



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down 18 Percent From April 2010

The 13 major potato States held 106 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2011, down 18 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 30 percent of the 2010 fall storage States' production, four percentage points below April 1, 2010. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.20 million cwt on April 1, 2011, down 8 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 246 million cwt, was 4 percent below April 1, 2010. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 20.4 million cwt, was down 16 percent from the same date in 2010. Processors in the 9 major States have used 127 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 19.5 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: April 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 April 1, 2010	April stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks March 1, 2011	Stocks April 1, 2011	April 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	800	20	2,280	900	600	26
Colorado	22,080	8,100	37	21,528	9,600	7,200	33
Idaho	132,500	53,000	40	114,440	54,500	42,500	37
Maine	15,263	6,000	39	15,892	7,900	6,000	38
Michigan	15,660	1,700	11	15,660	4,100	2,300	15
Minnesota	20,700	6,800	33	17,010	7,300	5,500	32
Montana	3,298	2,100	64	3,673	3,100	2,200	60
Nebraska	8,756	2,200	25	7,719	3,000	2,100	27
New York	4,950	500	10	5,120	800	500	10
North Dakota	19,125	5,000	26	22,000	8,100	5,900	27
Oregon	21,460	8,000	37	20,058	10,100	7,700	38
Washington	87,230	27,100	31	81,740	25,700	17,800	22
Wisconsin	28,980	7,400	26	24,293	8,100	5,300	22
United States	383,962	128,700	34	351,413	143,200	105,600	30
Klamath Basin ¹ .	(NA)	1,300	(NA)	(NA)	1,800	1,200	(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	Stocks							
	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	143,200	105,600		

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 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	46,180			
Maine¹								
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	4,420			
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	53,250			
Other States²								
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	20,165	23,040			
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	109,830	126,890			
Dehydrated³								
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	19,450			

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	20.4		

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 April 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the April 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 April 1 stocks estimate is 4.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 106 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.7 percent, or approximately 4.96 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.0 percent, or approximately 8.45 million cwt.

Changes between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.97 million cwt, ranging from 300,000 cwt to 12.8 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 13 times and above 7 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final April 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	154,030	100.3	153,520
2001	128,930	107.5	119,950
2002	125,030	99.4	125,770
2003	126,410	100.2	126,110
2004	129,620	100.6	128,900
2005	113,900	98.4	115,700
2006	113,600	94.0	120,900
2007	133,600	106.5	125,500
2008	114,550	98.9	115,800
2009	129,100	100.3	128,700
2010	105,600	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity statisticians in the Crops Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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