Potato Stocks

ISSN: 1949-1565

Released February 17, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Potato Stocks Down Slightly From February 2013

The 13 major potato States held 204 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2015, down slightly from 2 years ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 51 percent of the 2014 fall storage States' production, 1 percent higher than 2 years earlier. Potato disappearance, at 198 million cwt, was down 4 percent from February 1, 2013. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.2 million cwt, was 4 percent lower than two years ago. Processors in the 9 major States used 106 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 2 percent from February 2014.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: February 1, 2014-2015

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2013 totaled 25.6 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2013			Crop of 2014			
	Production	Stocks February 1, 2014	February stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2014	Stocks February 1, 2015	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	3,504	(NA)	(NA)	4,038	2,500	1,600	40
Colorado	20,304	(NA)	(NA)	23,735	17,700	13,500	57
Idaho	131,131	(NA)	(NA)	135,920	97,000	76,000	56
Maine	15,660	(NA)	(NA)	15,150	11,600	8,500	56
Michigan	15,840	(NA)	(NA)	15,725	9,400	5,000	32
Minnesota	17,325	(NA)	(NA)	16,800	10,000	8,000	48
Montana	3,441	(NA)	(NA)	3,616	3,500	3,400	94
Nebraska	8,418	(NA)	(NA)	6,438	3,900	2,700	42
New York	4,959	(NA)	(NA)	4,424	2,100	1,400	32
North Dakota	22,620	(NA)	(NA)	24,255	17,000	12,400	51
Oregon	21,582	(NA)	(NA)	22,562	17,700	13,200	59
Washington	96,000	(NA)	(NA)	101,475	57,000	44,000	43
Wisconsin	26,040	(NA)	(NA)	27,090	18,000	14,000	52
Other States	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total	386,824	(NA)	(NA)	401,228	267,400	203,700	51
Klamath Basin [1]	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	5,000	3,000	(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: 2005-2014

[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)
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	357,467	240,200	209,400	180,300	148,500	111,000	72,000	41,320
2011	382,318	253,000	(NA)	187,500	(NA)	115,650	(NA)	43,340
2012	410,367	271,500	(NA)	204,600	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013	386,824	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	119,050	(NA)	46,885
2014	401,228	267,400	(NA)	203,700				

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 10 Selected States: February 1, 2014 and 2015

State	Potato Types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015	Feb 2014	Dec 2014	Feb 2015
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Colorado	(NA)	5	5	(NA)	12	13	(NA)	-	-	(NA)	9	9	(NA)	74	73
Idaho	(NA)	2	2	(NA)	2	1	(NA)	2	1	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	93	95
Maine	(NA)	5	3	(NA)	28	38	(NA)	5	2	(NA)	6	4	(NA)	56	53
Michigan	(NA)	-	-	(NA)	85	85	(NA)	-	-	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	14	14
Minnesota	(NA)	14	11	(NA)	5	4	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	2	1	(NA)	78	83
New York	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	95	98	(NA)	-	-	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	3	-
North Dakota	(NA)	22	24	(NA)	18	17	(NA)	3	2	(NA)	1	1	(NA)	56	56
Oregon	(NA)	2	1	(NA)	4	6	(NA)	1	-	(NA)	2	2	(NA)	91	91
Washington	(NA)	3	3	(NA)	5	4	(NA)	4	4	(NA)	2	1	(NA)	86	88
Wisconsin	(NA)	9	9	(NA)	32	32	(NA)	2	2	(NA)	2	2	(NA)	55	55
10 State average	(NA)	5	5	(NA)	12	10	(NA)	2	2	(NA)	2	2	(NA)	79	81

- Represents zero.
(NA) Not available.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2011-2014

[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)
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)	21.9	25.0	27.6
2014	14.2	16.6	18.2				

(NA) Not available.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 9 Major States: 2012-2014

[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								
2012	27,900	34,740	41,890	49,980	57,750	65,430	73,430	89,780
2013	25,770	32,060	39,090	46,320	53,755	61,780	70,425	85,280
2014	27,685	33,995	40,850					
Maine [1]								
2012	1,890	2,380	3,005	3,600	4,290	5,075	5,740	7,720
2013	1,570	1,990	2,510	3,060	3,680	4,240	4,800	6,315
2014	1,410	1,845	2,415					
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2012	31,295	37,730	43,820	51,765	57,915	64,500	70,470	80,400
2013	31,575	37,990	45,420	52,690	59,025	64,905	72,325	80,655
2014	31,870	37,190	42,715					
Other States [2]								
2012	14,270	16,765	19,785	22,520	25,170	28,320	31,100	40,395
2013	11,365	14,280	17,470	20,475	23,695	26,990	30,195	37,425
2014	13,440	16,730	20,190					
Total								
2012	75,355	91,615	108,500	127,865	145,125	163,325	180,740	218,295
2013	70,280	86,320	104,490	122,545	140,155	157,915	177,745	209,675
2014	74,405	89,760	106,170					
Dehydrated [3]								
2012	13,965	17,640	22,000	26,105	30,135	34,610	38,945	47,305
2013	12,065	15,875	19,835	23,380	27,140	31,095	34,895	44,385
2014	12,935	16,170	19,770					

[1] Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.
[2] 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, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for 90 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 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 2.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 204 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent.

Changes between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.55 million cwt, ranging from 100,000 cwt to 9.66 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 12 times, and above 7 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final February 1 Stocks – United States: 2004-2014 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks	Percent of final	Final stocks
	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)
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	97.4	180,300
2011	186,900	99.7	187,500
2012	214,000	104.6	204,600
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2014	203,700	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit http://www.nass.usda.gov and in the "Follow NASS" box under "Receive reports by Email," click on "National" or "State" to select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

USDA 2015 Agricultural Outlook Forum

Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel
Arlington, VA
Feb. 19-20, 2015

SAVE the Date!

The USDA Outlook Forum, first held in 1923, brings together renowned speakers including farmers, ranchers, economists, academics, statisticians, consultants, industry leaders, and government policymakers. The Secretary of Agriculture will present the keynote address, followed by a distinguished guest speaker. The economic outlook for the coming year will be presented by the USDA Chief Economist. In addition, a plenary panel of industry leaders will discuss an important topic relevant to agriculture.

- **February 19** includes a morning plenary, a networking luncheon, five concurrent afternoon sessions, and a dinner speaker.

- **February 20** includes a day of 5 concurrent sessions and luncheon speakers.

Session Topics are expected to include:

- Perspectives on Global & U.S. Trade
- Tomorrow's Opportunities
- Big Data
- Commodity Situation and Outlook
- Food Price & Farm Income Outlook
- Conservation & Regulation
- Water Issues
- Weather, Drought & Big Data
- Climate Change
- Moving Feed, Food & Fuel to Market
- 100-Year Anniversary of USDA Market News
- Nutrition & New Opportunities for Producers
- Regional Approaches to Rural Growth
- Bio-Economy
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Agriculture & Bees
- Local Foods
- Food Waste

Register in November at: www.usda.gov/oce/forum