



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Up 4 Percent From February 2011

The 13 major potato States held 187 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2012, up 4 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 49 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, one percentage point below February 1, 2011. Potato disappearance, at 193 million cwt, was 9 percent above February 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 19.3 million cwt, was up 16 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 106 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 15 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 20.9 million cwt of the total processing, up 53 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: February 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 February 1, 2011	February stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2011	Stocks February 1, 2012	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	2,828	1,200	42	4,128	2,500	1,700	41
Colorado	21,528	11,400	53	21,291	15,400	11,800	55
Idaho	112,970	62,500	55	127,070	88,000	67,500	53
Maine	15,892	9,300	59	14,310	10,600	7,300	51
Michigan	15,660	5,900	38	15,180	8,600	4,700	31
Minnesota	17,010	7,700	45	16,685	10,000	8,300	50
Montana	3,673	3,300	90	3,795	3,700	3,500	92
Nebraska	7,719	3,400	44	7,800	4,700	3,600	46
New York	5,120	1,500	29	4,050	2,100	1,200	30
North Dakota	22,000	10,300	47	18,865	13,000	9,300	49
Oregon	20,058	12,700	63	23,342	17,900	13,000	56
Washington	88,440	40,600	46	98,400	57,500	44,000	45
Wisconsin	24,293	10,500	43	25,000	16,000	11,000	44
Total	357,191	180,300	50	379,916	250,000	186,900	49
Klamath Basin ¹ .	(NA)	2,500	(NA)	(NA)	5,200	3,600	(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. 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)							
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)	186,900				

(NA) Not available.

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

State	Potato Types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Feb 2011	Dec 2011	Feb 2012	Feb 2011	Dec 2011	Feb 2012	Feb 2011	Dec 2011	Feb 2012	Feb 2011	Dec 2011	Feb 2012	Feb 2011	Dec 2011	Feb 2012
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Colorado	2	1	1	3	4	4	-	-	-	10	8	8	85	87	87
Idaho	1	3	3	2	2	2	-	1	1	1	1	1	96	93	93
Maine	2	3	3	43	38	33	-	-	-	2	3	3	53	56	61
Michigan	1	1	-	86	88	84	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	11	16
Minnesota	6	10	8	2	4	3	-	-	-	1	1	1	91	85	88
New York	2	5	5	97	93	90	-	-	-	1	2	5	-	-	-
North Dakota	13	16	16	13	11	12	5	5	4	1	1	1	68	67	67
Oregon	1	2	1	5	5	5	-	-	-	2	2	2	92	91	92
Washington	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	1	1	1	87	87	87
Wisconsin	2	5	2	46	25	43	-	-	-	-	1	-	52	69	55
10 State average	3	4	3	12	10	10	1	2	2	2	2	2	82	82	83

- Represents zero.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2008-2011

[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)						
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	16.5	19.3				

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

[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								
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					
Maine ¹								
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					
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					
Other States ²								
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	13,650	16,330					
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	88,975	105,665					
Dehydrated ³								
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	20,860					

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 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 month 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 187 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.8 percent, or approximately 5.23 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.9 percent, or approximately 9.16 million cwt.

Changes between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.97 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 13 times and above 7 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final February 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	201,750	105.0	192,090
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	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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