,500	81	17,920	14,100	79
MI	14,963	8,800	59	14,963	8,700	58
MN	18,020	10,600	59	21,240	14,200	67
MT	3,325	3,200	96	3,503	3,350	96
NE ²	8,904	5,300	60	10,127	6,450	64
NY	6,758	3,500	52	5,964	2,700	45
ND	26,400	17,000	64	26,950	18,500	69
OH	987	300	30	1,134	320	28
OR	28,020	22,000	79	30,683	25,000	81
PA	3,080	2,000	65	3,510	1,700	48
WA	95,200	48,000	50	108,000	61,000	56
WI	34,000	21,000	62	33,800	20,000	59
15 States	420,567	275,100	65	461,827	309,520	67

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 2000 totaled 29.7 million cwt.

² Summer estimates included with fall in 2000.

**Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
11 Selected States, December 1, 1999-2000**

State	Potato Types							
	Reds		Round Whites		Long Whites		Russets	
	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000	1999	2000
	<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	4	5	2	2			94	93
ID					5	6	95	94
ME	3	4	50	46	10	3	37	47
MI	2	2	87	86			11	12
MN	7	13	5	4	1	1	87	82
NY	5	5	93	90			2	5
ND	15	12	22	17	13	8	50	63
OR	1	1	2		2	2	95	97
PA	3	3	97	97				
WA	1	1	1	1	6	6	92	92
WI	3	2	30	37			67	61
11 St Avg	2	3	12	10	5	4	81	83

Fall Potatoes: Area Planted and Harvested by State, 1998-2000

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>	<i>1,000 Acres</i>
CA	10.3	9.0	8.7	10.3	9.0	8.7
CO	75.8	77.2	75.8	75.7	76.9	75.6
ID	410.0	395.0	415.0	408.0	393.0	413.0
10 SW Co	28.0	26.0	28.0	28.0	26.0	28.0
Other ID	382.0	369.0	387.0	380.0	367.0	385.0
IN	5.3	5.2	4.2	5.0	4.9	4.0
ME	65.5	65.0	64.0	64.5	62.5	64.0
MA	2.9	3.0	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.5
MI	47.0	48.0	49.0	46.5	47.5	47.5
MN	82.0	70.0	66.0	73.0	53.0	59.0
MT	10.6	11.0	11.5	10.6	10.9	11.3
NE ¹	22.0	21.6	26.0	21.8	21.2	24.7
NV	7.0	6.5	7.0	7.0	6.5	7.0
NM	6.2	6.6	6.8	5.9	6.6	6.8
NY	27.6	26.0	22.0	27.0	25.5	21.3
ND	126.0	121.0	124.0	122.0	110.0	110.0
OH	5.1	4.8	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.2
OR	59.0	56.0	57.0	58.0	55.5	56.5
Malheur	11.5	10.5	10.5	11.4	10.5	10.5
Other OR	47.5	45.5	46.5	46.6	45.0	46.0
PA	14.5	14.5	13.5	14.0	14.0	13.0
RI	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.5
SD	5.0	3.5	3.5	4.8	3.4	2.8
UT	2.7	2.0	1.5	2.6	2.0	1.5
WA	165.0	170.0	180.0	165.0	170.0	180.0
WI	84.5	86.0	86.0	83.5	85.0	84.5
WY ²	0.4	0.5		0.4	0.5	
Total	1,235.1	1,203.0	1,229.2	1,214.0	1,166.1	1,198.4

Fall Potatoes: Yield and Production by State, 1998-2000

State	Yield			Production		
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	360	445	430	3,708	4,005	3,741
CO	335	335	370	25,360	25,762	27,972
ID	338	339	369	138,000	133,330	152,320
10 SW Co	450	470	490	12,600	12,220	13,720
Other ID	330	330	360	125,400	121,110	138,600
IN	320	270	280	1,600	1,323	1,120
ME	280	285	280	18,060	17,813	17,920
MA	235	255	255	682	740	638
MI	315	315	315	14,648	14,963	14,963
MN	290	340	360	21,170	18,020	21,240
MT	300	305	310	3,180	3,325	3,503
NE ¹	375	420	410	8,175	8,904	10,127
NV	400	440	450	2,800	2,860	3,150
NM	380	380	400	2,242	2,508	2,720
NY	270	265	280	7,290	6,758	5,964
ND	235	240	245	28,670	26,400	26,950
OH	250	210	270	1,200	987	1,134
OR	452	505	543	26,229	28,020	30,683
Malheur	400	440	425	4,560	4,620	4,463
Other OR	465	520	570	21,669	23,400	26,220
PA	240	220	270	3,360	3,080	3,510
RI	210	225	275	147	135	138
SD	260	290	290	1,248	986	812
UT	280	290	290	728	580	435
WA	565	560	600	93,225	95,200	108,000
WI	370	400	400	30,895	34,000	33,800
WY ²	300	295		120	148	
Total	356	369	393	432,737	429,847	470,840

¹ Summer estimates included with fall in 2000.

² Estimates discontinued in 2000.

**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1997-2000 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 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	1997	4,200	2,700	206	20	340	3,840
	1998	3,708	2,800	157	29	720	2,959
	1999	4,005	3,200	179	17	383	3,605
	2000	3,741	2,700				
CO	1997	24,993	19,400	1,895	1,340	2,773	20,880
	1998	25,360	19,000	1,930	1,615	2,615	21,130
	1999	25,762	19,700	1,971	1,705	2,967	21,090
	2000	27,972	20,300				
ID	1997	140,314	102,000	8,700	1,130	9,258	129,926
	1998	138,000	99,500	8,300	1,280	9,756	126,964
	1999	133,330	96,000	8,700	1,150	9,300	122,880
	2000	152,320	110,500				
ME	1997	19,080	15,600	1,430	275	1,760	17,045
	1998	18,060	14,100	1,430	360	1,740	15,960
	1999	17,813	14,500	1,408	330	1,850	15,633
	2000	17,920	14,100				
MI	1997	14,250	8,500	864	200	1,300	12,750
	1998	14,648	9,100	888	200	1,348	13,100
	1999	14,963	8,800	1,005	213	1,300	13,450
	2000	14,963	8,700				
MN	1997	20,440	13,500	1,640	450	1,717	18,273
	1998	21,170	13,500	1,400	254	1,440	19,476
	1999	18,020	10,600	1,254	170	1,980	15,870
	2000	21,240	14,200				
MT	1997	3,328	3,180	244	152	208	2,968
	1998	3,180	3,050	253	145	265	2,770
	1999	3,325	3,200	288	151	213	2,961
	2000	3,503	3,350				
NE	1997	7,761	5,300	462	203	380	7,178
	1998	8,175	4,700	469	166	881	7,128
	1999	8,904	5,300	598	209	742	7,953
	2000	10,127	6,450				
NY	1997	7,150	3,600	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	3,400	572	110	330	6,850
	1999	6,758	3,500	484	95	323	6,340
	2000	5,964	2,700				

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**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 1997-2000 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 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	1997	22,000	16,000	2,142	355	2,266	19,379
	1998	28,670	20,500	2,178	395	2,840	25,435
	1999	26,400	17,000	2,232	340	4,600	21,460
	2000	26,950	18,500				
OH	1997	1,170	350	105	8	37	1,125
	1998	1,200	260	100	8	37	1,155
	1999	987	300	84	6	60	921
	2000	1,134	320				
OR	1997	27,319	20,500	1,405	195	1,555	25,569
	1998	26,229	20,000	1,334	195	2,206	23,828
	1999	28,020	22,000	1,368	239	1,607	26,174
	2000	30,683	25,000				
PA	1997	3,173	2,000	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	2,000	261	50	252	3,058
	1999	3,080	2,000	270	31	172	2,877
	2000	3,510	1,700				
WA	1997	88,160	47,000	3,840	300	6,400	81,460
	1998	93,225	49,000	4,080	300	6,500	86,425
	1999	95,200	48,000	4,200	300	6,500	88,400
	2000	108,000	61,000				
WI	1997	30,175	19,200	1,764	275	1,448	28,452
	1998	30,895	20,000	1,720	265	2,360	28,270
	1999	34,000	21,000	1,720	310	1,420	32,270
	2000	33,800	20,000				
15 Sts	1997	413,513	278,830	25,580	5,120	29,933	378,460
	1998	423,170	280,910	25,072	5,372	33,290	384,508
	1999	420,567	275,100	25,761	5,266	33,417	381,884
	2000	461,827	309,520				
Fall Sts	1997	423,190		26,224	5,260	30,841	387,089
	1998	432,737		25,657	5,584	34,231	392,922
	1999	429,847		26,355	5,377	34,260	390,210
	2000	470,840					

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States,
1997-1999 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	1997													
	1998				13	12	13	11	10	12	10	8	7	4
	1999				5	12	14	10	12	9	10	10	11	7
CO	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
	1999			4	7	10	10	10	10	12	11	10	10	6
ID	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
	1999		3	15	18	6	6	5	7	9	10	9	6	6
ME	1997		1	6	7	8	8	10	9	15	17	10	9	
	1998		1	7	9	9	9	10	11	14	12	9	9	
	1999		3	6	7	7	9	10	10	12	16	11	9	
MI	1997	3	9	10	8	11	11	11	12	11	8	6		
	1998	3	8	9	9	9	12	14	9	12	10	5		
	1999	3	7	8	9	15	12	9	9	9	11	6	2	
MN	1997		5	22	25	11	7	5	6	7	7	5		
	1998		11	16	14	10	5	7	6	8	9	6	8	
	1999		8	12	13	11	8	8	7	9	8	6	5	5
NY	1997		8	15	15	16	15	13	9	5	3	1		
	1998		7	16	16	16	15	11	8	6	4	1		
	1999		4	21	18	11	9	10	8	9	10			
ND	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
	1999		2	13	20	7	10	12	7	7	8	7	6	1
OR	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
	1999	2	13	10	21	7	6	7	8	7	7	7	3	2
PA	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	
	1999		14	13	12	12	13	11	9	7	6	2	1	
WA	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
	1999		17	14	24	6	6	5	5	6	5	6	5	1
WI	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	
	1999	2	7	16	12	11	9	8	10	9	9	5	2	

Potatoes: Harvest Loss by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 1999-2000 ¹

State	Crop Year	Reds	Whites	Russets	All Types
		<i>Cwt per Acre</i>	<i>Cwt per Acre</i>	<i>Cwt per Acre</i>	<i>Cwt per Acre</i>
ID	1999		23	33	32
	2000		17	27	27
ME	1999	33	15	16	16
	2000	11	16	14	15
MN	1999	16	17	19	18
	2000	11	19	26	19
ND	1999	18	15	31	22
	2000	26	14	42	25
OR	1999		16	24	24
	2000		31	26	27
WA	1999		35	20	22
	2000		17	24	23
WI	1999	8	4	16	13
	2000	20	16	15	16

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

Potatoes: Number of Hills by Type, Seven Objective Yield States, 1999-2000 ¹

State	Crop Year	Reds		Whites		Russets	
		Number of Samples	Avg No. Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. Hills per Acre	Number of Samples	Avg No. Hills per Acre
ID	1999			18	13,028	277	12,200
	2000			21	12,089	274	12,087
ME	1999	7	14,607	110	13,263	45	9,112
	2000	6	14,122	103	13,036	62	9,717
MN	1999	42	10,339	16	8,435	76	12,358
	2000	60	12,553	22	11,373	74	12,190
ND	1999	21	9,260	54	8,773	73	9,960
	2000	21	9,787	48	9,865	75	10,757
OR	1999	2	16,566	25	14,350	134	14,723
	2000			27	13,325	120	13,288
WA	1999	6	16,380	28	13,967	152	13,896
	2000	3	18,293	30	14,754	154	14,076
WI	1999	12	13,085	28	12,600	76	11,969
	2000	11	12,871	34	12,676	67	11,689

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

2000 Potato Objective Yield Survey

The National Agricultural Statistics Service conducted potato objective yield surveys in the 7 major fall producing States in 2000. These 7 States account for 83 percent of the 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. Survey data from the objective yield counts are presented in the previous tables. They are provided to show information about the crop and trends in production.

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 310 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent or approximately 8.0 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.5 percent or approximately 13.9 million cwt.

Also shown is the 10-year (1990-1999) 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 5.5 million cwt. During the 10-year period, the December 1 stocks estimates have been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years. Production estimates have been below the final estimate 8 years and above 2 years with the average change of 5.3 million cwt for these 10 years.

Reliability of December 1 Fall Potato Estimates

Estimate	Root Mean Square Error		Ten Year Record of Difference Between Dec 1 and Final Estimate					
	Percent	90% Confidence Level		Quantity			Number of Years	
		Percent	Quant	Avg	Small	Large	Below Final	Above Final
			<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>		
Stocks	2.6	4.5	13.93	5.52	0.73	14.50	9	1
Production	1.7	3.0	14.13	5.29	0.28	13.46	8	2

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December 1 Stocks, United States, 1990-2000

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
1990	217,300	96.4	225,500
1991	240,660	99.4	242,070
1992	232,320	94.1	246,820
1993	240,370	96.4	249,410
1994	264,090	96.6	273,290
1995	252,030	98.2	256,710
1996	291,650	98.8	295,100
1997	274,250	98.4	278,830
1998	281,020	100.0	280,910
1999	274,870	99.9	275,100
2000	309,520		

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 90.9 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use accounted for the remaining 9.1 percent. Most seed for use the following crop year is on hand and remains part of stocks until moved or planted.

**Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,
United States, 1995-2000**

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>
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	29,217
1999	429,847	390,210	90.8	39,637	9.2	29,726
2000	470,840					

Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 15 Fall Storage States, 1997-2000

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>
1997	15.3	17.3	19.3	21.3	23.5	25.6		29.9
1998 ²	18.4	20.6	22.7	24.7	26.9	29.0	30.9	33.3
1999 ²	18.2	21.0	23.0	25.0	27.1	29.2	31.1	33.4
2000	16.5							

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

² Corrected.

Potato Stocks Record High, Up 13 Percent

The **15 major potato States** held a record high 310 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2000, up 13 percent from last year and 10 percent above 1998. Potatoes in storage accounted for 67 percent of the 2000 fall storage States production, 2 percentage points above last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 10 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody) and 83 percent russet; with fewer whites, and more reds and russets than a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 States from the start of harvest to December 1, at 152 million cwt of potatoes, was up 5 percent from the same period last year and 7 percent more than two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.5 million cwt so far this year, was down 9 percent from last year and 10 percent less than two years ago.

Processors used 78.5 million cwt of 2000 crop potatoes so far this season, up 5 percent from a year ago and 6 percent above two years ago.

Eastern States stored 18.5 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, down 7 percent from last year and 5 percent below 1998. Maine's stocks were down 3 percent, New York's storage was off 23 percent, and Pennsylvania's stocks declined 15 percent.

Central States accounted for 68.2 million cwt of potato stocks this December, up 8 percent from last year and slightly above two years ago. Minnesota's stocks jumped 34 percent and Nebraska rose 22 percent from a year ago. North Dakota stocks gained 9 percent and Ohio increased 7 percent. Michigan was off 1 percent and Wisconsin was down 5 percent from last year.

Western States held 223 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, a jump of 16 percent above last year and 15 percent above two years ago. Washington's storage increased 27 percent from last year, Idaho rose 15 percent, and Oregon was up 14 percent. Colorado gained 3 percent and Montana increased 5 percent. California's stocks were down 16 percent.

Fall Potato Production Record High

Production of fall potatoes for 2000 is a record high 471 million cwt, up 9 percent from comparable estimates last year, and 4 percent above the previous record in 1996. Area harvested, at 1.20 million acres, is up a comparable 2 percent from last year. The average yield is a record high 393 cwt per acre, a jump of 24 cwt from the previous record high last year and 36 cwt above two years ago for comparable States. Comparability is achieved by combining Nebraska's previous summer and fall crops and dropping Wyoming's estimates.

Record large crops were produced in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Yields were record high in 12 States. Hot weather during the summer growing months pushed size profiles and yields to high levels in many of the western States. The north central States lost several thousand acres to flood damage in late June with some blight and frost losses late in the season. Eastern areas were slow to plant because of a wet, cool spring. However, the growing season generally went well and harvest finished on a timely manner.

Five **Eastern States** produced 28.2 million cwt of fall potatoes in 2000, down 1 percent from last year and 5 percent below two years ago. Area harvested totaled 101,300 acres, down 4 percent from last year. The average yield of 278 cwt per acre was up 8 cwt from last year and 7 cwt above 1998. Production in Maine gained 1 percent and Rhode Island rose 2 percent from last year. Pennsylvania's production was up 14 percent, but New York and Massachusetts output fell by 12 and 14 percent, respectively.

Eight **Central States** production is estimated at 110 million cwt this year, a gain of 3 percent from last year and 1 percent from two years ago. Harvest was taken from 336,700 acres, up 1 percent, while the average yield of 327 cwt per acre was up 6 cwt from a year ago. Production in Minnesota was up 18 percent from last year with an increase in harvested acreage and higher yield. North Dakota's production increased 2 percent despite acreage losses from flooding in June. Wisconsin's production was down 1 percent and Nebraska was off 4 percent because of lower acreage. Michigan's crop was equal to last year. Production in Indiana was down 15 percent and South Dakota's dropped 18 percent with frost damage encountered at the end of the season.

Ten **Western States** produced 333 million cwt of potatoes in 2000, up 12 percent from the last year and 13 percent above two years ago. Acreage harvested, at 760,400 acres, was up 4 percent, as the average yield jumped 32 cwt. Idaho potato farmers produced a record high 152 million cwt, up 14 percent from a year ago. Washington hit a record high 108 million cwt, with a gain of 13 percent from last year. Oregon's potato crop topped off at a record 30.7 million cwt, up 10 percent from last year. Montana's production was also record high. Production in Colorado rose 9 percent from last year, Nevada was up 10 percent, and New Mexico gained 8 percent. California's output is off 7 percent and Utah dropped 25 percent.

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. on January 16, 2001.

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