

# Michigan potatoes regaining market position

Michigan's potato industry has been growing the past few years — so much so that it is no longer the 11th largest potato producing state in the nation. Recently published federal statistics show that Michigan has moved up in the rankings and is listed as No. 9.

"This year, 58,000 acres in Michigan have been planted in potatoes," said Roy H. Kaschky, executive director of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission in Lansing. "That's quite a jump. Not too many years ago there were only about 37,500 acres of potatoes in Michigan."

"That low point was about one-tenth the acreage of Michigan's record year, 1895, when 374,000 acres were planted. Around the turn of the century Michigan was one of the leading three or four states in acreage and production year after year, and some years was ranked No. 2 in those categories."

**DURING** The Depression, Michigan was still producing about as many potatoes annually as a third of a century earlier, but roughly the same amount of acreage.

But after World War II the state's potato industry went into a decline, failing to stay up to date as other states became more aggressive in their potato production and marketing.

Gradually, however, Kaschky said, leaders in the Michigan industry realized they were losing their markets and recognized the need for a more progressive approach.

This attitude led to the creation of the Michigan Potato Industry Commission in 1970, funded by growers and shippers to promote Michigan potatoes and support research to improve productivity and quality.

The research investment of the Commission has paid rich dividends, he reports. In 1982 the average yield in Michigan was 200 hundredweight potatoes per acre, approximately twice what the typical yield was in the 1950s.

**THE MICHIGAN** potato crop in 1982 totaled 1.28-billion pounds. Last year, with slightly less favorable growing weather, production fell slightly to just over 1.20 billion pounds.

But that's still more than one-half the production of 1984, Michigan's record year, and the figure was achieved on about one-sixth the potato acreage of the early 1900s.

The more than 1.20-billion pounds in each of the last two years have vaulted Michigan ahead of such well-known potato states as Minnesota and New York, which had previously ranked No. 9 and No. 10 respectively in production. Michigan now holds the No. 9 spot both in production and acreage. In the latter category it might move even higher, Kaschky pointed out, since this year Michigan's 58,000 acres of plant-

ings still trail Colorado's 59,300 acres and California's 55,800.

Of Michigan's 58,000 acres, 12,000 were planted in summer potatoes, a figure surpassed only by Virginia. Last year Michigan ranked No. 3 in production of summer potatoes, with 1,193 million hundredweights, just behind Texas' 2,232-million hundredweights. California was the leader, with 2,556 million hundredweights.

**MICHIGAN'S** ACREAGE in summer potatoes has been increasing, Kaschky said, because growers are able to produce such a high-quality potato and the demand for these new, tender delicacies is strong each summer.

Bay County is the leading producer of summer potatoes, while flexible production also comes from Montcalm County. Montcalm is the largest potato-growing county in the state. Other concentrated areas, besides Bay County, include Presque Isle, and Alpena Counties, and Antrim and Otsego Counties, all in the Lower Peninsula; Monroe County, and Allegan County in the southern part of the state; and scattered potatoes in the Upper Peninsula, primarily in the western half.

Most of Michigan's production of seed potatoes comes from the Upper Peninsula and the northern Lower Peninsula.

The seed-potato industry is one of Michigan's strengths, Kaschky said, but there is also an expanding processing sector. There are six potato-chip companies in the state as well as three firms that make french fries and assorted other potato specialties.

About 28,000 acres are devoted to potatoes grown for consumers in the fresh market, while about 10,000 acres go for french fries, about 5,000 acres for seed potatoes, and about 15,000 acres for chips.

Chipping potatoes go not only to the six Michigan plants, but to chip manufacturers throughout the eastern United States.

**EACH ONE** of the segments of the Michigan potato industry has been a positive factor in its revival, Kaschky said.

Each one of the segments of the Michigan potato industry has been a positive factor in its revival, Kaschky said. Each also contributes members to the Commission. Members are nominated by growers and are appointed by the governor, with a maximum term of service of six years, thus creating a continual introduction of new ideas and fresh perspectives among the leadership.

As the Michigan potato industry continues to expand, it plays an important role in state and local economies, Kaschky said.

Production costs are estimated at about \$1,200 per acre, mostly in supplies purchased locally, such as equipment, pest controls and fertilizers. As much as \$70 million is pumped into the local economies in potato regions each year, and this money is turned over several times by the suppliers, through wages and taxes they pay as well as their own expenditures in doing business.

## CAJON SMOKED FISH 'N' TATERS

4 large Michigan baking potatoes (about 10 ounces each)  
1/2 cup coarsely chopped mushrooms  
1/2 cup minced celery  
2 tbsp. each minced green pepper and onion  
8 tbsp. melted butter or margarine  
1/4 cup half and half or milk  
1/4 cup shredded Cheddar cheese  
2 cups flaked smoked fish (salmon, trout, or whatever is available)  
Salt and cayenne pepper, to taste  
Paprika, for garnish

Wash potatoes, pierce skin and bake in 400 degree oven 50 to 60 minutes, until tender. In skillet saute mushrooms, celery, pepper, and onions in 2 tablespoons of the butter. Cut cooked

potatoes in half lengthwise, scoop out pulp leaving enough to make a sturdy shell. Mash pulp with remaining 4 tablespoons butter and the half and half until fluffy. Stir in vegetables and cheese. Fold in fish. Season with salt and cayenne. Spoon mixture into potato shells. Place on baking sheet; bake in preheated 350 degree oven 10 minutes or until tops are lightly browned. Dust with paprika. (Makes 6 stuffed potato halves.)

\*Note: One 15-oz. can salmon, drained, or other cooked or smoked fish can be substituted for the smoked fish. Season with a dash of liquid smoke.

## CRISPY POTATO BALLS

2 cups unseasoned mashed Michigan potatoes (1 pound)  
1 egg  
3 tablespoons sliced green onions  
2 tablespoons chopped parsley  
2 tablespoons fennel seeds  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
2 to 3 ounces sharp cheddar cheese, cut into 1/8-in. cubes  
Vegetable oil for deep frying

In bowl combine all ingredients except cheese and oil. Mix to blend thoroughly. Cover and chill 1 hour. Form a generous 1 1/4 tablespoons of the potato mixture around one of the cheese cubes. Repeat with remaining potato mixture and cheese cubes. Chill 1 hour. In heavy 2 quart saucepan heat 2 inches of oil to 350 degrees. Deep fry potato balls a few at a time to maintain temperature just until lightly browned and crisp, about 2 minutes. Drain with slotted spoon. Serve hot. Makes 18 balls. (6-8 appetizer servings.)

Note: Cooked potato balls may be reheated on baking sheet in 375-degree oven until crisp and heated through, about 10 minutes.

## CAROL'S POTATO CUT-OUTS

3 medium Michigan potatoes  
1 tsp. salt

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## ANOTHER FAVORITE POTATO SALAD

1 1/2 lbs. (4 to 5 medium) Michigan potatoes scrubbed  
3 hard cooked eggs, shelled and chopped  
1 1/2 cups sliced celery  
1/2 cup sour cream  
3 tbsp. white vinegar  
1 tsp. prepared mustard  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
Salt to taste  
Butter lettuce  
Paprika

Place potatoes in Dutch oven or large saucepan with tight fitting lid. Add 1 to 2 inches boiling water. Cover tightly and cook over high heat 30 to 40 minutes until potatoes are tender when pierced with fork. Drain, cool, and peel. Cut potatoes in 1/2 inch cubes. Place in large bowl with eggs, celery, onions, and parsley. In small bowl whisk together mayonnaise, sour cream, vinegar, mustard, and pepper. Toss gently with potato mixture. Mix in salt, cover and chill. To serve, line individual dishes with lettuce. Fill with potato mixture. Butter lettuce. (8 appetizer servings)

To vary add one or two of the following before tossing with dressing:

1 tsp. dill weed  
1/2 cup halved cherry tomatoes  
1/2 cup shredded carrots  
1/2 cup crumbled crisp bacon  
1/2 cup sliced green olives  
1/2 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese  
1/2 cup sliced radishes  
1/2 cup green or red pepper  
1/2 cup crumbled blue cheese  
1/2 cup chopped cucumber  
1/2 cup chopped dill pickles

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## REPORT OF CONDITION

Consolidating domestic and foreign subsidiaries of the

MICHIGAN NATIONAL BANK - FARMINGTON of FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich.

In the state of MICHIGAN, at the close of business on DECEMBER 31, 1984

published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under title 12, United States Code, Section 161.

Charter Number 10660 Comptroller of the Currency 97 District

Statement of Resources and Liabilities

Cash and balances due from depository institutions

Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin

Interest-bearing balances

Securities

Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell

of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IFBs

Loans and lease financing receivables

Loans and leases, net of unearned income

LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses

LESS: Allowance for transfer risk reserve

Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve

Assets held in trading accounts

Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)

Other real estate owned

Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies

Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding

Intangible assets

Other assets

Total assets

Deposits

In domestic offices

Noninterest-bearing

Interest-bearing

In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IFBs

Noninterest-bearing

Interest-bearing

Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase in domestic

offices of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IFBs

Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury

Other borrowed money

Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases

Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding

Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits

Other liabilities

Total liabilities

Limited-life preferred stock

Perpetual preferred stock

Common stock

Surplus

Undivided profits and capital reserves

Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments

Total equity capital

Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, and equity capital

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of the statement of resources and liabilities and certify that the same has been examined by us, and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformity with the instructions and is true and correct.

John W. Anhalt

	Thousands of dollars
Cash and balances due from depository institutions	3,581
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	1,000
Interest-bearing balances	5,043
Securities	
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell	
of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IFBs	5,600
Loans and lease financing receivables	
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	32,004
LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	233
LESS: Allowance for transfer risk reserve	NONE
Loans and leases, net of unearned income, allowance, and reserve	31,771
Assets held in trading accounts	NONE
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	55W
Other real estate owned	251
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	NONE
Customers' liability to this bank on acceptances outstanding	NONE
Intangible assets	NONE
Other assets	414
Total assets	49,218

	Thousands of dollars
Deposits	
In domestic offices	
Noninterest-bearing	9,504
Interest-bearing	36,380
In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IFBs	
Noninterest-bearing	NONE
Interest-bearing	NONE
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase in domestic	
offices of the bank and of its Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and in IFBs	NONE
Demand notes issued to the U.S. Treasury	NONE
Other borrowed money	530
Mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases	NONE
Bank's liability on acceptances executed and outstanding	NONE
Notes and debentures subordinated to deposits	250
Other liabilities	252
Total liabilities	46,286
Limited-life preferred stock	NONE

	Thousands of dollars
Perpetual preferred stock	NONE
Common stock	500
Surplus	1,400
Undivided profits and capital reserves	1,222
Cumulative foreign currency translation adjustments	NONE
Total equity capital	2,922
Total liabilities, limited-life preferred stock, and equity capital	49,218

Nancy J. Finley

V.P. & Cashier

of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John W. Anhalt

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