

# Potato Stocks

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## Potato Stocks Down 9 Percent From April 2008

The 13 major potato States held 115 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2009, down 9 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below April 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 31 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, slightly below April 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.45 million cwt on April 1, 2009, up 26 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 253 million cwt, was 7 percent below April 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.6 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 134 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 7 percent from the same period last year and down 8 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 24.9 million cwt of the total processing, down 15 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States,  
April 1, 2008-2009<sup>1</sup>**

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008			
	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 2008	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Mar 1, 2009	Stocks Apr 1, 2009	Apr % 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	600	16	3,939	1,000	800	20
CO	20,981	7,500	36	21,338	10,900	8,700	41
ID	130,010	49,000	38	114,805	54,000	42,500	37
ME	16,668	6,400	38	14,769	7,100	5,600	38
MI	14,700	2,100	14	14,875	3,500	1,900	13
MN	21,560	6,200	29	20,400	8,700	6,500	32
MT	3,696	2,100	57	3,465	3,000	2,100	61
NE	8,217	2,000	24	8,342	3,500	2,300	28
NY	5,216	500	10	5,696	800	450	8
ND	23,660	6,000	25	22,680	8,100	6,100	27
OR	20,293	9,200	45	18,676	9,800	7,400	40
WA	100,800	27,500	27	93,000	31,400	23,700	25
WI <sup>2</sup>	28,160	6,400	23	25,730	9,600	6,500	25
13 States <sup>2</sup>	397,753	125,500	32	367,715	151,400	114,550	31
Klamath Basin <sup>3</sup>		1,150			2,000	1,450	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> March 1, 2009 stocks revised.

<sup>3</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	420,567	275,100	239,910	207,150	169,620	128,410	86,915	47,220
2000 <sup>1</sup>	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001 <sup>1</sup>	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002 <sup>1</sup>	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003 <sup>1</sup>	403,566	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	367,715	243,300	212,800	183,500	151,400	114,550		

<sup>1</sup> 15 major States.

<sup>2</sup> March 1, 2009 stocks revised.

**Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 States, 2006-2008<sup>1</sup>**

State and Crop Year	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To 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	49,030			
ME <sup>2</sup>								
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	4,000			
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	56,350			
Other Sts <sup>3</sup>								
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	12,535	15,190	18,250	21,150	24,140			
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	69,100	84,160	99,060	116,600	133,520			
Dehydrated <sup>4</sup>								
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	10,745	14,570	18,405	21,535	24,945			

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

<sup>2</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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	12.7	14.9	16.8	18.7	20.6		

**Reliability of April 1 Stocks Estimates**

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the April 1 stocks estimate, the “Root Mean Square Error”, a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the April 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 April 1 stocks estimate is 4.9 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 115 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.9 percent, or approximately 5.61 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.4 percent, or approximately 9.62 million cwt.

The 20-year (1988-2007) record of differences between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.22 million cwt, ranging from 12.8 million cwt above the final to 300,000 cwt below the final. During the 20-year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 14 years and above 6 years.

**Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final April 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	130,890	99.7	131,220
1999	127,570	99.3	128,410
2000	154,030	100.3	153,520
2001	128,930	107.5	119,950
2002	125,030	99.4	125,770
2003	126,410	100.2	126,110
2004	129,620	100.6	128,900
2005	113,900	98.4	115,700
2006	113,600	94.0	120,900
2007	133,600	106.5	125,500
2008	114,550		

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