



# Potato Stocks

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## Potato Stocks Down 14 Percent From February 2010

The 13 major potato States held 176 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2011, down 14 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 50 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, three percentage points below February 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 2.50 million cwt on February 1, 2011, down 11 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 176 million cwt, was 3 percent below February 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 16.6 million cwt, was down 12 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 91.9 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 1 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 13.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 20 percent from last year.

## Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: February 1, 2010-2011

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2010 totaled 23.7 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2009			Crop of 2010			
	Production	Stocks February 1, 2010	February stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks January 1, 2011	Stocks February 1, 2011	February 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	1,300	33	2,280	1,400	1,200	53
Colorado .....	22,080	12,200	55	21,528	13,300	11,400	53
Idaho .....	132,500	78,500	59	114,440	73,500	64,000	56
Maine .....	15,263	9,300	61	15,892	10,800	9,300	59
Michigan .....	15,660	5,300	34	15,660	7,600	5,900	38
Minnesota .....	20,700	9,900	48	17,010	9,600	8,400	49
Montana .....	3,298	3,200	97	3,673	3,500	3,400	93
Nebraska .....	8,756	4,100	47	7,719	4,100	3,400	44
New York .....	4,950	1,400	28	5,120	1,500	1,200	23
North Dakota .....	19,125	9,000	47	22,000	12,000	10,300	47
Oregon .....	21,460	12,900	60	20,058	14,500	12,700	63
Washington .....	87,230	42,000	48	81,740	39,300	33,800	41
Wisconsin .....	28,980	14,400	50	24,293	13,400	10,700	44
United States .....	383,962	203,500	53	351,413	204,500	175,700	50
Klamath Basin <sup>1</sup> ..	(NA)	2,800	(NA)	(NA)	3,000	2,500	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Included in the 13 States total.

## 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	175,700				

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

State	Potato Types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Feb 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Feb 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Feb 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Feb 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Feb 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Colorado .....	3	2	2	2	3	3	-	-	-	11	10	10	84	85	85
Idaho .....	2	2	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	1	1	96	95	95
Maine .....	3	2	2	38	43	43	-	-	-	3	2	2	56	53	53
Michigan .....	1	1	1	89	88	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	13
Minnesota .....	9	8	6	4	1	2	-	-	-	1	1	1	86	90	91
New York .....	3	3	2	96	95	97	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
North Dakota .....	14	14	13	9	12	13	5	4	5	1	1	1	71	69	68
Oregon .....	1	1	1	6	7	5	-	-	-	1	3	2	92	89	92
Washington .....	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	1	1	1	87	87	87
Wisconsin .....	3	2	2	15	10	46	-	-	-	-	1	-	82	87	52
10 State average .....	3	3	3	8	10	12	1	1	1	2	2	2	86	84	82

- 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	16.6				

## 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)
<b>Idaho and Oregon, Malheur</b>								
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	26,840	32,700					
<b>Maine <sup>1</sup></b>								
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	3,090					
<b>Washington and Oregon, Other</b>								
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	33,570	38,815					
<b>Other States <sup>2</sup></b>								
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	14,605	17,255					
<b>United States</b>								
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	77,475	91,860					
<b>Dehydrated <sup>3</sup></b>								
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	10,795	13,640					

<sup>1</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

<sup>2</sup> Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in Wisconsin.

<sup>3</sup> Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin.

## 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 February 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the February 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 February 1 stocks estimate is 3.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 176 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.0 percent, or approximately 5.27 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.2 percent, or approximately 9.14 million cwt.

Changes between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.17 million cwt, ranging from 10,000 cwt to 14.2 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 13 times and above 7 times.

### Fall Potato Preliminary and Final February 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 .....	235,050	100.3	234,260
2001 .....	201,750	105.0	192,090
2002 .....	197,470	99.2	199,020
2003 .....	200,530	100.1	200,230
2004 .....	204,190	100.3	203,490
2005 .....	187,600	99.2	189,100
2006 .....	187,800	97.7	192,200
2007 .....	206,200	103.5	199,300
2008 .....	183,200	99.6	183,900
2009 .....	203,400	100.0	203,500
2010 .....	175,700	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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