



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Up 4 Percent From April 2011

The 13 major potato States held 116 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 30 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, one percentage point below April 1, 2011. Potato disappearance, at 264 million cwt, was 7 percent above April 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.8 million cwt, was up 12 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 11 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.1 million cwt of the total processing, up 45 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: April 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 2010			Crop of 2011			
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2011	April stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks February 1, 2012	Stocks April 1, 2012	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	2,828	600	21	4,128	1,700	850	21
Colorado	21,528	7,200	33	21,291	11,800	7,700	36
Idaho	112,970	41,000	36	127,070	67,500	44,000	35
Maine	15,892	5,900	37	14,310	7,400	4,400	31
Michigan	15,660	2,300	15	15,180	4,700	1,600	11
Minnesota	17,010	5,000	29	16,685	8,300	5,000	30
Montana	3,673	2,300	63	3,795	3,500	2,100	55
Nebraska	7,719	2,100	27	7,800	3,600	2,100	27
New York	5,120	600	12	4,050	1,200	500	12
North Dakota	22,000	5,900	27	18,865	9,300	5,600	30
Oregon	20,058	7,700	38	23,342	13,000	8,000	34
Washington	88,440	25,200	28	98,400	44,000	29,000	29
Wisconsin	24,293	5,200	21	25,000	10,500	5,000	20
Total	357,191	111,000	31	379,916	186,500	115,850	30
Klamath Basin ¹ .	(NA)	1,200	(NA)	(NA)	3,600	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: 2002-2011

[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)
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	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	379,916	250,000	(NA)	186,500	(NA)	115,850		

(NA) Not available.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 States: 2009-2011

[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								
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	52,830	59,440	70,050
2011	28,060	34,800	41,800	49,460	56,680			
Maine¹								
2009	1,575	2,060	2,680	3,265	3,915	4,550	5,260	7,160
2010	1,860	2,390	3,000	3,620	4,320	4,980	5,645	7,490
2011	1,860	2,365	3,070	3,665	4,320			
Washington and Oregon, Other								
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	53,660	60,145	67,655	77,940
2011	31,745	38,160	44,465	51,620	58,505			
Other States²								
2009	10,865	13,565	16,305	18,995	21,600	24,355	27,375	34,240
2010	11,820	14,785	17,435	20,370	23,215	25,775	28,690	35,430
2011	11,215	14,180	16,915	19,305	22,260			
Total								
2009	60,945	76,050	90,685	108,090	124,845	141,705	160,370	196,490
2010	62,390	77,585	91,950	109,930	127,375	143,730	161,430	190,910
2011	72,880	89,505	106,250	124,050	141,765			
Dehydrated³								
2009	10,985	14,035	17,150	19,895	23,155	26,630	30,045	38,915
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	28,065			

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: 2008-2011

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)
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	22.1	23.3
2011	13.7	16.4	18.8	20.8	22.8		

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for nearly 89 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 4.3 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 116 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.3 percent, or approximately 4.98 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 7.5 percent, or approximately 8.69 million cwt.

Changes between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.78 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: 2001-2011 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
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	95.1	111,000
2011	115,850	(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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