

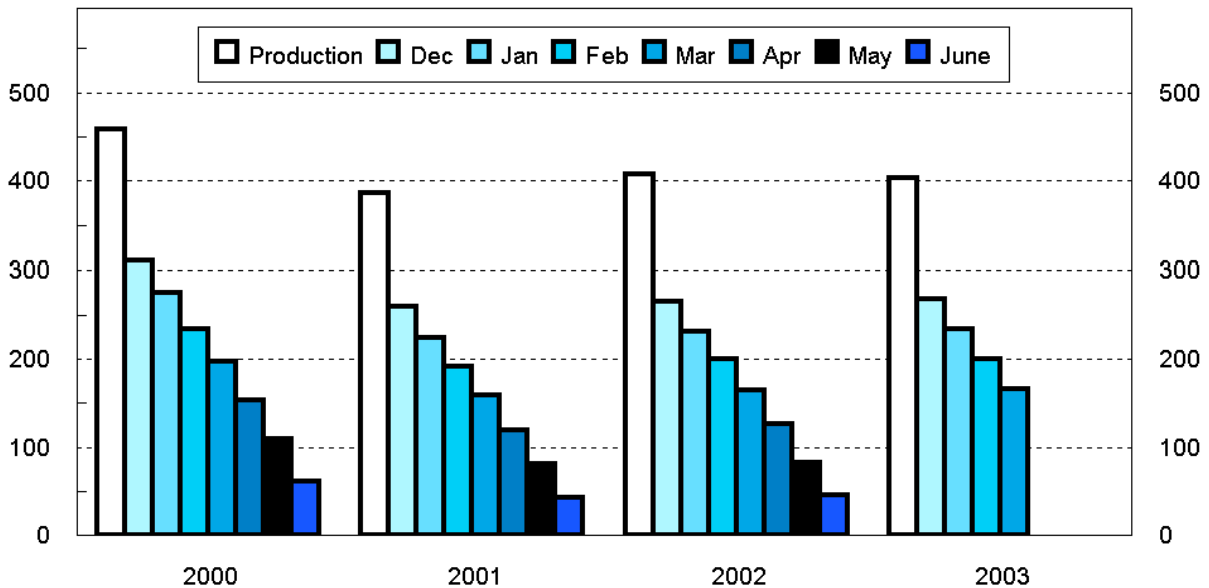
Released March 15, 2004, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Potato Stocks" call Cathy Scherrer at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent

The 15 major potato States held 167 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from last year. Disappearance of 237 million cwt of potatoes is down 2 percent from last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 22.6 million cwt so far this season, is up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above the same date in 2002. Processors in the 9 major States used 120 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 26.1 million cwt of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year.

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, 1994-2003

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>
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	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,240
2001	387,179	258,750	224,680	192,190	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,821	264,585	231,690	199,320	165,310	125,870	82,940	45,980
2003	403,946	267,860	233,880	200,530	166,690			

¹ Data not available prior to 1998.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 States, 2001-2003 ¹

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 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>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
ID & OR-Mal								
2001	20,940	27,330	33,620	40,860	47,710	54,150	61,200	73,390
2002	28,380	34,860	41,200	48,600	56,240	63,840	71,280	85,390
2003	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640				
ME ²								
2001	1,975	2,440	3,110	3,700	4,285	4,775	5,515	7,195
2002	2,230	2,715	3,345	3,905	4,505	5,225	5,905	7,835
2003	1,590	2,095	2,725	3,415				
WA & OR-Oth								
2001	29,320	35,310	40,540	47,910	54,970	61,360	69,400	77,180
2002	33,680	39,490	44,190	51,920	58,710	64,300	71,480	79,110
2003 ³	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210				
Other Sts ⁴								
2001	13,170	14,925	19,000	22,115	24,655	27,815	30,460	37,740
2002	12,190	14,865	17,865	20,740	23,580	26,000	29,075	36,705
2003	12,570	15,410	18,760	21,890				
Total								
2001	65,405	80,005	96,270	114,585	131,620	148,100	166,575	195,505
2002	76,480	91,930	106,600	125,165	143,035	159,365	177,740	209,040
2003 ³	71,140	86,755	101,355	120,155				
Dehydrated ⁵								
2001 ⁶								38,581
2002	15,670	19,660	23,710	27,950	31,910	36,105	40,455	48,943
2003	14,250	18,370	22,050	26,100				

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, CO, MI, and WI.

² Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

³ February revised.

⁴ MN, NV, ND, SD, and WI in 2001. CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI in 2002 and 2003.

⁵ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

⁶ No monthly data available.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks on March 1, 2003-2004 ¹

State	Crop of 2002			Crop of 2003		
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2003	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2004	% 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	4,264	2,000	47	3,444	1,800	52
CO	27,885	13,100	47	23,652	10,300	44
ID	133,385	62,000	46	123,180	58,000	47
ME	16,960	8,000	47	17,030	8,900	52
MI	13,878	4,500	32	15,015	4,700	31
MN	18,700	7,400	40	22,330	9,600	43
MT	3,224	2,800	87	3,339	2,900	87
NE ²	8,611			9,860		
NY	5,500	600	11	6,510	1,500	23
ND	23,460	10,000	43	27,440	13,000	47
OH ²	903			1,290		
OR	24,936	9,900	40	20,991	11,000	52
PA	2,590	600	23	3,915	700	18
WA	92,400	30,500	33	93,150	29,500	32
WI	31,125	11,000	35	32,800	11,000	34
Other Sts		2,910			3,790	
15 Sts	407,821	165,310	41	403,946	166,690	41

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2003 totaled 28.3 million cwt.

² Combined into "Other States".

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes that are 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 90.8 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, 1998-2003**

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>
1998	432,737	392,922	90.8	39,815	9.2	29,217
1999	429,847	390,210	90.8	39,637	9.2	29,709
2000	467,504	420,279	89.9	47,225	10.1	27,145
2001	393,750	358,954	91.2	34,796	8.8	28,639
2002	414,317	379,491	91.6	34,826	8.4	28,299
2003	411,386					

**Fall Potatoes: Production, March 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 2000-2003 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	2000	3,741	1,300	58	11	300	3,430
	2001	1,424	600	223	3	128	1,293
	2002	4,264	2,000	198	16	400	3,848
	2003	3,444	1,800				
CO	2000	27,972	13,000	1,771	1,485	3,847	22,640
	2001	21,357	9,400	1,790	1,465	1,887	18,005
	2002	27,885	13,100	1,724	1,460	2,845	23,580
	2003	23,652	10,300				
ID	2000	152,320	76,500	8,140	1,190	13,718	137,412
	2001	120,200	58,000	8,250	1,230	8,261	110,709
	2002	133,385	62,000	7,920	1,440	8,650	123,295
	2003	123,180	58,000				
ME	2000	17,920	8,700	1,302	315	1,490	16,115
	2001	16,430	7,100	1,344	301	849	15,280
	2002	16,960	8,000	1,386	310	790	15,860
	2003	17,030	8,900				
MI	2000	14,963	3,400	1,135	250	1,700	13,013
	2001	13,950	3,200	1,181	245	945	12,760
	2002	13,878	4,500	1,123	205	1,400	12,273
	2003	15,015	4,700				
MN	2000	21,240	10,100	1,140	130	1,700	19,410
	2001	18,425	7,900	1,159	190	1,700	16,535
	2002	18,700	7,400	1,098	130	1,400	17,170
	2003	22,330	9,600				
MT	2000	3,503	2,800	211	133	732	2,638
	2001	3,296	2,460	263	152	188	2,956
	2002	3,224	2,800	254	145	142	2,937
	2003	3,339	2,900				
NE ¹	2000	10,127		542	182	730	9,215
	2001	8,400		570	153	720	7,527
	2002	8,611		611	149	612	7,850
	2003	9,860					
NY	2000	5,964	1,000	517	108	406	5,450
	2001	5,942	600	495	100	502	5,340
	2002	5,500	600	488	100	350	5,050
	2003	6,510	1,500				

--continued

**Fall Potatoes: Production, March 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
15 Storage States and 23 Fall Season States, 2000-2003 Crop Years (continued)**

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	2000	26,950	11,500	2,035	295	3,235	23,420
	2001	26,400	12,300	2,301	320	3,960	22,120
	2002	23,460	10,000	2,242	450	2,650	20,360
	2003	27,440	13,000				
OH ¹	2000	1,134		102	2	35	1,097
	2001	1,097		90	3	36	1,058
	2002	903		89	2	12	889
	2003	1,290					
OR	2000	30,683	17,000	957	140	1,915	28,628
	2001	20,730	11,500	1,200	175	1,059	19,496
	2002	24,936	9,900	1,021	266	1,386	23,284
	2003	20,991	11,000				
PA	2000	3,510	830	252	44	165	3,301
	2001	3,173	600	285	59	120	2,994
	2002	2,590	600	276	38	78	2,474
	2003	3,915	700				
WA	2000	105,000	37,500	3,960	300	9,500	95,200
	2001	94,400	32,500	3,960	300	7,000	87,100
	2002	92,400	30,500	3,960	300	6,500	85,600
	2003	93,150	29,500				
WI	2000	33,800	10,500	1,700	264	1,949	31,587
	2001	31,955	10,000	1,615	278	1,947	29,730
	2002	31,125	11,000	1,848	265	1,775	29,085
	2003	32,800	11,000				
Other Sts	2000		3,540				
	2001		2,430				
	2002		2,910				
	2003		3,790				
15 Sts	2000	458,827	197,670	23,822	4,849	41,422	412,556
	2001	387,179	158,590	24,726	4,974	29,302	352,903
	2002	407,821	165,310	24,238	5,276	28,990	373,555
	2003	403,946	166,690				
Fall Sts	2000	467,504		24,249	4,968	42,257	420,279
	2001	393,750		25,143	5,039	29,757	358,954
	2002	414,317		24,681	5,401	29,425	379,491
	2003	411,386					

¹ Combined into "Other States".

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States,
2000-2002 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	2000				9	11	13	10	9	11	7	11	9	10
	2001					15	11	17	17	22	18			
	2002				11	11	11	10	10	10	13	8	9	7
CO	2000			5	8	10	10	11	8	11	11	12	9	5
	2001			5	10	11	12	12	9	11	10	11	7	2
	2002			4	9	10	10	11	9	11	11	10	7	8
ID	2000		5	9	10	9	6	7	6	9	9	13	8	9
	2001		3	12	13	8	6	7	9	10	10	10	6	6
	2002		4	8	11	10	7	8	8	10	11	10	7	6
ME	2000		2	8	8	7	9	9	12	12	15	10	5	3
	2001		1	9	10	9	9	12	11	11	12	8	5	3
	2002		2	7	11	9	8	10	9	10	15	10	5	4
MI	2000	3	7	8	12	12	12	11	12	11	7	4	1	
	2001	3	7	8	12	11	12	13	11	11	8	3	1	
	2002	4	7	11	12	13	8	6	8	12	13	6		
MN	2000	2	8	8	7	6	5	6	7	10	11	12	18	
	2001		10	9	7	7	6	7	9	10	10	9	8	8
	2002		9	9	9	7	8	7	9	7	9	12	8	6
NY	2000		2	26	18	11	12	8	8	10	5			
	2001		4	20	18	17	15	9	7	6	4			
	2002		8	17	16	14	11	14	10	7	3			
ND	2000		4	21	11	10	5	8	5	9	11	8	8	
	2001			18	10	12	7	8	7	7	14	11	6	
	2002		2	22	10	9	6	9	4	8	10	13	5	2
OR	2000	3	9	12	21	4	5	5	6	7	7	9	6	6
	2001		7	13	21	8	6	5	7	7	8	8	7	3
	2002		11	9	21	9	9	6	9	8	6	7	3	2
PA	2000		14	13	12	12	13	11	9	7	6	2	1	
	2001		17	16	15	12	12	10	8	7	2	1		
	2002		18	14	17	14	10	9	6	5	4	3		
WA	2000		16	14	25	7	4	6	5	5	5	5	5	3
	2001		11	13	25	7	6	5	7	7	6	7	5	1
	2002		17	12	19	9	5	5	7	6	6	7	6	1
WI	2000	1	7	15	14	11	8	8	9	10	10	5	2	
	2001	1	6	13	14	12	10	9	8	10	11	5	1	
	2002	1	7	12	12	12	9	9	8	12	10	6	2	

March Potato Stocks Up 1 Percent from Last Year

The 15 major potato States held 167 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 5 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2003 fall storage States' production, unchanged from a year ago.

Disappearance of 237 million cwt from the start of harvest to March 1, is down 2 percent from the same period last year but 4 percent above two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 22.6 million cwt, is up 2 percent from last year and 4 percent above two years ago.

Processors used 120 million cwt of 2003 crop potatoes so far this season, down 4 percent from a year ago but 5 percent above two years ago. February usage of 18.8 million cwt is 1 percent above last year and 3 percent above two years ago. Dehydrators used 26.1 million cwt to date, down 7 percent from last year.

Western States held 114 million cwt of potatoes in storage on March 1, down 6 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are down 6 percent from last year, Washington decreased 3 percent, Colorado's storages held 21 percent less, and California lost 10 percent. Oregon's sheds stored 11 percent more than last year and Montana increased 4 percent.

Central States accounted for 42.1 million cwt of potato stocks on March 1, up 18 percent from last year and 17 percent above two years ago. Both North Dakota and Minnesota stocks increased 30 percent from last year's level, while Michigan gained 4 percent. Nebraska and Ohio combined are up 30 percent, while Wisconsin's storages hold the same amount as last year at this time.

Eastern States stored 11.1 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, up 21 percent from last year and 34 percent above two years ago. Maine's stocks are up 11 percent, New York's gained 150 percent, and Pennsylvania stocks increased 17 percent.

Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 15 Fall Storage States, 2000-2003

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>
2000	18.7	21.3	26.3	29.2	33.1	36.0	38.4	41.4
2001	14.7	17.3	19.7	21.7	23.5	25.1	26.7	29.3
2002	15.5	18.1	20.3	22.2	24.0	25.7	27.2	29.0
2003	14.9	17.4	20.6	22.6				

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1 stocks estimate, the “Root Mean Square Error,” a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 1 stocks estimate and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the “Root Mean Square Error.” Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current estimate relative to the final end-of-season estimate, assuming that factors affecting this year’s estimate are not different from those influencing recent years.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1 stocks estimate is 3.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 167 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.6 percent or approximately 6.0 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.2 percent or approximately 10.3 million cwt.

The 10-year (1993-2002) record of differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.0 million cwt, ranging from 9.3 million cwt above the final to 7.4 million cwt below the final. During the 10-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 6 years and above 4 years.

**Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March 1 Stocks,
United States, 1993-2003**

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	100.3	197,670
2001	167,870	105.9	158,590
2002	163,900	99.1	165,310
2003	166,690		

The next "*Potato Stocks*" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on April 14, 2004.

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