

Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down 10 Percent From May 2008

The 13 major potato States held 75.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2009, down 10 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below May 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 21 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, unchanged from May 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 750 thousand cwt on May 1, 2009, up 32 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 292 million cwt, was 7 percent below May 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.3 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in both 2007 and 2008. Processors in the 9 major States have used 149 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 10 percent from the same period last year and down 9 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

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

State	Crop of 2007			Crop of 2008			
	Prod	Stocks May 1, 2008 ²	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Apr 1, 2009	Stocks May 1, 2009 ²	May % 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	460	12	3,939	800	500	13
CO	20,981	4,500	21	21,338	8,700	5,300	25
ID	130,010	35,000	27	114,805	42,500	30,000	26
ME	16,668	4,300	26	14,769	5,600	3,700	25
MI	14,700	800	5	14,875	1,900	700	5
MN	21,560	4,300	20	20,400	6,500	4,400	22
MT	3,696			3,465	2,100		
NE ³	8,217	1,000	12	8,342	2,200	1,100	13
NY	5,216			5,696	450		
ND	23,660	4,200	18	22,680	6,100	3,500	15
OR	20,293	6,400	32	18,676	7,400	5,300	28
WA	100,800	19,000	19	93,000	23,700	16,500	18
WI	28,160	3,100	11	25,730	6,500	3,600	14
Other States		900				800	
13 States ³	397,753	83,960	21	367,715	114,450	75,400	21
Klamath Basin ⁴		570			1,450	750	

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 Missing stocks combined into "Other States".

³ April 1, 2009 stocks revised.

⁴ 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	151,400	114,450	75,400	

¹ 15 major States.

² April 1, 2009 stocks revised.

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

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	55,570		
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	4,000	4,795		
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	62,620		
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	12,535	15,190	18,250	21,150	24,140	25,900		
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	148,885		
Dehydrated ⁴								
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	28,255		

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 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	22.3	

Reliability of May 1 Stocks Estimates

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the May 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the May 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 May 1 stocks estimate is 7.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 75.4 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.0 percent, or approximately 5.28 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.2 percent, or approximately 9.20 million cwt.

Changes between the May 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.12 million cwt, ranging from 140,000 cwt to 11.5 million cwt. During the 20-year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 15 times and above 5 times.

**Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final May 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	87,640	99.7	87,895
1999	85,670	98.6	86,915
2000	111,425	102.1	109,160
2001	91,140	112.2	81,200
2002	83,180	100.2	83,040
2003	84,800	99.8	85,000
2004	86,990	98.2	88,550
2005	72,950	96.1	75,900
2006	73,200	92.6	79,050
2007	92,710	110.4	83,960
2008	75,400		

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