



Potato Stocks

ISSN: 1949-1565

Released December 14, 2012, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Potato Stocks Up 11 Percent From December 2011

The 13 major potato States held 280 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2012, up 11 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 68 percent of the 2012 fall storage States' production, up 2 percent from the previous year. Potato disappearance, at 132 million cwt, was 2 percent above December 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 13.7 million cwt, was unchanged from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 73.2 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 4 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 13.5 million cwt of the total processing, up 1 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: December 1, 2011-2012

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2011 totaled 23.6 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2011			Crop of 2012		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2011	December stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2012	December stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	4,312	2,500	58	4,312	2,500	58
Colorado	21,291	15,400	72	21,021	15,200	72
Idaho	128,760	90,000	70	143,240	101,000	71
Maine	14,310	10,600	74	15,471	12,200	79
Michigan	15,180	8,600	57	16,330	9,700	59
Minnesota	16,685	10,600	64	18,480	12,000	65
Montana	3,795	3,600	95	3,744	3,700	99
Nebraska	7,800	4,700	60	9,761	6,100	62
New York	4,050	2,100	52	4,703	2,700	57
North Dakota	18,865	13,000	69	25,200	16,800	67
Oregon	23,342	17,900	77	23,045	18,900	82
Washington	97,600	56,500	58	98,175	58,500	60
Wisconsin	25,938	17,500	67	28,665	21,000	73
Total	381,928	253,000	66	412,147	280,300	68
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	5,200	(NA)	(NA)	4,800	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2003-2012

[For 2003-2004, data accounts for 15 major producing States. Beginning in 2005 data accounts for 13 major producing States. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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)
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	378,732	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	357,191	240,200	209,400	180,300	148,500	111,000	72,000	41,320
2011	381,928	253,000	(NA)	187,500	(NA)	115,650	(NA)	43,340
2012	412,147	280,300						

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 10 Selected States: December 1, 2011-2012

State	Potato types									
	Reds		Round whites		Long whites		Yellows		Russets	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	1	1	4	6	-	-	8	5	87	88
Idaho	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	93	93
Maine	3	2	38	33	-	-	3	2	56	63
Michigan	1	1	88	86	-	-	-	-	11	13
Minnesota	10	8	4	4	-	-	1	1	85	87
New York	5	4	93	93	-	-	2	3	-	-
North Dakota	16	16	11	11	5	5	1	1	67	67
Oregon	2	2	5	8	-	5	2	2	91	83
Washington	3	3	4	4	5	5	1	1	87	87
Wisconsin	5	4	25	25	-	-	1	1	69	70
10 State average	4	4	10	11	2	2	2	1	82	82

- Represents zero.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2009-2012

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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)
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	22.1	23.3
2011	13.7	16.4	18.8	20.8	22.9	24.5	25.9
2012	13.7						

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 9 Major States: 2010-2012

[Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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								
2010	21,040	26,840	32,700	39,240	46,180	52,830	59,440	70,050
2011	28,060	34,800	41,800	49,460	56,680	63,800	71,510	84,780
2012	26,770							
Maine ¹								
2010	1,860	2,390	3,000	3,620	4,320	4,980	5,645	7,490
2011	1,860	2,380	3,095	3,695	4,360	4,940	5,345	6,790
2012	1,735							
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2010	27,670	33,570	38,815	46,700	53,660	60,145	67,655	77,940
2011	31,750	38,165	44,475	51,630	58,515	65,320	73,040	84,105
2012	30,690							
Other States ²								
2010	11,820	14,785	17,435	20,370	23,215	25,775	28,690	35,430
2011	14,205	16,770	19,525	21,930	24,910	27,230	29,960	36,200
2012	13,965							
Total								
2010	62,390	77,585	91,950	109,930	127,375	143,730	161,430	190,910
2011	75,875	92,115	108,895	126,715	144,465	161,290	179,855	211,875
2012	73,160							
Dehydrated ³								
2010	7,960	10,795	13,645	16,485	19,415	22,740	25,855	32,700
2011	13,375	16,845	20,875	24,410	28,070	31,533	35,310	42,585
2012	13,460							

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, Minnesota, 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 during the months of December, February, April and 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 estimating period 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 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 280 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.2 percent, or approximately 6.16 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.8 percent, or approximately 10.7 million cwt.

Changes between the December 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.08 million cwt, ranging from 110,000 cwt to 14.5 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the December 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 15 times and above 5 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final December 1 Stocks – United States: 2002-2012 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
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	99.5	265,800
2010	232,300	96.7	240,200
2011	249,900	98.8	253,000
2012	280,300	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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