

POTATOES & SWEETPOTATOES



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ESTIMATED POTATO STOCKS

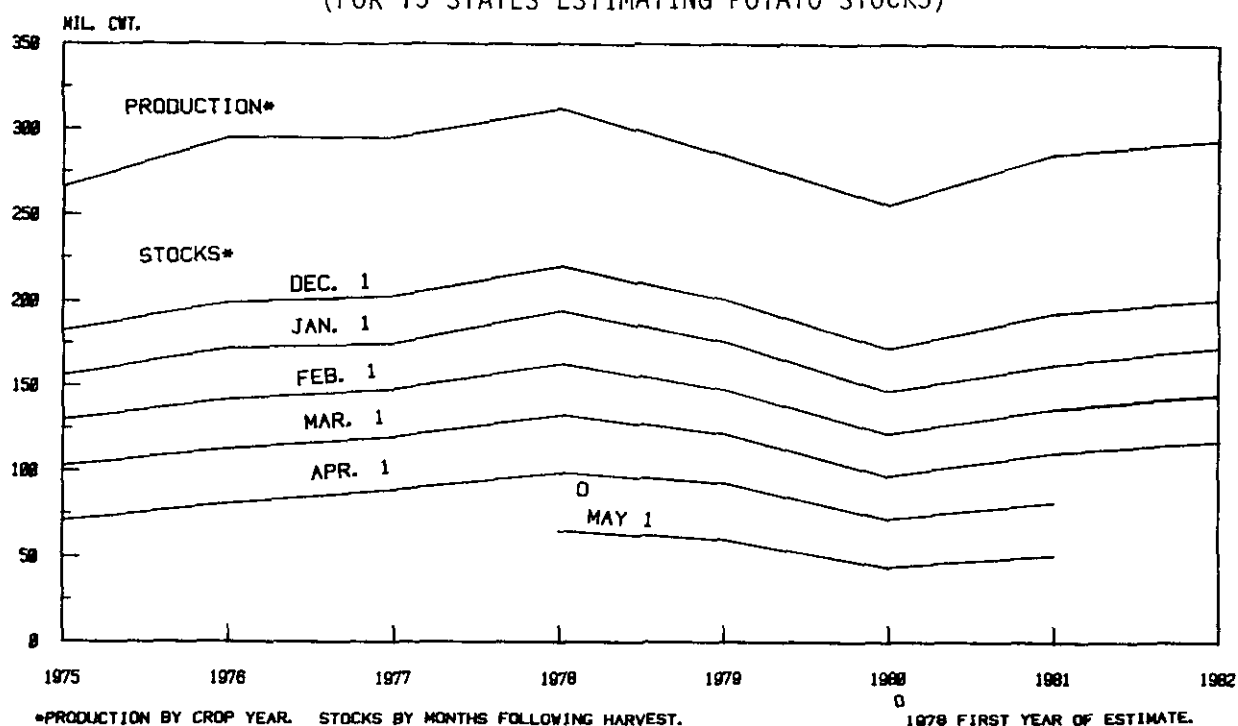
POTATO STOCKS UP 6 PERCENT

March 1, 1983 potato stocks are estimated at 117 million cwt (5.28 million metric tons) for the 15 major fall producing States. This is up 5 percent from last March 1 and 20 percent above two years ago. The March 1 stocks accounted for 40 percent of production in these 15 States compared with 39 percent a year ago.

In the three Eastern States, estimated holdings totaled 15.8 million cwt, 3 percent above a year ago and 14 percent above two years ago. Maine storage totaled 11.9 million cwt, 4 percent short of last March but 5 percent above two years ago. New York stocks are up 24 percent from last year while Pennsylvania holdings are up 40 percent.

(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	116,500		

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	16,720	21,450	26,000	31,205	36,840	42,270	56,585
	1982-83	14,330	18,645	23,395	28,535			
MAINE 2/	1981-82	2,145	2,715	3,450	4,135	5,195	5,975	7,325
	1982-83	2,075	2,800	3,675	4,430			
WASH AND OTHER AREAS, OREG	1981-82	17,730	21,255	24,940	29,175	33,855	38,095	47,325
	1982-83	16,840	20,130	23,685	27,870			
OTHER STATES 3/	1981-82	5,088	6,329	7,743	9,385	11,111	12,750	15,769
	1982-83	5,651	7,135	8,625	10,220			
TOTAL	1981-82	41,683	51,749	62,133	73,900	87,001	99,090	127,004
	1982-83	38,896	48,710	59,380	71,055			

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 MARCH 1, 1982 AND MARCH 1, 1983

STATE	CROP OF 1981			CROP OF 1982		
	PRODUCTION : 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS: : MAR 1, 1982	AS % OF : PRODUCTION	PRODUCTION : 1,000 CWT	TOTAL STOCKS: : MAR 1, 1983	AS % OF : PRODUCTION
CALIF	6,919	2,200	31	7,585	2,700	36
COLO	11,600	4,450	38	12,600	4,700	37
IDAHO	84,540	42,500	50	89,890	43,500	48
MAINE	26,520	12,400	47	26,500	11,900	45
MICH	7,050	2,000	28	8,085	2,700	33
MINN	13,300	5,400	41	11,520	5,300	46
MONT	1,739	1,450	83	1,924	1,650	86
NEBR	2,252	1,200	53	2,147	1,050	49
N Y - L I	5,365	350	7	4,995	550	11
- UPSTATE	6,875	1,100	16	7,020	1,250	18
N DAK	20,125	7,200	36	17,250	7,100	41
OHIO	1,890	80	4	2,328	70	3
OREG	21,710	8,300	38	21,105	9,400	45
PA	5,250	1,500	29	5,758	2,100	36
WASH	52,920	17,000	32	52,800	17,100	32
WIS	18,190	4,150	23	22,575	5,430	24
15 STATE TOTAL	286,245	111,280	39	294,082	116,500	40

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 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 March 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 March 1, 1983 potato stocks estimate is 3.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 117 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.6 percent or approximately 4.19 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.3 percent or approximately 7.34 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the March 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.15 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 5.12 and the smallest was 0.30 million hundredweight. The preliminary March 1 estimate was below the final estimate 8 out of the past 10 years.

(Continued from page 1)

Stocks in the six Central States totaled 21.7 million cwt, 8 percent greater than a year ago and more than doubled two years ago. Wisconsin stocks at 5.4 million cwt are up 31 percent; Michigan holdings at 2.7 million are up 35 percent. Minnesota potato stocks at 5.3 million cwt are down 2 percent from last year; and North Dakota stocks of 7.1 million cwt are 1 percent lower.

The six Western States held an estimated 79.1 million cwt of potatoes on March 1, 1983, 4 percent more than a year ago and 13 percent more than two years ago. Idaho stocks at 43.5 million cwt are up 2 percent from last year, as the overage from last year seems to be dissipating. Additional quantities of frost damaged potatoes were removed from cellars by Idaho farmers during February. Farmers speculate that up to 3 1/2 percent of the potatoes remaining in storage March 1 may not be marketable due to frost damage. Potato shrink continues to run above normal. Washington stocks of 17.1 million cwt are up 1 percent; while Oregon holdings of 9.4 million cwt are up 13 percent from last year.

Disappearance to March 1, 1983 in the 15 major fall States totals 178 million cwt, 1.5 percent above the same period a year ago. This includes 25.6 million cwt of potatoes dumped during grading, fed to livestock on potato farms, discarded without grading and lost to shrinkage (moisture loss) compared with 21.6 million cwt a year earlier. Disappearance for the month of February totaled 28.5 million cwt compared with 25.8 million cwt for February 1982.

Potatoes processed to March 1, 1983 in eight major processing States totaled 71.1 million cwt, 4 percent less than in the same period a year earlier. Processing during February totaled 11.7 million cwt compared with 11.8 million cwt for February 1982.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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