

ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS



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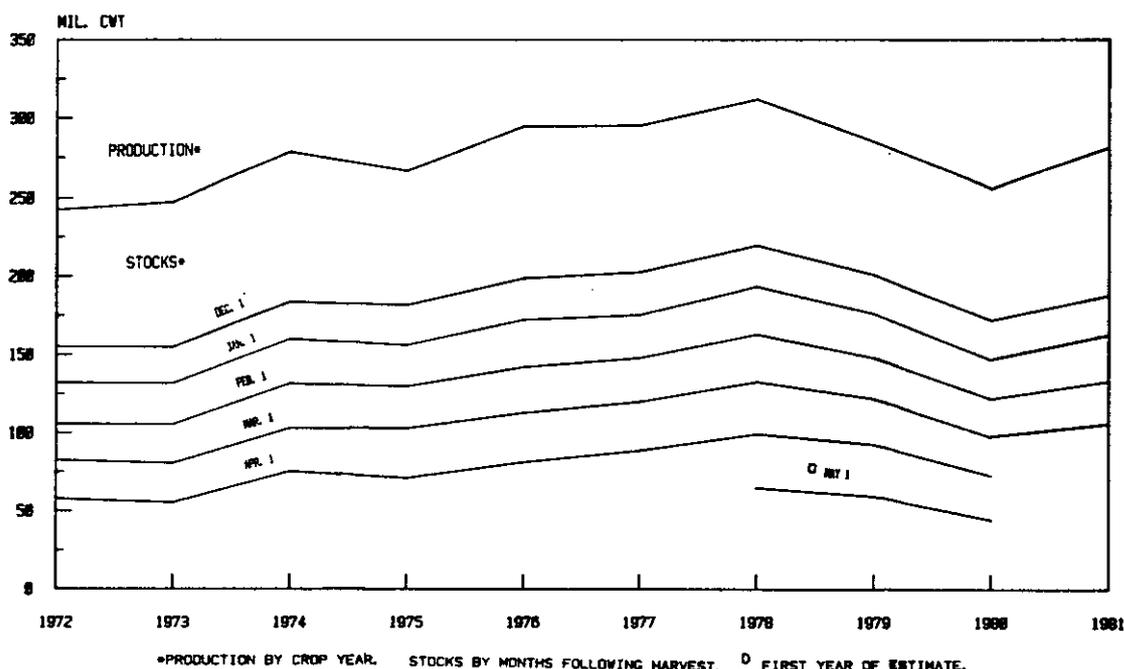
POTATO STOCKS UP 10 PERCENT FROM YEAR EARLIER

Potato stocks as of March 1, 1982 in 15 major fall States are estimated at 107 million cwt (4.84 million metric tons). This is 10 percent above March 1 a year ago but 12 percent less than on March 1, 1980.

Estimated holdings in the three Eastern States total 15.4 million cwt, 11 percent greater than a year earlier but 21 percent below March 1, 1980. Stocks in Maine, at 12.4 million cwt, are up 10 percent from a year ago. In the six Central States estimated stocks are 20.0 million cwt, 45 percent more than on March 1, 1981 but 4 percent below March 1, 1980. North Dakota's stocks are 61 percent greater than a year ago while Minnesota and Wisconsin are up 35 and 48 percent, respectively. Holdings in the six Western States are estimated at 71.4 million cwt, 3 percent above March 1, 1981 but 12 percent below two years ago. Idaho's stocks are estimated at 38.0 million cwt, 5 percent less than a year earlier. Holdings in Washington and Oregon are up 16 and 11 percent respectively, compared with March 1, 1981.

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FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND 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 1/

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	DEC 1	JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1	APR 1	MAY 1
1,000 CWT							
1971 <u>2/</u>	258,613	172,550	148,600	122,350	97,150		
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	281,375	187,790	160,010	132,770	106,735		

1/ SEE TABLE 3 FOR LIST OF 15 STATES. 2/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y - L I, WIS AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1980 AND 1981 CROPS

STATE	STORAGE: SEASON	TO DEC 1	TO JAN 1	TO FEB 1	TO MAR 1	TO APR 1	TO MAY 1	ENTIRE SEASON
1,000 CWT								
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO., OREG	:1980-81	14,460	18,710	23,230	28,110	33,570	39,210	52,720
	:1981-82	16,720	21,240	26,000	31,205			
MAINE <u>2/</u>	:1980-81	2,190	2,880	3,510	4,245	4,980	5,885	6,660
	:1981-82	2,145	2,715	3,450	4,135			
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	:1980-81	14,610	16,845	19,725	23,710	27,405	31,500	39,020
	:1981-82	17,745	21,270	24,915	29,095			
OTHER STATES <u>3/</u>	:1980-81	2,355	2,890	3,745	4,565	5,205	6,105	7,550
	:1981-82	2,860	3,670	4,635	5,835			
TOTAL	:1980-81	33,615	41,325	50,210	60,630	71,160	82,700	105,950
	:1981-82	39,470	48,895	59,000	70,270			

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

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON MARCH 1, 1981 AND MARCH 1, 1982

STATE	CROP OF 1980			CROP OF 1981		
	PRODUCTION 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1981	AS % OF PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS MAR 1, 1982	AS % OF PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,438	2,000	31	6,734	2,060	31
COLO	10,950	4,250	39	12,000	4,600	38
IDAHO	79,840	40,000	50	80,040	38,000	47
MAINE	24,960	11,300	45	26,520	12,400	47
MICH	7,403	1,400	19	7,050	1,800	26
MINN	9,920	4,000	40	13,300	5,400	41
MONT	1,725	1,300	75	1,739	1,450	83
NEBR	1,876	900	48	2,252	1,150	51
N Y -L I	4,794	500	10	5,365	350	7
-UPST	6,250	800	13	6,875	1,100	16
N DAK	15,680	4,600	29	20,125	7,400	37
OHIO	1,995	80	4	1,845	75	4
OREG	19,745	7,500	38	21,710	8,300	38
PA	4,180	1,250	30	5,250	1,500	29
WASH	43,935	14,600	33	52,380	17,000	32
WIS	16,000	2,800	18	18,190	4,150	23
15 ST.						
TOTAL	255,691	97,280	38	281,375	106,735	38

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1, 1982 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 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' preliminary estimate.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the March 1, 1982 potato stocks estimate is 3.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 107 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.8 percent or approximately 4.06 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.5 percent or approximately 6.94 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the March 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 2.9 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.0 and the smallest was 0.3 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 1 estimate was below the final estimate 8 out of the past 10 years.

Disappearance to March 1, 1982 in 15 major fall States totals 175 million cwt, 10 percent above the same period a year ago. This includes 21.6 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss). Disappearance for the month of February totaled 26.0 million cwt compared with 24.3 million cwt for February 1981.

Potatoes processed to March 1, 1982 in seven major processing States total 70.3 million cwt, 16 percent more than the same period a year earlier. During February, 11.3 million cwt were processed compared with 10.4 million cwt for February 1981.

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