

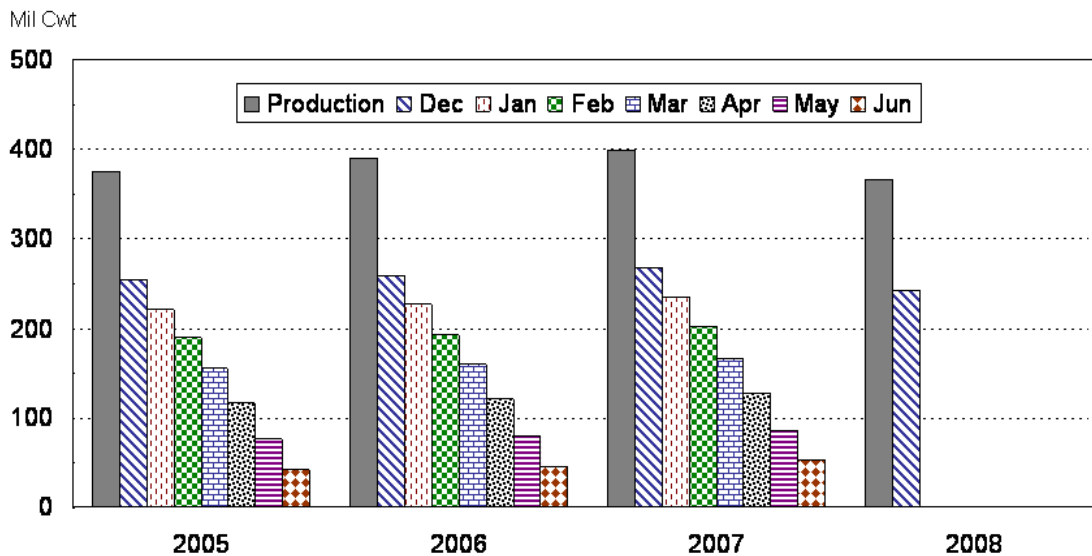
Potato Stocks

Released December 15, 2008, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Potato Stocks* call Faye Propsom at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

Potato Stocks Down 9 Percent From December 2007

The 13 major potato States held 242 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2008, down 9 percent from a year ago and 7 percent below December 1, 2006. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below December 1, 2007. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 4.00 million cwt on December 1, 2008, down 5 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 123 million cwt, was 6 percent below December 1, 2007 and down 5 percent from December 1, 2006. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 13.0 million cwt, was down 8 percent from the same date in 2007 and down 2 percent from 2006. Processors in the 9 major States have used 71.8 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from the same period last year and down 3 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 10.7 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 26 percent below the same period in 2006.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks 13 Storage States



Production by crop year. Stocks by months following harvest.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, 1999-2008

Crop Year	Production	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
1999 ¹	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000 ¹	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001 ¹	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002 ¹	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003 ¹	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004 ¹	403,587	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005	374,298	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006	389,272	259,300	226,100	192,600	159,700	121,000	79,050	44,460
2007	398,465	267,500	234,100	200,500	165,000	127,000	85,460	51,920
2008	365,694	242,200						

¹ 15 major States.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 States, 2006-2008 ¹

State and Crop Year	Dec 1	Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1	Season
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
ID & OR-Mal								
2006	27,090	34,070	41,350	48,940	56,650	63,680	71,220	85,630
2007	26,230	33,250	40,310	48,660	55,460	63,000	70,700	88,030
2008	22,360							
ME ²								
2006	1,755	2,360	2,910	3,465	4,185	4,810	5,470	7,635
2007	1,700	2,170	2,815	3,440	3,990	4,670	5,240	7,640
2008	1,630							
WA & OR-Oth								
2006	30,980	37,060	42,190	49,930	56,690	63,170	70,410	77,355
2007	30,595	36,940	42,350	50,165	57,160	67,690	72,380	82,770
2008	32,570							
Other Sts ³								
2006	14,270	17,695	21,290	24,545	28,040	31,370	34,830	43,565
2007	15,040	17,535	20,755	23,900	26,650	29,710	32,600	39,430
2008	15,195							
Total								
2006	74,095	91,185	107,740	126,880	145,565	163,030	181,930	214,185
2007	73,565	89,895	106,230	126,165	143,260	165,070	180,920	217,870
2008	71,755							
Dehydrated ⁴								
2006	14,590	19,250	23,635	27,885	32,210	36,480	40,915	49,370
2007	12,815	16,785	21,040	25,350	29,500	33,650	37,975	46,760
2008	10,745							

¹ Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME and WI.

² Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

³ CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

⁴ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes CO, ID, NV, ND, OR, WA, and WI.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States,
December 1, 2007-2008 ¹**

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2007	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2008	% of Prod
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	3,792	2,000	53	3,939	1,900	48
CO	20,981	15,200	72	21,338	16,400	77
ID	130,010	92,000	71	114,805	83,000	72
ME	16,815	12,900	77	14,496	10,800	75
MI	14,700	8,800	60	13,600	8,000	59
MN	20,680	13,400	65	20,160	13,000	64
MT	3,696	3,500	95	3,564	3,500	98
NE	8,217	5,300	65	8,299	5,300	64
NY	5,216	2,900	56	5,696	2,600	46
ND	23,660	14,500	61	22,680	14,800	65
OR	20,238	18,000	89	18,387	15,900	86
WA	102,300	59,000	58	93,000	49,500	53
WI	28,160	20,000	71	25,730	17,500	68
13 States	398,465	267,500	67	365,694	242,200	66
Klamath Basin ²		4,200			4,000	

¹ Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2008 totaled 24.5 million cwt.

² Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. OR.

**Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,
10 Selected States, December 1, 2007-2008**

State	Potato Types									
	Reds		Round Whites		Long Whites		Yellows		Russets	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CO	4	3	3	1			11	11	82	85
ID	2	2		1	3	1	1	1	94	95
ME	3	2	42	43	1		2	3	52	52
MI	1	1	86	83			1	1	12	15
MN	12	9	8	3				2	80	86
NY	16	6	69	86			13	7	2	1
ND	14	15	14	7	4	8	1	1	67	69
OR	1	1	4	7	2	1	1	1	92	90
WA	3	3	4	5	7	11	1	1	85	80
WI	4	5	34	12					62	83
10 St Avg	4	4	11	9	3	3	2	2	80	82

**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
13 Storage States and Fall Season States, 2005-2008 Crop Years**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Fall Seed	Farm Disposition		
					Where Grown		Sold
					Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrinkage and Loss	
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	2005	3,306	1,600	249		331	2,975
	2006	3,870	1,800	210		480	3,390
	2007	3,792	2,000	279		372	3,420
	2008	3,939	1,900				
CO	2005	22,910	17,200	1,498	1,200	1,650	20,060
	2006	22,686	17,200	1,480	1,140	2,056	19,490
	2007	20,981	15,200	1,482	1,060	2,236	17,685
	2008	21,338	16,400				
ID	2005	118,288	85,000	7,370	1,230	7,800	109,258
	2006	128,915	90,000	7,875	1,188	8,200	119,527
	2007	130,010	92,000	6,930	945	8,700	120,365
	2008	114,805	83,000				
ME	2005	15,455	12,500	1,264	242	1,183	14,030
	2006	17,980	14,400	1,236	228	1,482	16,270
	2007	16,815	12,900	1,172	195	800	15,820
	2008	14,496	10,800				
MI	2005	13,910	7,900	1,044	182	1,728	12,000
	2006	14,190	8,100	961	180	1,800	12,210
	2007	14,700	8,800	1,046	185	1,115	13,400
	2008	13,600	8,000				
MN	2005	17,630	13,500	1,040	140	1,600	15,890
	2006	20,400	13,300	1,190	250	1,700	18,450
	2007	20,680	13,400	946	118	1,112	19,450
	2008	20,160	13,000				
MT	2005	3,445	3,400	244	156	210	3,079
	2006	3,518	3,300	270	180	130	3,208
	2007	3,696	3,500	273	172	227	3,297
	2008	3,564	3,500				
NE	2005	8,245	5,600	515	231	834	7,180
	2006	8,730	5,800	521	200	775	7,755
	2007	8,217	5,300	497	186	716	7,315
	2008	8,299	5,300				
NY	2005	5,226	2,900	453	100	491	4,635
	2006	5,700	3,000	460	100	480	5,120
	2007	5,216	2,900	432	94	370	4,752
	2008	5,696	2,600				

--continued

**Fall Potatoes: Production, December 1 Stocks, and Farm Disposition,
13 States and Fall Season, 2005-2008 (continued)**

State	Crop Year	Production	Stocks Dec 1	Total Used For Fall Seed	Farm Disposition		
					Where Grown		Sold
					Seed, Feed, Home Use	Shrinkage and Loss	
		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
ND	2005	20,500	14,000	1,900	240	1,810	18,450
	2006	25,480	17,300	1,853	240	2,290	22,950
	2007	23,660	14,500	1,577	240	2,220	21,200
	2008	22,680	14,800				
OR	2005	22,023	19,000	837	255	1,392	20,376
	2006	18,533	16,000	880	260	1,020	17,253
	2007	20,238	18,000	863	193	1,220	18,825
	2008	18,387	15,900				
WA	2005	95,480	52,500	3,900	240	6,000	89,240
	2006	89,900	49,000	4,290	240	5,500	84,160
	2007	102,300	59,000	3,875	236	6,500	95,564
	2008	93,000	49,500				
WI	2005	27,880	18,700	1,452	300	1,380	26,200
	2006	29,370	20,100	1,430	245	1,925	27,200
	2007	28,160	20,000	1,548	250	1,505	26,405
	2008	25,730	17,500				
13 States	2005	374,298	253,800	21,766	4,516	26,409	343,373
	2006	389,272	259,300	22,656	4,451	27,838	356,983
	2007	398,465	267,500	20,920	3,874	27,093	367,498
	2008	365,694	242,200				
Fall States	2005	382,743		22,415	4,545	27,115	351,083
	2006	398,921		23,337	4,482	28,576	365,863
	2007	407,517		21,547	3,899	27,796	375,823
	2008	374,360					
Klamath Basin ¹	2005						
	2006		4,000				
	2007		4,200				
	2008		4,000				

¹ Estimates began in December 2006. Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. OR.

NOTE: Stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including seed potatoes that are not yet moved, and shrinkage, waste, and other losses that occur after the date of each report. Sales of fall potatoes for all purposes for the past 5 years averaged 91.3 percent of the total fall production. Shrinkage, loss, and home use account for the remaining 8.7 percent.

**Potatoes: Production, Sold, Not Sold, and Kept for Seed,
United States, 2003-2008**

Crop Year	Fall Potatoes					Amount Used for Seed All Seasons Following Year
	Production	Sold	Sold as % of Prod	Not Sold	Not Sold as % of Prod	
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
2003	410,588	371,755	90.5	38,833	9.5	26,687
2004	410,253	369,781	90.1	40,472	9.9	24,768
2005	382,743	351,083	91.7	31,660	8.3	25,659
2006	398,921	365,863	91.7	33,058	8.3	26,437
2007	407,517	375,823	92.2	31,694	7.8	24,512
2008	374,360					

Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 13 Fall Storage States, 2005-2008

Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	Total Jun 1
	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>	<i>Million Cwt</i>
2005	12.7	15.0	16.8	18.4	20.2	22.0	23.7
2006	13.2	16.1	18.4	20.4	22.3	24.0	25.5
2007	14.2	16.4	18.4	20.2	22.1	24.0	25.3
2008	13.0						

**Fall Potatoes: Farm Marketings, Selected States and United States,
2005-2007 Marketing Years**

State	Marketing Year	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	2005				4	14	22	10	11	12	12	8	7	
	2006				9	15	11	15	10	11	12	9	5	3
	2007			6	9	12	11	10	8	9	9	11	11	4
CO	2005			5	8	10	10	10	8	11	10	12	10	6
	2006			6	7	9	9	10	9	10	11	11	11	7
	2007			5	9	11	10	11	9	10	10	12	7	6
ID	2005		2	11	13	8	7	8	7	11	10	10	6	7
	2006		3	11	12	8	7	8	8	10	10	9	7	7
	2007		3	12	12	8	7	7	8	9	10	9	7	8
ME	2005			5	11	8	9	10	9	12	15	10	6	5
	2006			8	7	8	9	9	8	13	13	12	7	6
	2007			8	8	9	9	10	10	10	13	10	5	8
MI	2005	1	8	11	13	12	12	12	10	10	8	3		
	2006	1	9	12	13	12	12	12	7	11	7	4		
	2007	3	7	10	11	11	12	11	10	9	8	6	2	
MN	2005		7	6	4	7	15	12	12	14	9	3	6	5
	2006	5	8	7	7	7	7	8	9	11	10	10	11	
	2007	1	10	9	8	8	8	8	8	10	9	9	6	6
NY	2005		2	14	14	12	13	10	12	14	7	2		
	2006		4	15	14	12	14	16	7	10	4	4		
	2007	1	5	11	11	13	17	11	7	13	8	3		
ND	2005		2	25	13	5	9	9	9	8	10	7	2	1
	2006		3	27	11	6	6	11	5	7	10	9	4	1
	2007		7	30	5	10	7	7	6	6	7	4	3	8
OR	2005		17	10	13	5	7	5	8	9	10	8	4	4
	2006		12	10	13	5	7	7	7	10	10	8	7	4
	2007		12	8	13	6	5	6	7	10	12	9	7	5
WA	2005		14	13	23	7	6	4	6	7	7	7	5	1
	2006		15	11	25	7	6	5	7	6	6	6	5	1
	2007		13	11	25	7	6	6	7	6	6	6	5	2
WI	2005	1	6	16	11	10	10	9	9	10	8	8	2	
	2006	1	6	15	10	10	10	9	9	11	10	6	3	
	2007	1	5	14	12	10	10	9	11	12	10	5	1	
US	2005		7	12	14	8	8	7	8	10	9	8	5	4
	2006		7	12	14	8	7	8	8	9	9	8	6	4
	2007		7	12	14	8	8	7	8	8	9	8	6	

Reliability of December 1 Stocks Estimates

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the December 1 stocks estimate, the “Root Mean Square Error,” a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the December 1 stocks estimate and the final estimate is expressed as a percentage of the final estimate. The average of squared percentage deviations for the latest 20-year period is computed. The square root of the average becomes statistically the “Root Mean Square Error.” Probability statements can be made concerning expected differences in the current 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.

The “Root Mean Square Error” for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 242 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent, or approximately 5.81 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent, or approximately 9.93 million cwt.

The 20-year (1988-2007) record of differences between the December 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.22 million cwt, ranging from 14.5 million cwt above the final to 110,000 cwt below the final. During the 20-year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 15 years and above 5 years.

**Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final December 1 Stocks,
United States, 1998-2008**

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
1998	281,020	100.0	280,910
1999	274,870	99.9	275,100
2000	309,520	99.7	310,300
2001	266,520	103.0	258,750
2002	265,190	100.3	264,485
2003	267,160	99.7	267,900
2004	271,600	100.2	271,100
2005	253,400	99.8	253,800
2006	252,300	97.3	259,300
2007	270,000	100.9	267,500
2008	242,200		

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