

Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down 8 Percent From March 2008

The 13 major potato States held 151 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2009, down 8 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below March 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 41 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below March 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.00 million cwt on March 1, 2009, down 2 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 217 million cwt, was 8 percent below March 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.7 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in 2008 and 8 percent below 2007. Processors in the 9 major States have used 117 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 8 percent from the same period last year and down 8 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 21.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

Tables that included production and farm disposition, potatoes sold, and farm marketings have been excluded from this publication beginning this month. Information for production, farm disposition, and potatoes sold can be found in the *Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes, Final Estimates, 2003-2007* that was released on January 30, 2009. Farm marketings can be found in the *Potatoes 2007 Summary* that was released on September 25, 2008.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, March 1, 2008-2009¹

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008			
	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2008	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Feb 1, 2009	Stocks Mar 1, 2009	Mar % 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>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	3,792	1,100	29	3,939	1,300	1,000	25
CO	20,981	9,500	45	21,338	12,500	10,900	51
ID	130,010	60,500	47	114,805	64,000	54,000	47
ME	16,668	8,000	48	14,769	8,500	7,100	48
MI	14,700	3,700	25	14,875	5,000	3,500	24
MN	21,560	8,200	38	20,400	10,600	8,700	43
MT	3,696	3,100	84	3,465	3,200	3,000	87
NE ²	8,217	3,000	37	8,342	4,200	3,500	42
NY	5,216	1,200	23	5,696	1,200	800	14
ND ²	23,660	8,000	34	22,680	10,400	8,100	36
OR	20,293	11,600	57	18,676	12,000	9,800	52
WA	100,800	35,400	35	93,000	38,600	31,400	34
WI	28,160	10,100	36	25,730	12,000	9,200	36
13 States ²	397,753	163,400	41	367,715	183,500	151,000	41
Klamath Basin ³		2,050			2,800	2,000	

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

² February 1, 2009 stocks revised.

³ Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co., OR. Included in the 13 State total.

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	403,566	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004 ¹	404,017	271,100	236,700	203,490	168,020	128,900	88,550	51,700
2005	375,118	253,800	220,500	189,100	155,500	115,700	75,900	41,560
2006	389,527	258,900	225,800	192,200	159,500	120,900	79,050	44,460
2007	397,753	265,500	232,300	199,300	163,400	125,500	83,960	50,420
2008 ²	367,715	243,300	212,800	183,500	151,000			

¹ 15 major States.

² February 1, 2009 stocks revised.

Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 States, 2006-2008¹

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	28,980	35,430	42,150				
ME ²								
2006	1,785	2,390	2,940	3,490	4,215	4,840	5,500	7,675
2007	1,700	2,170	2,815	3,440	3,990	4,670	5,240	7,550
2008	1,635	2,240	2,890	3,505				
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	37,750	42,490	49,795				
Other Sts ³								
2006	14,355	17,800	21,415	24,690	28,205	31,560	35,040	43,565
2007	15,040	17,535	20,755	23,900	26,650	29,710	32,600	39,430
2008 ⁴	12,535	15,190	18,250	21,150				
Total								
2006	74,210	91,320	107,895	127,050	145,760	163,250	182,170	214,225
2007	73,565	89,895	106,230	126,165	143,260	165,070	180,920	217,780
2008 ⁴	69,100	84,160	99,060	116,600				
Dehydrated ⁵								
2006	14,590	19,250	23,635	27,885	32,210	36,480	40,915	49,375
2007	12,815	16,785	21,040	25,350	29,500	33,650	37,975	46,660
2008 ⁴	10,745	14,570	18,405	21,535				

¹ Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced.

² Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

³ CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in WI.

⁴ February 1, 2009 revised.

⁵ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Includes CO, ID, NV, OR, WA, and WI.

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	To 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 ¹	12.7	14.9	16.8	18.7			

¹ February 1, 2009 shrink and loss revised.

Reliability of March 1 Stocks Estimates

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the March 1 stocks estimate, the “Root Mean Square Error,” a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 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 March 1 stocks estimate is 3.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 150 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.7 percent, or approximately 5.56 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.4 percent, or approximately 9.62 million cwt.

The 20-year (1988-2007) record of differences between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.26 million cwt, ranging from 13.1 million cwt above the final to 360,000 cwt below the final. During the 20-year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 12 years and above 8 years.

**Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final March 1 Stocks,
United States, Crop of 1998-2008**

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
1998	174,100	100.3	173,650
1999	170,050	100.3	169,620
2000	198,320	100.3	197,670
2001	167,870	105.9	158,590
2002	163,900	99.2	165,210
2003	166,690	100.2	166,280
2004	168,420	100.2	168,020
2005	153,700	98.8	155,500
2006	153,200	96.1	159,500
2007	171,800	105.1	163,400
2008	151,000		

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