

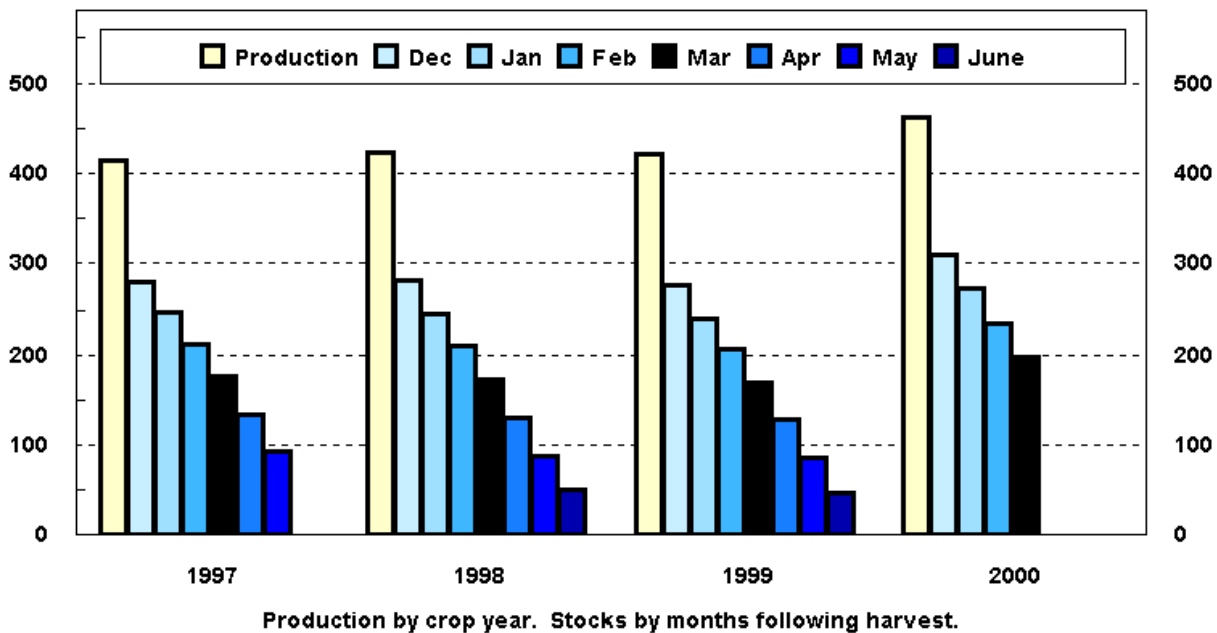
Released March 14, 2001, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Potato Stocks" call Arvin Budge at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

March Potato Stocks Record High, Up 17 Percent

The 15 major potato States held a record high 198 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 2001, up 17 percent from last year and 5 percent above the previous record set March 1, 1997. Potatoes in storage accounted for 43 percent of the 2000 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. Disappearance, at a record high 264 million cwt, was up 5 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. Potatoes used for processing to March 1 totaled 132 million cwt, up 2 percent from last year and 1 percent above two years ago. February processing of 18.6 million cwt fell 8 percent short of last year for comparable States.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 15 Storage States

Mil Cwt



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	272,960	235,050	198,320			

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 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	35,720	43,470	50,580				
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	2,475	3,105	3,695				
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	34,770	40,970	47,720	55,250				
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 ⁵	12,650	16,235	18,625	22,030				
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 ⁵	78,555	95,400	112,920	131,555				

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.

⁵ January 1 and February 1 data revised.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on March 1, 2000-01

State	Crop of 1999			Crop of 2000		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2000	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2001 ¹	% 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	1,800	45	3,741	1,300	35
CO	25,762	12,900	50	27,972	13,000	46
ID	133,330	65,000	49	152,320	75,000	49
ME	17,813	9,400	53	17,920	8,700	49
MI	14,963	4,200	28	14,963	3,400	23
MN	18,020	6,200	34	21,240	10,100	48
MT	3,325	2,700	81	3,503	3,000	86
NE ²	8,904			10,127		
NY	6,758	1,300	19	5,964	700	12
ND	26,400	9,000	34	26,950	11,100	41
OH ²	987			1,134		
OR	28,020	15,500	55	30,683	17,300	56
PA	3,080	700	23	3,510	700	20
WA	95,200	28,000	29	108,000	40,000	37
WI	34,000	10,600	31	33,800	10,500	31
Other States		2,320			3,520	
15 States	420,567	169,620	40	461,827	198,320	43

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2001 crop. Seed usage in 2000 totaled 29.7 million cwt.

² Blank States combined into "Other States".

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	18.4	20.6	22.7	24.7	26.9	29.0	30.9	33.3
1999	18.2	21.0	23.0	25.0	27.1	29.2	31.1	33.4
2000	19.5	22.5	27.9	31.5				

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

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

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Mar 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	1,800	206	20	340	3,840
	1998	3,708	1,600	157	29	720	2,959
	1999	4,005	1,800	179	17	383	3,605
	2000	3,741	1,300				
CO	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	1,971	1,705	2,967	21,090
	2000	27,972	13,000				
ID	1997	140,314	69,500	8,700	1,130	9,258	129,926
	1998	138,000	66,000	8,300	1,280	9,756	126,964
	1999	133,330	65,000	8,700	1,150	9,300	122,880
	2000	152,320	75,000				
ME	1997	19,080	10,300	1,430	275	1,760	17,045
	1998	18,060	8,450	1,430	360	1,740	15,960
	1999	17,813	9,400	1,408	330	1,850	15,633
	2000	17,920	8,700				
MI	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	1,005	213	1,300	13,450
	2000	14,963	3,400				
MN	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	1,254	170	1,980	15,870
	2000	21,240	10,100				
MT	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	288	151	213	2,961
	2000	3,503	3,000				
NE ¹	1997	7,761		462	203	380	7,178
	1998	8,175		469	166	881	7,128
	1999	8,904		598	209	742	7,953
	2000	10,127					
NY	1997	7,150	800	607	139	315	6,696
	1998	7,290	800	572	110	330	6,850
	1999	6,758	1,300	484	95	323	6,340
	2000	5,964	700				

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

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Mar 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	9,300	2,142	355	2,266	19,379
	1998	28,670	12,800	2,178	395	2,840	25,435
	1999	26,400	9,000	2,232	340	4,600	21,460
	2000	26,950	11,100				
OH ¹	1997	1,170		105	8	37	1,125
	1998	1,200		100	8	37	1,155
	1999	987		84	6	60	921
	2000	1,134					
OR	1997	27,319	13,000	1,405	195	1,555	25,569
	1998	26,229	13,000	1,334	195	2,206	23,828
	1999	28,020	15,500	1,368	239	1,607	26,174
	2000	30,683	17,300				
PA	1997	3,173	890	276	78	176	2,919
	1998	3,360	700	261	50	252	3,058
	1999	3,080	700	270	31	172	2,877
	2000	3,510	700				
WA	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	4,200	300	6,500	88,400
	2000	108,000	40,000				
WI	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	10,600	1,720	310	1,420	32,270
	2000	33,800	10,500				
Other Sts	1997		2,430				
	1998		2,150				
	1999		2,320				
	2000		3,520				
15 Sts	1997	413,513	175,870	25,580	5,120	29,933	378,460
	1998	423,170	173,650	25,072	5,372	33,290	384,508
	1999	420,567	169,620	25,761	5,266	33,417	381,884
	2000	461,827	198,320				
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	470,504					

¹ Stocks from States left blank combined into "Other States".

**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	

Potato Stocks Record High, Up 17 Percent

March 1, 2001 **potato stocks** totaled a record high 198 million cwt, up 17 percent from last year and 14 percent above two years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 43 percent of the fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from a year ago. This year's record high stocks exceeded the previous record set March 1, 1997 by 5 percent.

Disappearance from the start of harvest to March 1 was a record high 264 million cwt. This disappearance was up 5 percent from last year and 4 percent above the previous record set during the 1996 season. The disappearance during February was 36.7 million cwt, down 2 percent from the record high February disappearance established last year. Shrink and loss to this point in the season was 31.5 million cwt, up 26 percent from last year and 27 percent above two years ago. This disappearance and loss total includes potatoes diverted and destroyed by growers under a cooperative program to reduce surpluses.

Processing of 2000 crop potatoes totaled 132 million cwt to March 1, up 2 percent from the 1999 crop and 1 percent above two years ago in comparable States. In February, processors used 18.6 million cwt of potatoes, down 8 percent from last year in comparable States.

Eastern States stored 10.1 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 2001, down 11 percent from a year ago but 2 percent above two years ago. Maine's holdings were down 7 percent and New York's stocks were off 46 percent from last year. Pennsylvania's storage was equal to last year.

Central States accounted for 38.6 million cwt of potato stocks this March 1, 19 percent above March 2000 but 1 percent below 1999. Minnesota's stocks were up 63 percent and the Nebraska-Ohio combination was up 52 percent. Stocks in North Dakota were up 23 percent from last year. Wisconsin's stocks were down 1 percent and Michigan's potato stocks were 19 percent below a year ago.

Western States held 150 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, 2001, up 19 percent from last year and 20 percent above 1999. Washington's potato stocks were up 43 percent from a year ago, while Idaho's stocks increased 15 percent, and Oregon's were up 12 percent. Colorado's stocks were up 1 percent from last year and Montana was up 11 percent. California's potato stocks were down 28 percent from a year ago.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 198 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.7 percent or approximately 7.3 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.4 percent or approximately 12.7 million cwt.

The 10-year (1991-2000) record of differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 5.0 million cwt, ranging from 0.45 million cwt above the final to 13.1 million cwt below the final. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 7 years and above 3 years.

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

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks <i>1,000 Cwt</i>	% of Final <i>Percent</i>	Final Stocks <i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	100.3	169,620
2000	198,320		

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 <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>	
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	470,504					

The next "Potato Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 12, 2001.

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