TOTAL POTATO STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1957

February 15, 1957

Total storage stocks of fall potatoes held by growers and local dealers on February 1, 1957 amounted to 79.2 million hundredweight, according to the Crop Reporting Board of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. These holdings are 19 percent above the 66.6 million hundredweight held on February 1, 1956 and 12 percent larger than the 6-year (1950-55) average stocks of 70.9 million hundredweight.

Disappearance of storage potatoes during January 1957 was above that of January last year and above average in spite of the low temperatures in many areas which stopped or delayed loading and hauling of potatoes. Disappearance during January 1957 amounted to 21.9 million hundredweight compared with 20.2 million recorded for January 1956 and the 1950-55 average of 19.8 million hundredweight. Disappearance of the 1956 fall crop from time of harvest to February 1, 1957, at 86.8 million hundredweight, exceeded that for any of the 8 seasons for which records are available. For the 1955 crop disappearance for the corresponding period amounted to 81.8 million hundredweight.

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 and January 1, 1957 reports, include potatoes that will be lost through shrinkage, decay and dumping after February 1. The total stocks shown in this report are not comparable with the merchantable stocks estimates previously published for February 1, 1950, 1951 and 1955. Merchantable stocks in past reports were defined as potatoes on hand that were available for sale for all purposes. These averaged about 18 percent less than total stocks.

The stocks estimates for February 1, 1957 were based largely on a comprehensive survey of growers and warehousemen in the areas growing fall potatoes. The estimates for the February stocks for 3 of the 7 preceding years were prepared by adjusting the February 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 February 1 and less farm use and losses from shrinkage and decay to that date. These estimates

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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 of this new stocks report to make comparisons of current supplies with those of previous years.

Potatoes: Production and total stocks of fall crop on hand January 1, February 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
	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.	1,000 cwt.
1949....	162,697	---	106,450	86,080
1950....	174,111	---	111,640	87,710
1951....	125,761	---	69,170	52,580
1952....	141,108	---	81,240	62,110
1953....	151,278	---	91,750	71,660
1954....	146,095	---	88,160	69,380
1955....	1/ 148,383	104,810	86,760	66,600
1956....	165,990	118,820	101,110	79,230

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 February 1, crops of 1949-1956 1/

State	Feb. 1, 1950	Feb. 1, 1951	Feb. 1, 1952	Feb. 1, 1953	Feb. 1, 1954	Feb. 1, 1955	Feb. 1, 1956	Feb. 1, 1957
	Crop of 1949 2/	Crop of 1950 2/	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	26,800	22,800	15,700	18,900	22,100	19,300	21,400	24,600
New Hampshire.....	330	290	170	210	230	190	200	170
Vermont...........	380	300	220	250	260	250	250	230
Massachusetts.....	500	340	160	210	310	310	210	320
Rhode Island......	210	180	140	150	160	180	220	200
Connecticut.......	760	780	540	430	450	620	570	640
New York - L.I....	820	920	730	510	500	760	640	570
- Upstate	5,850	4,840	3,060	3,560	3,550	3,500	2,800	2,800
Pennsylvania......	4,600	5,330	2,770	3,000	2,560	3,240	3,490	2,400
8 Eastern......	40,250	35,780	23,490	27,220	30,120	28,350	29,780	31,930
Ohio..............	820	1,000	340	360	460	550	430	480
Indiana...........	380	530	280	210	260	250	150	140
Michigan..........	4,790	4,760	2,980	2,960	3,160	3,200	2,060	3,300
Wisconsin.........	2,360	2,790	1,790	2,070	2,430	2,100	1,950	1,950
Minnesota.........	5,700	5,700	3,700	3,800	4,100	5,400	3,700	5,300
Iowa..............	260	250	190	230	120	150	150	130
North Dakota......	7,140	5,840	3,450	3,560	4,400	5,280	3,060	5,800
South Dakota......	440	720	430	360	500	480	340	430
Nebraska..........	2,060	2,740	1,110	1,460	1,450	1,280	760	1,050
9 Central......	23,950	24,330	14,270	15,010	16,880	18,690	12,600	18,580
Montana...........	920	980	620	700	760	760	880	880
Idaho.............	9,900	14,400	8,100	9,600	13,400	11,800	15,300	18,500
Wyoming...........	470	420	240	230	220	330	130	250
Colorado..........	4,700	4,200	2,500	4,400	4,500	4,050	2,900	3,380
Utah..............	900	920	440	780	700	660	460	600
Nevada............	160	150	100	150	160	170	180	170
Washington........	1,030	1,530	590	650	790	770	970	850
Oregon............	2,600	3,200	1,500	2,200	2,500	2,600	2,400	2,500
California........	1,200	1,800	730	1,170	1,630	1,200	1,000	1,590
9 Western......	21,880	27,600	14,820	19,880	24,660	22,340	24,220	28,720
Total 26 fall States	86,080	87,710	52,580	62,110	71,660	69,380	66,600	79,230

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 February 1, 1950-1951 inclusive, include potatoes which were removed by the Government from normal market channels under price support programs.

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