

potato stocks



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POTATO STOCKS UP 26 PERCENT

Stocks of potatoes for all uses held in storage by growers, local dealers and processors in the fall production areas totaled a record 102.3 million cwt. on March 1, 1975 according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 21.1 million cwt. (26 percent) more than the 81.2 million cwt. on hand March 1, 1974 and 4 percent above the previous record March 1 stocks of 1972.

For the eight eastern States, March 1, 1975 stocks totaled 21.6 million cwt., up 40 percent from the 15.5 million on hand a year earlier.

Stocks in the eight central States on March 1, 1975 totaled 17.8 million cwt., 28 percent above the 14.0 million cwt. in storage a year earlier. In the Red River Valley of North Dakota and Minnesota, quality remains variable with "cull-out" running well above average.

In the eight western States, potato stocks totaled 62.8 million cwt., 22 percent more than the 51.5 million on hand a year earlier. In most areas quality of remaining stocks in storage remains average or better.

Disappearance from the 1974 fall crop to March 1, 1975 totaled 182.3 million cwt. (excluding Nevada), 6 percent more than the 172.7 million cwt. moved during the comparable period a year earlier.

The accumulated quantity of potatoes processed in seven major States to March 1, 1975 from the 1974 crop totaled 67.8 million cwt., 2 percent below the 69.1 million cwt. processed for the comparable period a year earlier.

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 with losses due to shrink accounting for most of the remaining 10 percent. Although storage losses are above average this season due to lower quality of potatoes entering storage in some areas, no attempt is made at this date to estimate potential losses to current storage stocks.

TABLE 1. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION, DECEMBER 1, JANUARY 1, FEBRUARY 1, MARCH 1, AND APRIL 1 TOTAL STOCKS, CROPS OF 1964-74 IN THE FALL STATES

CROP YEAR	PRODUCTION	TOTAL STOCKS			
		DEC 1	FOLLOWING YEAR		
			JAN 1	FEB 1	MAR 1
		1,000 CWT.			
1964	174,491	114,550	94,205	73,120	54,535
1965	216,749	147,780	124,170	98,670	74,905
1966	228,442	153,550	128,050	103,630	79,632
1967	231,656	161,500	139,170	112,640	86,405
1968	221,906	152,810	130,350	104,995	81,940
1969	239,460	162,800	138,140	111,510	87,620
1970	253,525	175,145	150,030	122,830	96,780
1971 1/	266,686	176,340	151,400	124,370	98,480
1972	248,841	158,440	134,320	107,165	83,305
1973 3/	253,866	157,802	133,585	106,600	81,150
1974	287,710	187,385	161,725	130,740	102,255

1/ BEGINNING WITH 1971, LATE SUMMER PRODUCTION FOR N Y-L I, WIS, AND WASH HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS FALL.

2/ APRIL 1 STOCKS EFFECTIVE WITH 1972 CROP YEAR.

3/ REVISED AUGUST 1974 POT 6 (74).

TABLE 2. POTATOES: USED FOR PROCESSING 1/, SEVEN STATES, 1973 AND 1974 CROPS

STATE AND AREA	FROM 1973 CROP			FROM 1974 CROP	
	TO MAR 1 1974	TO APR 1 1974	ENTIRE SEASON	TO MAR 1 1975	
					1,000 CWT.
IDAHO AND MALHEUR CO.,					
OREG	34,030	40,063	55,506	32,682	
MAINE	5,938	6,439	7,288	6,109	
WASHINGTON					
AND OTHER					
OREGON AREAS	21,644	24,609	30,140	21,712	
OTHER STATES 2/	7,480	8,445	9,937	7,284	
SEVEN STATE					
TOTAL	69,092	79,556	102,871	67,787	

1/ TOTAL QUANTITY RECEIVED AND USED FOR PROCESSING REGARDLESS OF THE STATE OR SEASON IN WHICH THE POTATOES WERE PRODUCED. DOES NOT INCLUDE QUANTITIES USED FOR POTATO CHIPS IN MAINE AND MICHIGAN.

2/ MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA.

TABLE 3. POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND TOTAL STOCKS OF FALL POTATOES
HELD BY GROWERS, PROCESSORS, AND LOCAL DEALERS ON
MARCH 1, 1974 AND MARCH 1, 1975 1/

STATE	CROP OF 1973		CROP OF 1974	
	PRODUCTION	STOCKS	PRODUCTION	STOCKS
		MAR 1, 1974		MAR 1, 1975
		1,000 CWT		
CALIF	6,253	1,400	6,324	1,750
COLO	8,235	2,500	8,840	3,000
CONN	572	3/	598	3/
IDAHO	78,965	33,500	80,045	38,500
IND	1,238	70	1,272	3/
MAINE	28,770	12,900	36,400	17,500
MASS	592	3/	800	3/
MICH	7,520	1,700	8,330	1,900
MINN	13,120	4,100	15,300	5,300
MONT	1,462	1,200	1,750	1,100
NEBR	1,012	310	1,152	375
NEV			3,188	2/
N H	102	3/	144	3/
N Y - LONG ISLAND	5,375	500	6,750	660
- UPSTATE	6,670	1,000	7,236	1,600
N DAK	19,140	5,500	22,950	7,400
OHIO	1,800	200	1,995	220
OREG	15,929	3,400	17,482	4,920
PA	6,300	1,050	7,360	1,600
R I	796	3/	1,034	3/
S DAK	770	3/	371	140
UTAH	1,100	230	1,481	325
VT	150	3/	220	3/
WASH	35,260	9,100	41,160	12,800
WIS	11,515	2,100	14,000	2,400
WYO	1,220	170	1,528	430
OTHER STATES	--	220	--	335
TOTAL 25 FALL STATES	253,866	81,150	287,710	102,255

1/ TOTAL STOCKS CONSIST OF PRODUCTION LESS TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE TO DATE.

2/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

3/ STOCKS INCLUDED IN OTHER STATES.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY SURVEY
MINNESOTA AND NORTH DAKOTA (RED RIVER VALLEY)

Quality information contained in this report is based on a potato stocks survey conducted by the Statistical Reporting Service in the Red River Valley. There were 175 samples selected on a random basis that were placed in storage at the time of harvest. Reports will continue to be issued during the 1974-75 storage season indicating accumulated average grade and weight loss for potato samples removed from storage.

Samples for all varieties removed from storage before March 1, 1975 continue to average fewer U.S. No. 1 (including B's) than a year earlier. Russets showed the largest decline in quality with a current average of 44 percent U.S. No. 1's. This is partially the result of some storage bins being dumped and classified as 100 percent culls. Red varieties removed from storage contain 17 percent fewer No. 1's than when they were harvested. White varieties showed no change in the percent grading U.S. No. 1.

Culls for Red, White and Russet potatoes are above a year ago. Russets are now grading 49 percent culls as compared with 9 percent a year earlier. Red and white varieties with 12 and 17 percent culls respectively compared with 6 and 14 percent during the same period a year ago. In addition, deterioration and physiological changes in potatoes while in storage now account for a four to seven percent overall weight loss.

Average quality by varietal type for potatoes shipped to March 1, 1974 is also shown for last year's crops. Thus, comparisons relating to change in grade from March to final can be made for the 1973 crop. In interpreting current survey indications an allowance should be made for further changes that may occur in average grade and weight loss from March 1 to the end of season.

POTATO STOCKS QUALITY, RED RIVER VALLEY, 1974-75
AVERAGE GRADE OF POTATOES SHIPPED 1/

VARIETAL TYPE	NO. 1		NO. 2		CULLS		NO. 1	WEIGHT LOSS
	INCLUDING B'S						B'S	
	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER	AT	AFTER		
	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	HARVEST	STORAGE	2/	
	-----PERCENT-----							
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MAR. 1, 1975							
RED	91	74	5	14	4	12	2	4
WHITE	73	73	14	10	13	17	1	5
RUSSET	69	44	18	7	13	49	4	7
	SAMPLES RECOVERED BEFORE MAR. 1, 1974							
RED	93	88	4	6	3	6	3	3
WHITE	82	76	10	10	8	14	2	4
RUSSET	83	82	11	9	6	9	9	1
	ALL SAMPLES 1973-74 STORAGE SEASON - FINAL							
RED	93	88	4	6	3	6	4	2
WHITE	83	76	9	11	8	13	3	3
RUSSET	83	83	10	8	7	9	9	2

1/ MATCHED SAMPLES QUALITY AT HARVEST COMPARED WITH QUALITY AFTER STORAGE.

2/ NO. 1 B'S ARE POTATOES THAT MEET THE U.S. NO. 1 GRADE BUT DID NOT MEET MINIMUM SIZE STANDARDS FOR THE AREA; RED AND WHITE VARIETIES 1 1/2 - 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER AND RUSSET VARIETIES UNDER 2 INCHES IN DIAMETER OR WEIGHT LESS THAN 4 OUNCES.