

ONION STOCKS

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ONION STOCKS DOWN 11 PERCENT

Stocks of onions in common storage on January 1, 1982 in the eleven major summer storage States are estimated at 5.56 million cwt, (252 thousand metric tons), down 11 percent from January 1 a year ago and 28 percent less than on January 1, 1980. Compared with a year earlier, holdings are down in 7 of the 11 major States. Idaho and Eastern Oregon show the largest decline with stocks of 1.30 million cwt compared with 1.91 million cwt on January 1, 1981.

Early movement has been good and sales to January 1, 1982 at 18.3 million cwt are 18 percent greater than the comparable period a year ago. Losses prior to January 1 from shrinkage, waste and cullage amounted to 2.66 million cwt compared with 2.47 million cwt the previous year.

Estimated stocks in this report relate to quantities of sound onions held by growers and dealers. Excluded from these stocks are quantities of onions lost before January 1 through decay, sprouting and dumping. It also excludes gradeout to January 1 and any onions on hand January 1 which do not meet grade standards. Sound onion stocks on January 1 include onions which may be lost after that date from decay and sprouting and marketable onions which may be dumped after January 1 because of economic reasons. Beginning with this report, current estimates show only those onions in common storage. Onions held in cold storage will be published in the Cold Storage Report, January 20, 1982.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1, 1982 onion 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 January 1 preliminary estimate and the final estimate as a percent of the final estimate and averaging the squared percentage deviations for the 1962-81 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.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the January 1, 1982 onion stocks estimate is 6.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 5.56 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.3 percent or approximately 350 thousand hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 10.9 percent or approximately 606 thousand hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the January 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 321 thousand hundredweight. The largest deviation was 788 and the smallest was 46 thousand hundredweight. The preliminary January 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

ONIONS: STOCKS HELD IN COMMON STORAGE BY GROWERS
AND DEALERS, SUMMER AREA

STATE	JAN 1, 1980	JAN 1, 1981	JAN 1, 1982
	1,000 CWT		
CALIF	339	172	148
COLO	800	860	885
IDAHO & E OREG	1,790	1,910	1,300
MICH	1,125	650	950
MINN	81	105	87
N Y	1,770	1,330	1,260
OHIO	100	74	50
OREG, WEST	680	395	184
UTAH	257	195	278
WASH	610	390	236
WIS	200	154	182
TOTAL	7,752	6,235	5,560

STORAGE ONIONS: UTILIZATION AND STOCKS 1/

CROP YEAR	UTILIZATION		JAN 1 STOCKS			UTILIZATION		
	BEFORE JAN 1	AFTER JAN 1	IN COMMON	IN COLD	TOTAL	SOLD	LOSS	
PRODUCTION	SOLD	LOSS	STORAGE	STORAGE <u>2/</u>	TOTAL	SOLD	LOSS	
	1,000 CWT							
1972	20,008	13,790	2,184	3,961	77	4,038	3,761	273
1973	21,024	14,202	1,987	4,754	81	4,835	4,495	340
1974	23,863	16,404	2,270	5,109	80	5,189	4,525	664
1975	23,466	16,390	2,558	4,430	89	4,519	4,132	386
1976	24,563	15,821	3,488	5,156	98	5,254	4,807	447
1977	25,980	16,699	3,538	5,680	63	5,743	4,916	827
1978	27,427	17,366	3,441	6,556	66	6,622	6,103	517
1979	29,785	18,192	3,745	7,752	99	7,851	7,017	831
1980	24,374	15,593	2,469	6,235	78	6,313	5,717	595
1981	26,716	18,324	2,656	5,560	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>		

1/ UTILIZATION MAY NOT BALANCE WITH THE STORAGE ONIONS PRODUCTION OR STOCKS BECAUSE: (A) COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS INCLUDE ALL ONIONS REGARDLESS OF THE SEASONAL GROUP. (B) COLD STORAGE ONIONS STORED OUTSIDE OF SUMMER PRODUCING AREAS. (C) CROSS-STATE MOVEMENT OF ONIONS IN SOME YEARS.

2/ PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REFRIGERATED WAREHOUSES STORING COMMODITIES FOR 30 DAYS OR MORE.

3/ COLD STORAGE STOCKS AVAILABLE FROM COLD STORAGE RELEASE PUBLISHED JAN 20, 1982.