

TOTAL POTATO STOCKS
ON MARCH 1, 1957

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Total storage stocks of fall potatoes held by growers and local dealers on March 1, 1957 amounted to 59.2 million hundredweight, according to the Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These holdings are 21 percent above the 48.7 million hundredweight held on March 1, 1956 and 14 percent larger than the 6-year (1950-55) March 1 average stocks of 51.8 million hundredweight.

Disappearance of storage potatoes during February 1957 totaled 20.1 million hundredweight--2.2 million above the February 1956 disappearance of 17.9 million hundredweight, and 0.3 million above the average February disappearance of 19.8 million hundredweight. The February disappearance was the highest since 1951, when 24.9 million hundredweight was recorded.

The estimates of total stocks represent all potatoes held by growers and local dealers in or near producing areas in the 26 fall producing States. They include quantities to be sold for table use, starch, other processing, feed for livestock, seed for succeeding crops and to be used for feed, seed and household use on farms where grown. These stocks figures, like the December 1, 1956, January 1, 1957, and February 1, 1957 reports, include potatoes that will be lost through shrinkage, decay and dumping after March 1. The total stocks shown in this report are not comparable with the merchantable stocks estimates previously published for March 1, 1950, 1951, 1952, and 1955. Merchantable stocks in past March reports were defined as potatoes on hand that were available for sale for all purposes. These averaged about 22 percent less than total stocks.

The stocks estimates for March 1, 1957 were based largely on a comprehensive survey of growers and warehousemen in the areas growing fall potatoes. The estimates for the March stocks for 4 of the 7 preceding years were prepared by adjusting the March 1 merchantable stocks to a total basis. For the years in which merchantable stocks were not available the total stocks estimates were prepared on the basis of total fall production less sales to March 1 and less farm use and losses from shrinkage and decay to that date. These estimates are believed to be fairly dependable because they were made largely on the basis of reported marketings and utilization of the crop at the end of the season.

The estimates for previous years are included to enable users to make comparisons of current supplies with those of previous years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Pot 1-2 (3-57)

Crop Reporting Board
Washington, D. C.

Potatoes: Production and total stocks of fall crop on hand January 1, February 1, March 1, crops of 1949-1956 and December 1, crops of 1955-1956

Year	Production of fall crop potatoes	Total stocks of fall crop potatoes			
		December 1	January 1 following year	February 1 following year	March 1 following year
	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 cwt.</u>
1949....	162,697	---	106,450	86,080	62,570
1950....	174,111	---	111,640	87,710	63,800
1951....	125,761	---	69,170	52,580	35,140
1952....	141,108	---	881,240	62,110	44,780
1953....	151,278	---	91,750	71,660	53,130
1954....	146,095	---	88,160	69,380	52,220
1955....	<u>1/</u> 148,383	104,810	86,760	66,600	48,730
1956....	165,990	118,820	101,110	79,230	59,170

1/ Production includes 150,000 hundredweight not harvested or not marketed because of low prices.

Potatoes: Total stocks of fall potatoes held by growers and local dealers
on March 1, crops of 1949-1956 1/

State	Mar. 1, 1950	Mar. 1, 1951	Mar. 1, 1952	Mar. 1, 1953	Mar. 1, 1954	Mar. 1, 1955	Mar. 1, 1956	Mar. 1, 1957
	Crop of 1949 <u>2/</u>	Crop of 1950 <u>2/</u>	Crop of 1951	Crop of 1952	Crop of 1953	Crop of 1954	Crop of 1955	Crop of 1956
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
Maine	20,100	16,700	11,200	14,450	17,200	15,400	16,600	19,800
Connecticut	370	460	270	240	210	360	360	340
New York - Upstate.	4,080	3,800	2,000	2,500	2,540	2,530	1,960	1,900
Pennsylvania	2,710	3,270	1,440	1,920	1,550	1,900	2,180	1,100
Other States <u>3/</u> ...	1,200	1,160	720	850	900	920	730	620
8 Eastern	28,460	25,390	15,630	19,960	22,400	21,110	21,830	23,760
Michigan	3,870	3,630	2,160	2,310	2,510	2,530	1,590	2,400
Wisconsin	1,700	2,100	1,240	1,600	1,660	1,530	1,350	1,300
Minnesota	4,320	4,100	2,500	2,530	2,730	3,980	2,500	3,600
North Dakota	5,310	4,420	2,380	2,580	3,120	4,170	2,300	4,100
South Dakota	280	440	270	220	310	380	250	230
Nebraska	1,270	1,770	620	1,000	1,010	910	390	750
Other States <u>3/</u> ...	930	1,120	500	500	520	540	390	350
9 Central	17,680	17,580	9,670	10,740	11,860	14,040	8,770	12,730
Montana	700	780	500	570	660	630	740	750
Idaho	7,800	10,600	5,300	6,500	10,500	9,200	12,100	15,400
Colorado	3,400	2,960	1,740	3,330	3,540	3,100	2,060	2,400
Utah	620	610	290	530	480	480	330	360
Washington	710	980	360	380	590	510	590	550
Oregon	2,000	2,400	970	1,700	1,760	1,930	1,580	1,700
California	830	1,130	530	790	1,080	850	570	1,230
Other States <u>3/</u> ...	370	370	150	280	260	370	160	290
9 Western	16,430	19,830	9,840	14,080	18,870	17,070	18,130	22,680
Total 26 fall states	62,570	62,800	35,140	44,780	53,130	52,220	48,730	59,170

1/ Total stocks consist of "production less total disappearance to date." Disappearance includes all sales for all purposes to date, all potatoes eaten or fed on farms where produced to date and all losses to date through shrinkage, decay, dumping, etc.

2/ Stocks for March 1, 1950-1951 inclusive, include potatoes which were removed by the Government from normal market channels under price support programs.

3/ Eastern - New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York --
Long Island,
Central - Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa,
Western - Wyoming and Nevada.