

POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES

Released: February 14, 1983
3:00 P.M. ET



Crop
Reporting
Board

Statistical Reporting
Service

U.S. Department
of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.
20250

ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS

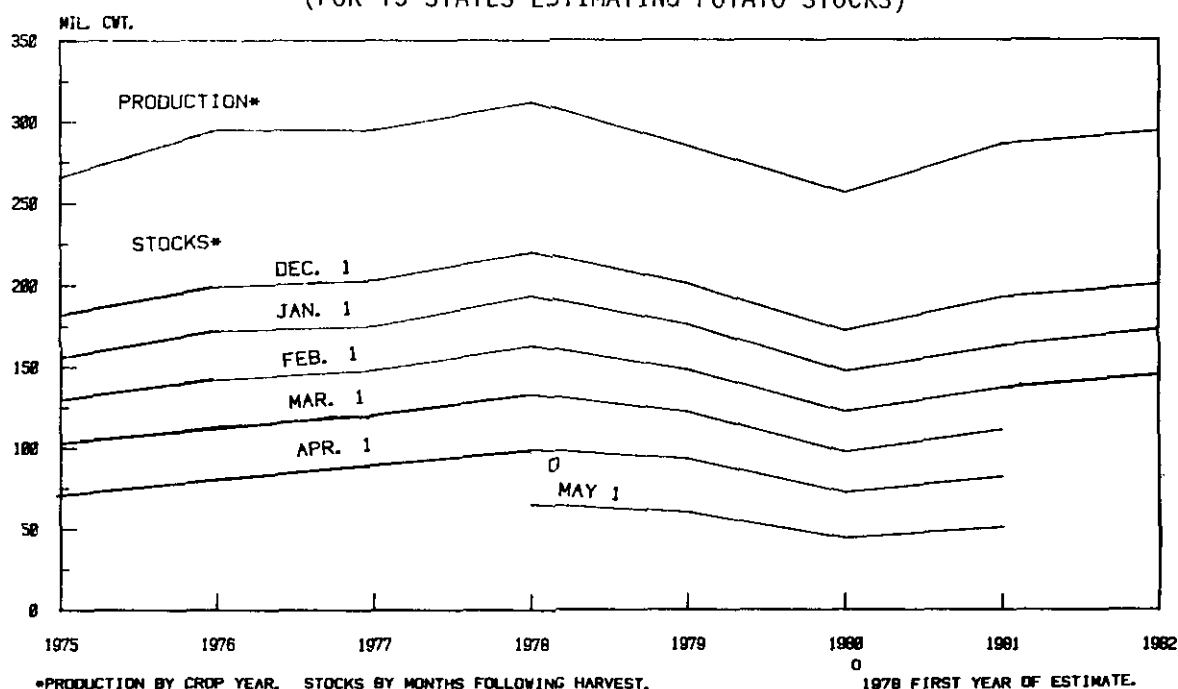
POTATO STOCKS UP 6 PERCENT

February 1, 1983 potato stocks are estimated at 145 million cwt (6.57 million metric tons) for the 15 major fall producing States. This is up 6 percent from last February and 19 percent above two years ago. The February 1 stocks accounted for 49 percent of production in these 15 States compared with 48 percent a year ago. Of the total stocks in the 11 objective yield States, 75 percent are russets, 22 percent whites and 3 percent reds.

In the three Eastern States, estimated holdings totaled 20.9 million cwt, 6 percent above a year ago and 16 percent above two years ago. Maine storage totaled 14.9 million cwt, 1 percent short of last February but 4 percent above two years ago. New York and Pennsylvania stocks are up 29 percent and 36 percent, respectively, from last year.

(Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage and waste and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes generally account for about 90 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage and loss and home use account for the remaining 10 percent.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, APRIL 1, AND MAY 1 TOTAL STOCKS, AND COMPARABLE PRODUCTION FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1972	242,390	155,190	132,050	105,690	82,510	57,860	
1973	247,686	154,890	131,600	105,360	80,460	55,465	
1974	278,679	183,850	160,100	131,480	102,963	75,217	
1975	266,422	181,720	156,220	129,710	102,850	70,970	
1976	294,978	198,630	172,230	142,030	112,830	81,130	
1977	295,421	202,550	175,300	147,930	119,850	88,680	
1978	311,981	219,850	193,520	162,980	132,570	99,250	64,830
1979	285,060	200,820	176,020	147,910	121,720	92,550	59,535
1980	255,691	171,730	146,610	121,565	97,280	72,460	44,446
1981	286,245	192,810	163,180	137,120	111,280	81,870	50,660
1982	294,082	201,775	173,500	144,950			

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1981 AND 1982 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	1981-82 1982-83	16,720 14,330	21,450 18,645	26,000 23,395	31,205	36,840	42,270	56,585
MAINE 2/	1981-82 1982-83	2,145 2,075	2,715 2,800	3,450 3,675	4,135	5,195	5,975	7,325
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1981-82 1982-83	17,730 16,840	21,255 20,130	24,940 23,685	29,175	33,855	38,095	47,325
OTHER STATES 3/	1981-82 1982-83	5,088 5,651	6,329 7,135	7,743 8,625	9,385	11,111	12,750	15,769
TOTAL	1981-82 1982-83	41,683 38,896	51,749 48,710	62,133 59,380	73,900	87,001	99,090	127,004

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE, MICH, MINN, N DAK OR WIS.

2/ INCLUDES MAINE GROWN POTATOES ONLY. 3/ MICH, MINN, N DAK AND WIS.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1982 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1983

STATE	CROP OF 1981			CROP OF 1982		
	: PRODUCTION	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: FEB 1 STOCKS: AS % OF : FEB 1, 1982 : PRODUCTION :	: PRODUCTION	: TOTAL STOCKS:	: FEB 1 STOCKS: AS % OF : FEB 1, 1983 : PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT	PERCENT		1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	6,919	3,000	43	7,585	3,700	49
COLO	11,600	5,650	49	12,600	6,050	48
IDAHO	84,540	49,000	58	89,890	51,000	57
MAINE	26,520	15,100	57	26,500	14,900	56
MICH	7,050	2,800	40	8,085	3,800	47
MINN	13,300	7,000	53	11,520	7,000	61
MONT	1,739	1,600	92	1,924	1,750	91
NEBR	2,252	1,400	62	2,147	1,250	58
N Y - L I	5,365	750	14	4,995	1,000	20
- UPSTATE	6,875	1,650	24	7,020	2,100	30
N DAK	20,125	9,400	47	17,250	9,000	52
OHIO	1,890	170	9	2,328	150	6
OREG	21,710	10,500	48	21,105	11,300	54
PA	5,250	2,100	40	5,758	2,850	49
WASH	52,920	21,200	40	52,800	21,600	41
WIS	18,190	5,800	32	22,575	7,500	33
15 STATE TOTAL	286,245	137,120	48	294,082	144,950	49

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1, 1983 potato stocks estimates, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, has been calculated. This is computed by expressing the deviations between the February 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1963-82 twenty-year period. The square root of this average becomes statistically the "Root Mean Square Error". Probability statements can be made concerning expected errors in the current preliminary 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's preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1, 1983 potato stocks estimate is 3.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 145 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.0 percent or approximately 4.35 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent or approximately 7.54 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the February 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.46 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.17 and the smallest was 0.39 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1983, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	10	5	85	100
IDAHO 1/ 2/			100	100
MAINE 2/		77	23	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	16	49	35	100
N Y 2/ 3/		100		100
N DAK	24	55	21	100
OREG 1/ 2/			100	100
PA 2/		100		100
WASH 1/ 2/			100	100
WIS	5	28	67	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	22	75	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

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Stocks in the six Central States totaled 28.7 million cwt, 8 percent greater than a year ago and 48 percent above 1981. Wisconsin stocks at 7.5 million cwt are up 29 percent; Michigan holdings at 3.8 million are up 36 percent. Minnesota potato stocks at 7.0 million are the same as last year; and North Dakota stocks of 9.0 million cwt are 4 percent lower.

The six Western States held an estimated 95.4 million cwt of potatoes on February 1, 1983, 5 percent more than a year ago and 13 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks at 51.0 million cwt are up 4 percent from last year. During the past month, Idaho farmers removed substantial quantities of frost damaged potatoes from their cellars. The majority of the discards were fed to cattle or dumped onto fields. Growers with potatoes in storage project a potential 4 1/2 percent of the potatoes remaining in storage on February 1, may not be marketable due to frost damage. Potato shrinkage continues to run above normal. Fresh shipments are also ahead of last year.

Disappearance to February 1, 1983 in the 15 major fall States totals 149 million cwt, virtually the same as the same period a year ago. This includes 23.0 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, feed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss) compared with 19.5 million cwt a year earlier. Disappearance for the month of January totaled 28.6 million cwt compared with 26.1 million cwt for January 1982.

Potatoes processed to February 1, 1983 in eight major processing States totaled 59.4 million cwt, 4 percent less than in the same period a year earlier. Processing during January totaled 10.7 million cwt compared with 10.4 million cwt for January 1982.