



Potato Stocks

ISSN: 1949-1565

Released March 14, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Potato Stocks Down 15 Percent From March 2010

The 13 major potato States held 143 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2011, down 15 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 41 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, three percentage points below March 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.80 million cwt on March 1, 2011, down 18 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 208 million cwt, was 3 percent below March 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.6 million cwt, was down 12 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 110 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 16.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 17 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: March 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 March 1, 2010	March stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks February 1, 2011	Stocks March 1, 2011	March 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	1,100	28	2,280	1,200	900	39
Colorado	22,080	10,500	48	21,528	11,400	9,600	45
Idaho	132,500	67,500	51	114,440	64,000	54,500	48
Maine	15,263	7,800	51	15,892	9,300	7,900	50
Michigan	15,660	3,500	22	15,660	5,900	4,100	26
Minnesota	20,700	8,300	40	17,010	8,400	7,300	43
Montana	3,298	3,100	94	3,673	3,400	3,300	90
Nebraska	8,756	3,300	38	7,719	3,400	3,000	39
New York	4,950	900	18	5,120	1,200	800	16
North Dakota	19,125	7,000	37	22,000	10,300	8,100	37
Oregon	21,460	10,700	50	20,058	12,700	10,100	50
Washington	87,230	34,900	40	81,740	33,800	25,700	31
Wisconsin	28,980	11,100	38	24,293	10,700	8,100	33
United States	383,962	169,700	44	351,413	175,700	143,400	41
Klamath Basin ¹ .	(NA)	2,200	(NA)	(NA)	2,500	1,800	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

¹ 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	143,400			

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	26,840	32,700	39,240				
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	3,090	3,725				
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	33,570	38,815	46,700				
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	14,605	17,240	20,190				
Total								
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	91,845	109,855				
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	10,795	13,640	16,485				

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. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

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	18.6			

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 March 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the March 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 March 1 stocks estimate is 3.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 143 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.5 percent, or approximately 5.02 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.1 percent, or approximately 8.75 million cwt.

Changes between the March 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.05 million cwt, ranging from 360,000 cwt to 13.1 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the March 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 11 times and above 9 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final March 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	198,320	100.3	197,670
2001	167,870	105.9	158,590
2002	163,900	99.2	165,210
2003	166,690	100.2	166,280
2004	168,420	100.2	168,020
2005	153,700	98.8	155,500
2006	153,200	96.1	159,500
2007	171,800	105.1	163,400
2008	151,000	98.9	152,700
2009	170,100	100.2	169,700
2010	143,400	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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