

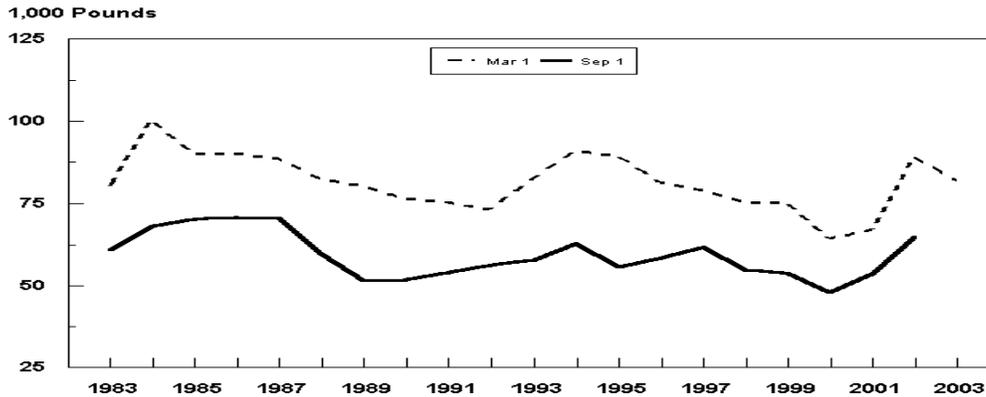
Released March 20, 2003, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on "Hop Stocks" call Kim Ritchie at (360) 902-1940, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PT.

March 1 Hop Stocks Down From Last Year

The inventory of hops held by growers, dealers, and brewers on March 1, 2003, totaled 82.0 million pounds, 8 percent less than March 1, 2002, but 22 percent more than March 1, 2001. This level of March 1 stocks can be compared with record highs and lows for the last ten years, when the high was 90.9 million pounds for March 1, 1994, and the low was March 1, 2000 at 64.5 million pounds.

Stocks held by brewers, at 41.0 million pounds, were down 7 percent from a year ago, and 8 percent less than March 1, 2001. Stocks held by growers and dealers on March 1, 2003, also totaled 41.0 million pounds, 9 percent below the 45.0 million pounds held on March 1, 2002.

Hop Stocks, March 1 and September 1
United States, 1983-2003



Hops: Stocks Held by Growers, Dealers, and Brewers,
United States, 2000-2003

Stocks ¹	September 1			March 1		
	2000	2001	2002	2001	2002	2003
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>					
Stocks Held by:						
Dealers/Growers	10,500	16,000	30,000	22,500	45,000	41,000
Brewers	37,500	38,000	35,000	44,500	44,000	41,000
Total Stocks	48,000	54,000	65,000	67,000	89,000	82,000

¹ Includes equivalent pounds of dry hops held in form of extract or pellets.

The next "Hop Stocks" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on September 18, 2003.

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