Potato Stocks

Crop Reporting Board
Statistical Reporting Service

United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

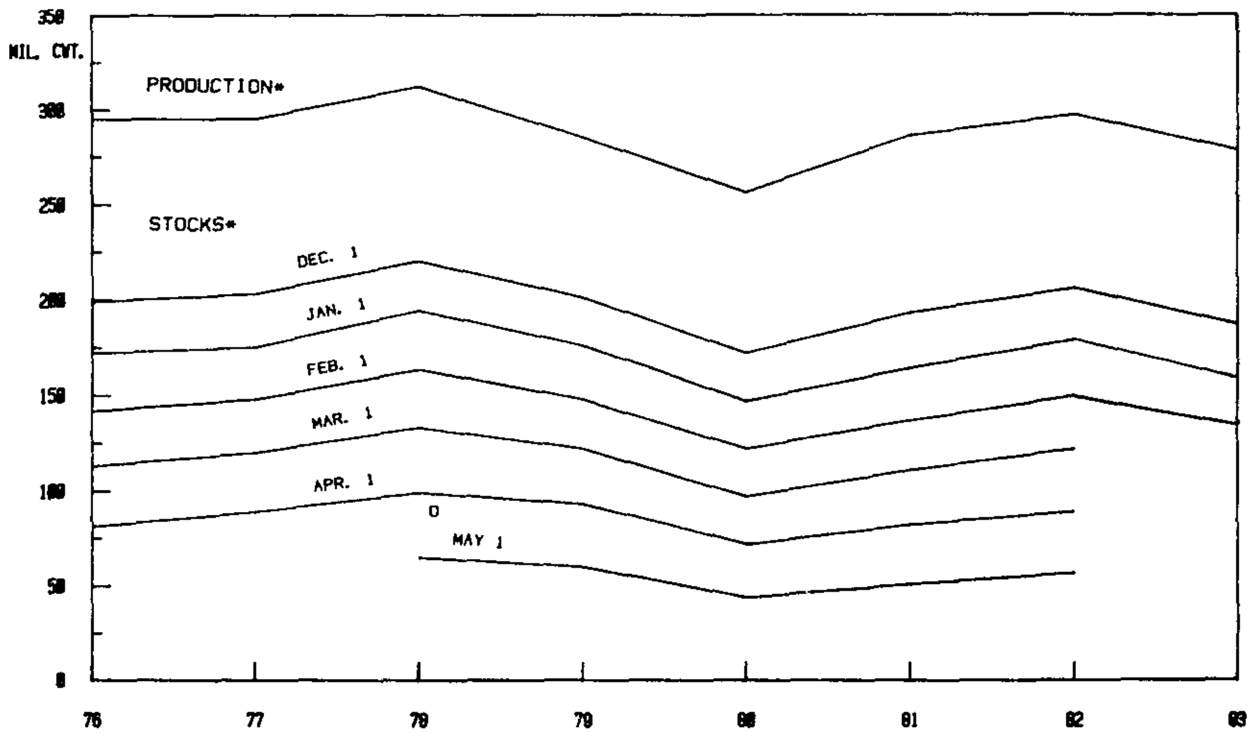
RELEASED: February 14, 1984
3:00 P.M. ET

POTATO STOCKS DOWN 10 PERCENT

February 1, 1984, potato stocks totaled 135 million cwt (6.11 million metric tons), down 10 percent from a year earlier and 2 percent below 2 years ago. Current stocks account for 48 percent of fall production in the 15 survey States compared with 50 percent at this time last year. By variety, potatoes were 75 percent russett, 22 percent white, and 3 percent red, based on data from the 11 objective yield States.

continued on page 4.

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS
(FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



*PRODUCTION BY CROP YEAR. STOCKS BY MONTHS FOLLOWING HARVEST.

0 1978 FIRST YEAR OF ESTIMATE.

 For Information Call: (202) 447-4285

```
*************************************************************************************
*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			
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	163,680	137,120	111,280	81,870	50,660
1982	296,657	206,175	178,750	149,560	121,540	89,120	56,875
1983	277,769	187,100	161,210	134,655			

TABLE 2. POTATOES USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, EIGHT STATES, 1982 AND 1983 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	1982-83	14,330	18,645	23,395	28,535	34,480	39,715	53,395
CO., OREG	1983-84	15,755	20,445	24,785				
MAINE 2/	1982-83	1,915	2,800	3,640	4,400	5,230	6,010	7,450
	1983-84	1,120	1,515	2,170				
WASH AND OTHER	1982-83	16,840	20,130	23,685	27,870	32,100	36,365	45,500
AREAS, OREG	1983-84	16,245	19,920	23,690				
OTHER STATES 3/ 4/	1982-83	5,655	7,135	8,625	10,220	12,170	13,820	16,405
	1983-84	4,305	6,005	7,755				
TOTAL 4/	1982-83	38,740	48,710	59,345	71,025	83,980	95,910	122,750
	1983-84	37,425	47,885	58,400				

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. 4/ 1982-83 REVISED.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1983 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1984

STATE	CROP OF 1982 PRODUCTION	CROP OF 1982 TOTAL STOCKS: FEB 1, 1983	CROP OF 1982 FEB 1 STOCKS: AS % OF PRODUCTION	CROP OF 1983 PRODUCTION	CROP OF 1983 TOTAL STOCKS: FEB 1, 1984	CROP OF 1983 FEB 1 STOCKS AS % OF PRODUCTION
	1,000 CWT		PERCENT	1,000 CWT		PERCENT
CALIF	7,585	3,200	42	7,790	3,260	42
COLO	12,825	6,750	53	13,200	6,250	47
IDAHO	91,710	53,000	58	83,590	46,000	55
MAINE	27,030	16,200	60	22,090	13,300	60
MICH	8,085	4,200	52	7,425	3,300	44
MINN	11,520	7,000	61	10,313	6,900	67
MONT	1,924	1,750	91	1,800	1,650	92
NEBR	2,147	1,150	54	2,025	980	48
N Y - L I	4,995	1,000	20	4,075	1,050	26
- UPSTATE	7,020	2,500	36	5,635	1,950	35
N DAK	17,250	9,400	54	20,460	10,300	50
OHIO	2,328	160	7	1,886	315	17
OREG	21,105	11,300	54	20,710	9,600	46
PA	5,758	2,850	49	4,300	1,700	40
WASH	52,800	21,600	41	53,560	21,800	41
WIS	22,575	7,500	33	18,910	6,300	33
15 STATE TOTAL	296,657	149,560	50	277,769	134,655	48

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1, 1984 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 1964-83 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 estimates.

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1, 1984 potato stocks estimate is 3.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 135 million hundredweight will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.1 percent or approximately 4.17 million hundredweight. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.3 percent or approximately 7.14 million hundredweight.

During the past 10 years, the difference between the February 1 preliminary and final estimate averaged 3.87 million hundredweight. The largest deviation was 6.17 and the smallest was 0.39 million hundredweight. The preliminary February 1 estimate was below the final estimate 9 out of the past 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS, FEBRUARY 1, 1984, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO 1/	13		87	100
IDAHO 1/ 2/			100	100
MAINE		81	19	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	16	48	36	100
N Y 2/ 3/		100		100
N DAK	20	61	19	100
OREG 1/ 2/			100	100
PA 2/		100		100
WASH 1/ 2/			100	100
WIS	5	24	71	100
11 STATE TOTAL	3	22	75	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.
4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

Eastern States stocks have fallen to 18.0 million cwt, 20 percent below last year and 8 percent below 2 years ago. Maine stocks at 13.3 million cwt were off 18 percent; New York stocks at 3.00 million cwt were down 14 percent; and Pennsylvania storages accounting for 1.70 million cwt were down 40 percent from last year.

The six Central States stocks totaling 28.1 million cwt were down 4 percent from last February, but 6 percent above 2 years ago. North Dakota storages held 10.3 million cwt, a gain of 10 percent from last year, while Ohio at 315 thousand cwt was nearly double. The remaining 4 States each held fewer potatoes, ranging from a 1 percent decline in Minnesota to 21 percent fewer in Michigan.

In the six Western States, potato stocks totaled 88.6 million cwt, down 9 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. Idaho stocks at 46.0 million cwt were off 13 percent from last year's level. Oregon holdings at 9.60 million cwt were down 15 percent. Colorado cellars accounted for 6.25 million cwt, a decline of 7 percent. Washington and California both registered more stocks than a year ago by 1 and 2 percent, respectively.

Disappearance of potatoes in the 15 States from harvest to February 1 totaled 143 million cwt, down 3 percent from last year. February disappearance of 26.6 million cwt was down 9 percent. The seasonal disappearance included 17.9 million cwt shrink and loss compared with 23.0 million cwt a year earlier.

Processing to February 1 totaled 58.4 million cwt in the 8 major processing States, 2 percent below the pace of a year earlier.

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1984-420-929:SRS-102