



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down 13 Percent From January 2010

The 13 major potato States held 205 million cwt of potatoes in storage January 1, 2011, down 13 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 58 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, three percentage points below January 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 3.00 million cwt on January 1, 2011, down 14 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 147 million cwt, was 2 percent below January 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 14.7 million cwt, was down 11 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 77.2 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 10.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 24 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks - 13 Major States: January 1, 2010 and 2011

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2009 totaled 23.7 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2009			Crop of 2010			
	Production	Stocks January 1, 2010	January stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2010	Stocks January 1, 2011	January stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,960	1,600	40	2,280	1,900	1,400	61
Colorado	22,080	13,900	63	21,528	15,500	13,300	62
Idaho	132,500	88,500	67	114,440	82,500	73,500	64
Maine	15,263	10,800	71	15,892	12,200	10,800	68
Michigan	15,660	7,100	45	15,660	9,300	7,600	49
Minnesota	20,700	11,600	56	17,010	11,000	9,600	56
Montana	3,298	3,200	97	3,673	3,600	3,500	95
Nebraska	8,756	4,900	56	7,719	4,900	4,100	53
New York	4,950	1,800	36	5,120	2,300	1,500	29
North Dakota	19,125	10,800	56	22,000	14,000	12,000	55
Oregon	21,460	15,000	70	20,058	16,400	14,500	72
Washington	87,230	47,500	54	81,740	45,300	39,300	48
Wisconsin	28,980	17,600	61	24,293	15,800	13,400	55
United States	383,962	234,300	61	351,413	234,700	204,500	58
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	3,500	(NA)	(NA)	4,000	3,000	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath Co., Oregon.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks - 13 Major States: 2001-2010

[For 2001-2004, data accounts for 15 major producing States. Beginning in 2005 data accounts for 13 major producing States]

Crop Year	Production	December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,566	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	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	383,962	265,800	234,300	203,500	169,700	128,700	89,610	55,120
2010	351,413	234,700	204,500					

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 10 Selected States: January 1, 2010 and 2011

State	Potato types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Jan 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Jan 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Colorado	3	2	2	2	3	3	-	-	-	11	10	10	84	85	85
Idaho	2	2	2	2	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	95	95	95
Maine	3	4	3	38	40	39	-	-	-	3	2	2	56	54	56
Michigan	2	1	1	88	90	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	9	11
Minnesota	11	9	8	4	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	84	88	90
New York	4	7	3	94	90	95	-	-	-	2	3	2	-	-	-
North Dakota	14	15	17	9	10	7	5	7	4	1	1	1	71	67	71
Oregon	1	1	1	7	7	7	-	-	-	1	2	3	91	90	89
Washington	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	1	1	1	87	87	87
Wisconsin	5	4	2	28	25	10	-	-	-	-	1	1	67	70	87
10 State average ...	4	3	3	10	11	9	1	2	2	2	2	2	83	82	84

- Represents zero.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2007-2010

Crop year	To December 1	To January 1	To February 1	To March 1	To April 1	To May 1	To June 1
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
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	14.3	16.5	18.8	21.1	24.4	26.5	28.5
2010	12.7	14.7					

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 9 Major States: 2008-2010

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

State and crop year	To December 1	To January 1	To February 1	To March 1	To April 1	To May 1	To June 1	Season
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
Idaho and Oregon, Malheur								
2008	22,380	28,980	35,430	42,150	49,030	55,570	62,940	77,340
2009	23,110	29,180	35,170	42,050	49,200	56,100	62,930	79,400
2010	21,040	26,790						
Maine ¹								
2008	1,555	2,130	2,765	3,355	3,815	4,565	5,265	7,120
2009	1,575	2,060	2,680	3,265	3,915	4,550	5,260	7,160
2010	1,915	2,460						
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2008	32,560	38,050	42,795	49,865	56,350	62,635	70,625	81,260
2009	25,395	31,245	36,530	43,780	50,130	56,700	64,805	75,690
2010	27,670	33,595						
Other States ²								
2008	12,480	15,120	18,165	21,030	24,025	26,515	29,590	37,285
2009	10,865	13,565	16,305	18,995	21,600	24,355	27,375	34,240
2010	11,660	14,385						
United States								
2008	68,975	84,280	99,155	116,400	133,220	149,285	168,420	203,005
2009	60,945	76,050	90,685	108,090	124,845	141,705	160,370	196,490
2010	62,285	77,230						
Dehydrated ³								
2008	10,675	14,490	18,335	21,465	24,875	28,195	31,870	39,345
2009	10,985	14,035	17,150	19,895	23,155	26,630	30,045	38,915
2010	7,845	10,610						

¹ Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

² Other States include Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in Wisconsin.

³ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Included in above totals. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for nearly 88 percent of the United States all potato production. Growers, processors, and storage facilities are contacted each month from December through June to obtain the quantity of potatoes stored as of the first of the month, as well as shrinkage and loss information. Processing data is collected in nine States (Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin).

Estimating Procedures: Information obtained from the potato stocks surveys along with federal administrative data is used to establish estimates of stocks, shrinkage and loss, and processing usage. These estimates are reviewed for errors, reasonableness, and consistency with historical estimates.

Revision Policy: Stocks, processing, and shrinkage and loss estimates for the previous month are subject to revision based on late and/or updated information. At the end of the marketing season, all information available, including disposition data, will be thoroughly reviewed and any necessary revisions for the entire crop year will be published in the *Potatoes Annual Summary*.

Reliability: Survey indications are subject to sampling variability because all operations holding potato stocks are not included in the sample. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. These errors cannot be measured directly, but they are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the January 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the January 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 January 1 stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 205 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.6 percent, or approximately 5.32 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.5 percent, or approximately 9.20 million cwt.

Changes between the January 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.23 million cwt, ranging from 10,000 cwt to 14.3 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the January 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 14 times and above 6 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final January 1 Stocks – United States: 2000-2010 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
2000	272,960	99.2	275,270
2001	233,420	103.9	224,680
2002	232,140	100.3	231,490
2003	233,880	100.1	233,590
2004	238,220	100.6	236,700
2005	218,900	99.3	220,500
2006	220,000	97.4	225,800
2007	237,500	102.2	232,300
2008	212,500	99.7	213,200
2009	235,400	100.5	234,300
2010	204,500	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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