

# Potato Stocks

Released December 15, 2009, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Potato Stocks* call Tierra Mobley at (202) 720-4285, office hours 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

## Potato Stocks Up 9 Percent From December 2008

The 13 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2009, up 9 percent from a year ago but slightly below December 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 69 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 4.50 million cwt on December 1, 2009, up 13 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 120 million cwt, was 5 percent below December 1, 2008 and down 9 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.1 million cwt, was up 11 percent from the same date in 2008 but 1 percent below 2007. Processors in the 9 major States have used 60.9 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 12 percent from the same period last year and down 17 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 11.0 million cwt of the total processing, up 3 percent from last year but 14 percent below the same period in 2007.

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

State	Crop of 2008			Crop of 2009		
	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2008	% of Prod	Prod	Stocks Dec 1, 2009	% 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	3,948	1,900	48	4,158	2,100	51
CO	21,907	16,600	76	22,080	15,800	72
ID	116,475	85,000	73	131,000	96,500	74
ME	14,769	11,300	77	15,263	12,000	79
MI	14,875	8,300	56	15,660	8,700	56
MN	20,400	13,200	65	21,150	13,000	61
MT	3,465	3,400	98	3,278	3,200	98
NE	8,245	5,600	68	8,712	5,800	67
NY	5,696	2,600	46	4,950	2,500	51
ND	22,680	14,800	65	19,125	13,000	68
OR	18,676	16,100	86	21,460	17,400	81
WA	93,000	49,500	53	88,450	54,500	62
WI	25,730	15,400	60	28,980	20,000	69
13 States	369,866	243,700	66	384,266	264,500	69
Klamath Basin <sup>2</sup>		4,000			4,500	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes potato stocks in CA and Klamath Co. OR.

**Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, 2000-2009**

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>
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	369,866	243,700	213,200	183,900	152,700	115,800	78,100	45,300
2009	384,266	264,500						

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

**Fall Potatoes: Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks,  
10 Selected States, December 1, 2008-2009**

State	Potato Types									
	Reds		Round Whites		Long Whites		Yellows		Russets	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
	<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	3	3	1	2			11	11	85	84
ID	2	2	1	2	1		1	1	95	95
ME	2	4	43	45			3	6	52	45
MI	1	1	83	89			1		15	10
MN	9	13	3	3			2	1	86	83
NY	5	4	89	91			6	5		
ND	15	14	7	9	8	6	1	1	69	70
OR	1	1	7	8	1		1	1	90	90
WA	3	3	5	4	11	5	1	1	80	87
WI	5	4	12	14				1	83	81
10 St Avg	4	4	9	10	3	1	2	2	82	83

**Potatoes: Shrinkage and Loss, 13 Fall Storage States, 2006-2009**

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>
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	23.8
2009	14.1						

**Potatoes: Quantity Used for Processing, 9 States, 2007-2009 <sup>1</sup>**

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>
<b>ID &amp; OR-Mal</b>								
2007	26,230	33,250	40,310	48,660	55,460	63,000	70,700	88,030
2008	22,380	28,980	35,430	42,150	49,030	55,570	62,940	77,340
2009	23,110							
<b>ME <sup>2</sup></b>								
2007	1,700	2,170	2,815	3,440	3,990	4,670	5,240	7,550
2008	1,635	2,240	2,895	3,515	4,005	4,795	5,540	7,545
2009	1,625							
<b>WA &amp; OR-Oth</b>								
2007	30,595	36,940	42,350	50,165	57,160	67,690	72,380	82,770
2008	32,560	38,050	42,795	49,865	56,350	62,635	70,625	81,260
2009	25,350							
<b>Other Sts <sup>3</sup></b>								
2007	15,040	17,535	20,755	23,900	26,650	29,710	32,600	39,430
2008	12,480	15,120	18,165	21,030	24,025	26,515	29,590	37,285
2009	10,855							
<b>Total</b>								
2007	73,565	89,895	106,230	126,165	143,260	165,070	180,920	217,780
2008	69,055	84,390	99,285	116,560	133,410	149,515	168,695	203,430
2009	60,940							
<b>Dehydrated <sup>4</sup></b>								
2007	12,815	16,785	21,040	25,350	29,500	33,650	37,975	46,660
2008	10,675	14,490	18,335	21,465	24,875	28,195	31,870	39,345
2009	10,995							

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only.

<sup>3</sup> CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

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

## 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 2.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 265 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent, or approximately 5.82 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.8 percent, or approximately 10.1 million cwt.

The 20-year (1988 - 2007) record of differences between the December 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 3.98 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, 1999-2009**

Crop Year	Preliminary Stocks	% of Final	Final Stocks
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
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	267,100	99.7	267,900
2004	271,600	100.2	271,100
2005	253,400	99.8	253,800
2006	252,300	97.5	258,900
2007	270,000	101.7	265,500
2008	242,200	99.4	243,700
2009	264,500		

## ACCESS TO REPORTS!!

---

For your convenience, there are several ways to obtain NASS reports, data products, and services:

### INTERNET ACCESS

All NASS reports are available free of charge. For free access, connect to the Internet and go to the NASS Home Page at: **www.nass.usda.gov**.

### E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

All NASS reports are available by subscription free of charge direct to your e-mail address. Starting with the NASS Home Page at **www.nass.usda.gov**, under the right navigation, *Receive reports by Email*, click on **National** or **State**. Follow the instructions on the screen.

-----

### PRINTED REPORTS OR DATA PRODUCTS

**CALL OUR TOLL-FREE ORDER DESK: 800-999-6779 (U.S. and Canada)**  
**Other areas, please call 703-605-6220      FAX: 703-605-6880**  
**(Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order acceptable for payment.)**

-----

### ASSISTANCE

For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **nass@nass.usda.gov**.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.