



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent From April 2012

The 13 major potato States held 112 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2014, down 3 percent from 2 years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 29 percent of the 2013 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from 2 years earlier. Potato disappearance, at 278 million cwt, was 4 percent above April 1, 2012. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 21.4 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States used 16.7 million cwt of potatoes during the month of March, down 3 percent from the previous year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 3.60 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: April 1, 2013-2014

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2013 totaled 25.8 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2012			Crop of 2013			
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2013	April stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2013	Stocks April 1, 2014	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	3,901	(NA)	(X)	4,026	(NA)	800	20
Colorado	19,980	(NA)	(X)	20,279	(NA)	6,600	33
Idaho	141,820	(NA)	(X)	131,131	(NA)	45,000	34
Maine	15,675	(NA)	(X)	15,660	(NA)	4,400	28
Michigan	15,925	(NA)	(X)	17,160	(NA)	2,100	12
Minnesota	18,800	(NA)	(X)	18,000	(NA)	5,000	28
Montana	3,744	(NA)	(X)	3,386	(NA)	1,800	53
Nebraska	10,369	(NA)	(X)	8,418	(NA)	2,200	26
New York	4,703	(NA)	(X)	4,752	(NA)	650	14
North Dakota	25,200	(NA)	(X)	22,620	(NA)	6,500	29
Oregon	22,935	(NA)	(X)	21,582	(NA)	7,600	35
Washington	95,940	(NA)	(X)	96,000	(NA)	23,500	24
Wisconsin	29,440	(NA)	(X)	27,280	(NA)	6,000	22
Total	408,432	(NA)	(X)	390,294	(NA)	112,150	29
Klamath Basin ¹ .	(NA)	(NA)	(X)	(NA)	(NA)	1,850	(X)

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

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

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2004-2013

[For 2002-2004, 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)
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	408,432	271,500	(NA)	204,600	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013	390,294	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	112,150	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 States: 2011-2013

[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 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								
2011	28,060	34,800	41,800	49,460	56,680	63,800	71,510	84,780
2012	27,900	34,740	41,890	49,980	57,750	65,430	73,430	89,780
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	6,885			
Maine²								
2011	1,860	2,380	3,095	3,695	4,360	4,940	5,345	6,790
2012	1,890	2,380	3,005	3,600	4,290	5,075	5,740	7,720
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	695			
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2011	31,750	38,165	44,475	51,630	58,515	65,320	73,040	84,105
2012	31,295	37,730	43,820	51,765	57,915	64,500	70,470	80,400
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	6,175			
Other States³								
2011	14,205	16,770	19,525	21,930	24,910	27,230	29,960	36,200
2012	14,270	16,765	19,785	22,520	25,170	28,320	31,100	40,395
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,960			
Total								
2011	75,875	92,115	108,895	126,715	144,465	161,290	179,855	211,875
2012	75,355	91,615	108,500	127,865	145,125	163,325	180,740	218,295
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	16,715			
Dehydrated⁴								
2011	13,375	16,845	20,875	24,410	28,070	31,533	35,310	42,585
2012	13,965	17,640	22,000	26,105	30,135	34,610	38,945	47,305
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,602			

(NA) Not available.

¹ 2013 totals only include quantities beginning March 1.

² Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

³ Other States include Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in Wisconsin.

⁴ Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2010-2013

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)
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	13.8	16.4	18.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	21.4		

(NA) Not available.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for nearly 98 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 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 3.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 112 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.5 percent, or approximately 3.93 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.1 percent, or approximately 6.84 million cwt.

Changes between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.28 million cwt, ranging from 200,000 cwt to 8.98 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 12 times and above 7 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final April 1 Stocks – United States: 2003-2013 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
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	95.1	111,000
2011	115,850	100.2	115,650
2012	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013	112,150	(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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