



# Potato Stocks

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## Potato Stocks Up 14 Percent From February 2012

The 13 major potato States held 214 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2013, up 14 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 52 percent of the 2012 fall storage States' production, up 3 percentage points from the previous year. Potato disappearance, at 199 million cwt, was 2 percent above February 1, 2012. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 18.9 million cwt, was up slightly from the same date in 2012. Processors in the 9 major States have used 107 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 2 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 20.8 million cwt of the total processing, virtually unchanged from last year.

## Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: February 1, 2012-2013

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2012 totaled 23.6 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2011			Crop of 2012			
	Production	Stocks February 1, 2012	February stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks Dec 1, 2012	Stocks February 1, 2013	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 .....	4,312	1,700	39	4,312	2,500	1,500	35
Colorado .....	21,291	11,800	55	21,021	15,200	11,500	55
Idaho .....	128,760	69,500	54	143,240	101,000	80,500	56
Maine .....	14,310	7,400	52	15,675	12,415	9,700	62
Michigan .....	15,180	4,700	31	15,925	9,700	5,700	36
Minnesota .....	16,685	7,800	47	18,800	12,000	9,500	51
Montana .....	3,795	3,400	90	3,744	3,700	3,600	96
Nebraska .....	7,800	3,600	46	10,146	7,100	5,400	53
New York .....	4,050	1,000	25	4,703	2,700	1,200	26
North Dakota .....	18,865	8,900	47	25,200	16,800	12,700	50
Oregon .....	23,342	12,900	55	23,045	18,400	13,400	58
Washington .....	97,600	43,000	44	97,580	58,000	44,500	46
Wisconsin .....	25,938	11,800	45	29,440	20,000	14,800	50
Total .....	381,928	187,500	49	412,831	279,515	214,000	52
Klamath Basin <sup>1</sup> .	(NA)	3,600	(X)	(NA)	4,800	2,800	(X)

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

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

## 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)							
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 .....	412,831	279,515	(NA)	214,000				

(NA) Not available.

## Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 10 Selected States: February 1, 2012 and 2013

State	Potato Types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Feb 2012	Dec 2012	Feb 2013	Feb 2012	Dec 2012	Feb 2013	Feb 2012	Dec 2012	Feb 2013	Feb 2012	Dec 2012	Feb 2013	Feb 2012	Dec 2012	Feb 2013
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Colorado .....	1	1	1	4	6	6	-	-	-	8	5	5	87	88	88
Idaho .....	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	93	93	93
Maine .....	3	2	2	35	33	31	-	-	-	3	2	2	59	63	65
Michigan .....	-	1	-	84	86	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	13	14
Minnesota .....	8	8	5	3	4	4	-	-	-	1	1	1	88	87	90
New York .....	5	4	3	90	93	94	-	-	3	5	3	-	-	-	-
North Dakota .....	16	16	15	12	11	11	4	5	4	1	1	1	67	67	69
Oregon .....	1	2	1	5	8	6	-	5	-	2	2	1	92	83	92
Washington .....	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	1	1	1	87	87	87
Wisconsin .....	2	4	1	43	25	49	-	-	-	-	1	-	55	70	50
10 State average .....	3	4	3	10	11	11	2	2	2	2	1	1	83	82	83

- 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)						
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 .....	13.8	16.4	18.9				

## 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)
<b>Idaho and Oregon, Malheur</b>								
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 .....	27,260	33,870	40,750					
<b>Maine <sup>1</sup></b>								
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	2,215	2,875					
<b>Washington and Oregon, Other</b>								
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 .....	30,590	37,030	43,120					
<b>Other States <sup>2</sup></b>								
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 .....	14,305	16,770	19,795					
<b>Total</b>								
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 .....	73,890	89,885	106,540					
<b>Dehydrated <sup>3</sup></b>								
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 .....	13,350	16,765	20,845					

<sup>1</sup> Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

<sup>2</sup> Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Monthly amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips in Wisconsin.

<sup>3</sup> 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 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 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 2.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 214 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.8 percent, or approximately 5.99 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.9 percent, or approximately 10.5 million cwt.

Changes between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.98 million cwt, ranging from 100,000 cwt to 14.2 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 14 times and above 6 times.

### Fall Potato Preliminary and Final February 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 .....	197,470	99.2	199,020
2003 .....	200,530	100.1	200,230
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	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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