

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 1945
WITH COMPARISONS

JANUARY 1 POTATO STOCKS ABOUT AVERAGE

Stocks of merchantable potatoes available for sale in hands of growers and local dealers and buyers on January 1 were about average but 23 percent below the record stocks of January 1, 1944. The estimates of the Department of Agriculture show stocks this year of 103,530,000 bushels compared with the revised estimate of 134,020,000 bushels on January 1, 1944 and the 10-year (1931-40) average of 103,601,000 bushels. The revised estimate for the 1943 crop excludes potatoes lost through excessive shrinkage, especially in Maine, after January 1. Marketings to January 1, 1945 were unusually heavy in relation to total supplies and stocks on hand the first of the year were several million bushels lower than would have been expected under peacetime conditions.

Stocks in the 18 surplus late States on January 1, 1945 are estimated at 97,620,000 bushels compared with 126,410,000 bushels on January 1, 1944. Stocks of 5,320,000 bushels in the 12 other late States compare with 6,560,000 bushels on January 1, 1944. For the 7 intermediate States January 1, 1945 stocks of 590,000 bushels compare with 1,050,000 bushels of a year ago.

Production in the 37 late and intermediate States in 1944 amounted to 321,711,000 bushels compared with 398,545,000 bushels in 1943 -- a reduction of 19 percent. The 241,201,000 bushels of the 1944 crop available for sale were only 16 percent below the 287,516,000 bushels sold from the 1943 crop. The quality of the 1944 crop was superior to that of the 1943 crop in most areas of the country. This factor, together with an active demand for potatoes, will cause sales from the 1944 crop to be higher in relation to production than in any recent year.

The estimates of potatoes "available for sale" were determined by subtracting from production the estimated quantities fed and to be fed to livestock on producers' farms; probable losses from shrinkage, decay and waste, potatoes used and to be used for consumption in growers' households, and seed saved for planting on growers' own farms. It is estimated that the quantity of potatoes from the 1944 crop fed to livestock and lost through shrinkage and waste will amount to 21,152,000 bushels compared with 40,498,000 bushels from the 1943 crop, or 6.6 percent of the 1944 crop compared with 10.2 percent of the 1943 crop. The quantity saved for food on farms where grown is placed at 39,569,000 bushels compared with 48,854,000 bushels from the 1943 crop. Growers' own seed saved for planting in 1945 is estimated at 19,789,000 bushels compared with 21,677,000 bushels of homegrown seed used in planting the 1944 crop. Growers reported that 52 percent of the 1945 crop in the 37 late and intermediate States will be planted with homegrown seed compared with 55 percent last year.

Marketings to January 1, 1945 totaled 137,671,000 bushels compared with 153,496,000 bushels marketed to January 1, 1944. Recorded carlot shipments by rail and boat to January 1, 1945 from the 37 late and intermediate States amounted to 82,212,000 bushels compared with 86,306,000 to January 1, 1944, a 5-percent decrease. Deducting rail and boat shipments from estimated marketings to January 1, shipments by motor truck and local sales amounted to 55,459,000 bushels to January 1, 1945 compared with 67,190,000 bushels to January 1, 1944, a 17-percent decrease. Rail and boat shipments to January 1, 1945 were 60 percent of all marketings to that date compared with 56 percent a year earlier.

1945 Acreage Intentions: Growers reporting their January 1 potato stocks also reported their acreage intentions for 1945. Reports at this early date are of a very preliminary nature; however, an interpretation of growers' intentions suggests that plantings in the 37 late and intermediate States will be 3 percent below the acreage planted in 1944. Most of this reduction is in the 18 surplus late States where a decrease of 4 percent is indicated. Reports from the 12 other late States indicate a decrease of 1 percent from the 1944 plantings, which were unusually low. For the 7 intermediate States growers indicate a reduction of 2 percent from the acreage planted in 1944.

**POTATOES (IRISH): MERCHANTABLE STOCKS IN HANDS OF GROWERS AND LOCAL DEALERS ON
JANUARY 1 IN 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES 1/**

GROUP AND STATE	10-yr. Average: Jan. 1, 1931-40:	Jan. 1, 1941	Jan. 1, 1942	Jan. 1, 1943	Jan. 1, 1944	Jan. 1, 1945
	Crops of 1930-39	Crop of 1940	Crop of 1941	Crop of 1942	Crop of 1943	Crop of 1944
SURPLUS LATE STATES:						
	Thousand bushels					
Maine	24,559	27,505	27,607	26,530	35,200	31,820
New York	9,117	8,885	9,146	7,680	8,600	7,100
Pennsylvania	7,092	6,439	6,822	5,200	6,300	6,500
Michigan	9,756	5,476	7,025	4,500	8,500	5,900
Wisconsin	6,348	3,210	3,577	1,600	4,260	2,010
Minnesota	7,114	7,400	4,748	5,500	8,590	3,770
North Dakota	2,983	6,565	5,800	6,200	10,300	8,100
South Dakota	271	250	225	520	960	580
Nebraska	2,736	4,506	3,300	5,400	4,800	2,600
Montana	500	571	439	600	820	950
Idaho	10,956	15,600	11,600	12,850	18,500	13,100
Wyoming	790	1,035	950	1,100	1,160	950
Colorado	5,064	5,100	5,000	6,810	6,500	6,010
Utah	542	842	540	960	1,300	970
Nevada	182	208	200	260	320	260
Washington	3,063	2,937	3,150	2,300	3,220	2,020
Oregon	2,999	3,559	3,046	2,800	4,500	3,180
California (Late) ..	1,981	3,603	3,177	2,700	2,580	1,800
18 SURPLUS LATE	96,053	103,791	96,352	93,510	126,410	97,620
OTHER LATE STATES						
New Hampshire	480	440	300	350	520	450
Vermont	672	580	560	410	580	630
Massachusetts	420	618	495	550	600	540
Rhode Island	132	202	200	220	230	260
Connecticut	643	864	900	900	1,600	1,650
West Virginia	216	303	360	420	160	80
Ohio	1,983	1,588	1,983	1,320	1,250	850
Indiana	820	910	1,400	1,200	760	560
Illinois	214	250	231	180	90	50
Iowa	344	740	500	690	600	90
New Mexico	62	31	46	50	70	60
Arizona	42	66	61	50	100	100
12 OTHER LATE	6,028	6,592	7,036	6,340	6,560	5,320
30 LATE STATES	102,081	110,383	103,388	99,850	132,970	102,940
INTERMEDIATE STATES:						
New Jersey	547	200	200	190	280	180
Delaware	62	69	49	60	40	30
Maryland	207	171	140	140	140	130
Virginia	130	154	111	120	130	110
Kentucky	219	80	100	200	250	60
Missouri	215	140	200	150	90	40
Kansas	140	75	100	70	120	40
7 INTERMEDIATE	1,520	889	900	930	1,050	590
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES ..	103,601	111,272	104,288	100,780	134,020	103,530

- 1/ Merchantable stocks consist of potatoes held by growers, local dealers and buyers on farms or near areas of production for sale or delivery after December 31. They include potatoes held for sale or delivery to starch factories and other processors.
- 2/ Includes 5,263,000 bushels of U.S. No. 2 grade or better diverted to livestock feed after January 1, under Government Diversion Program, for which growers received approximately 15 cents per bushel.
- 3/ For the crop of 1943 stocks include quantities purchased after January 1, 1944 by the Government for starch, dehydration for livestock feed and manufacture of industrial alcohol, for feeding in the raw to livestock, etc.

POTATOES (IRISH): PRODUCTION AND FARM DISPOSITION IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

CROP OF 1943

GROUP AND STATE	FARM DISPOSITION					
	PRODUCTION: 1/	Used to live- stock, shrink- age, and loss: after harvest	Used in farm household	Used for seed on farms where grown	Balance of crop (Sold) Quantity 2/ : Percent of crop	
SURPLUS LATE STATES:						
			Thousand bushels			
Maine	72,775	9,825	952	1,946	60,052	83
New York	29,645	1,779	3,410	1,691	22,765	77
Pennsylvania	18,356	1,306	3,410	1,743	12,197	65
Michigan	22,365	2,796	3,565	2,168	13,836	62
Wisconsin	16,368	1,801	4,290	1,210	9,067	55
Minnesota	23,571	2,829	4,185	2,247	14,310	61
North Dakota	22,100	1,768	1,472	1,755	17,105	77
South Dakota	3,680	478	840	421	1,941	53
Nebraska	12,090	1,209	1,560	536	8,785	73
Montana	2,645	529	448	229	1,439	54
Idaho	43,470	5,216	544	2,178	35,532	82
Wyoming	2,295	207	75	127	1,886	82
Colorado	18,531	1,668	211	1,283	15,369	83
Utah	3,430	549	164	173	2,544	74
Nevada	680	109	29	43	499	73
Washington	13,200	1,848	756	389	10,207	77
Oregon	11,600	1,810	475	609	8,706	75
California (Late) ..	11,480	632	58	244	10,546	92
18 SURPLUS LATE ...	328,581	36,359	26,444	18,992	246,786	75.1
OTHER LATE STATES:						
New Hampshire	1,472	132	310	40	990	67
Vermont	1,825	201	561	112	951	52
Massachusetts	3,375	135	394	61	2,785	83
Rhode Island	1,085	33	46	11	995	92
Connecticut	3,190	128	313	34	2,715	85
West Virginia	2,775	222	1,840	257	456	16
Ohio	8,550	598	2,553	596	4,803	56
Indiana	4,100	266	1,840	237	1,757	43
Illinois	2,170	163	1,575	108	324	15
Iowa	5,238	472	2,928	289	1,549	30
New Mexico	480	67	22	18	373	78
Arizona	1,170	93	8	16	1,053	90
12 OTHER LATE	35,430	2,510	12,390	1,779	18,751	52.9
30 LATE STATES ...	364,011	38,869	38,834	20,771	265,537	72.9
INTERMEDIATE STATES:						
New Jersey	11,431	171	210	181	10,869	95
Delaware	308	21	132	26	129	42
Maryland	1,980	118	608	148	1,106	56
Virginia	9,594	384	2,352	225	6,833	69
Kentucky	4,664	443	3,000	213	1,008	22
Missouri	3,827	192	2,698	48	889	23
Kansas	2,730	300	1,020	65	1,345	49
7 INTERMEDIATE ...	34,534	1,629	10,020	906	21,979	63.6
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES	398,545	40,498	48,854	21,677	287,516	72.1

1/ Production is for the total crop grown in each State except in California where only the late crop is shown.

2/ Consists of sales for food, seed, and processing, including quantities diverted under Government programs to starch, dehydration, livestock feed, etc.

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POTATOES (IRISH): PRODUCTION AND FARM DISPOSITION IN THE 37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES

CROP OF 1944

GROUP AND STATE	INDICATED FARM DISPOSITION					
	PRODUCTION:	Fed to live-	Used and	Saved for	Balance of crop	
	1/	stock, shrink-	saved for	seed on	(Sold and for sale)	
		age, and loss	use in farm:	farms where	Quantity 2/	Percent
		after harvest	household	grown		of crop
<u>THOUSAND BUSHELS</u>						
SURPLUS LATE STATES:						
Maine	53,868	2,155	825	1,851	49,037	91
New York	26,445	1,322	3,328	1,425	20,370	77
Pennsylvania	19,140	1,053	3,392	1,359	13,336	70
Michigan	18,360	1,744	3,162	2,091	11,363	62
Wisconsin	11,844	1,303	3,750	1,228	5,563	47
Minnesota	15,334	1,686	3,680	1,755	8,213	54
North Dakota	20,875	2,192	1,232	1,628	15,823	76
South Dakota	2,550	217	624	333	1,376	54
Nebraska	8,400	504	1,150	427	6,319	75
Montana	2,520	265	377	223	1,655	66
Idaho	36,675	2,751	375	2,249	31,300	85
Wyoming	2,170	173	58	118	1,821	84
Colorado	18,779	1,127	211	1,141	16,300	87
Utah	2,765	166	148	151	2,300	83
Nevada	544	38	32	27	447	82
Washington	10,340	827	675	405	8,433	82
Oregon	10,340	724	408	613	8,595	83
California (Late)	10,530	527	68	390	9,545	91
18 SURPLUS LATE ..	271,479	18,774	23,495	17,414	211,795	78.0
OTHER LATE STATES:						
New Hampshire ...	1,064	53	264	35	712	67
Vermont	1,656	83	495	123	955	58
Massachusetts ...	3,120	124	346	60	2,590	83
Rhode Island	1,235	37	43	13	1,142	92
Connecticut	3,408	153	297	36	2,922	86
West Virginia ...	2,040	164	1,463	257	156	8
Ohio	5,810	348	1,995	421	3,046	52
Indiana	3,115	155	1,476	301	1,183	38
Illinois	1,800	135	1,335	90	240	13
Iowa	2,470	172	1,666	218	414	17
New Mexico	425	25	24	23	353	83
Arizona	1,342	67	7	18	1,250	93
12 OTHER LATE ...	27,485	1,516	9,411	1,595	14,963	54.4
30 LATE STATES ..	298,964	20,290	32,906	19,009	226,759	75.8
INTERMEDIATE STATES:						
New Jersey	8,804	150	210	169	8,275	94
Delaware	273	22	110	25	116	42
Maryland	1,824	119	494	126	1,085	59
Virginia	5,976	299	1,854	179	3,644	61
Kentucky	2,494	125	1,845	203	321	13
Missouri	2,232	90	1,610	52	480	22
Kansas	1,144	57	540	26	521	46
7 INTERMEDIATE ..	22,747	862	6,663	780	14,442	63.5
37 LATE AND INTERMEDIATE STATES	321,711	21,152	39,569	19,789	241,201	75.1

1/ Production is for the total crop grown in each State except in California where only the late crop is shown.

2/ Consists of potatoes sold and to be sold for food, seed and processing, etc.