



# Potato Stocks

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## Potato Stocks Up 11 Percent From May 2009

The 13 major potato States held 87.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 23 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 2 percentage points above May 1, 2009. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 770 thousand cwt on May 1, 2010, up 3 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 297 million cwt, was 2 percent above May 1, 2009. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 26.6 million cwt, was up 19 percent from the same date in 2009. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 5 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 26.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 6 percent from last year.

## Fall Potato Production and Stocks - 13 Major States: May 1, 2009-2010

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2009 totaled 24.5 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2008			Crop of 2009			
	Production	Stocks May 1, 2009	May stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks April 1, 2010	Stocks May 1, 2010	May stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California .....	3,948	500	13	4,158	*800	600	14
Colorado .....	21,907	5,900	27	22,080	8,100	4,900	22
Idaho .....	116,475	32,500	28	131,000	51,000	36,500	28
Maine .....	14,769	3,700	25	15,263	6,000	3,900	26
Michigan .....	14,875	700	5	15,660	1,200	(D)	(D)
Minnesota .....	20,400	4,400	22	20,700	7,300	4,900	24
Montana .....	3,465	(D)	(D)	3,347	2,000	600	18
Nebraska .....	8,245	1,200	15	8,756	2,200	1,100	13
New York .....	5,696	(D)	(D)	4,950	500	(D)	(D)
North Dakota .....	22,680	4,200	19	19,125	5,000	2,800	15
Oregon .....	18,676	5,300	28	21,460	8,000	5,300	25
Washington .....	93,000	16,500	18	88,450	28,300	21,300	24
Wisconsin .....	25,730	2,200	9	28,980	8,600	4,900	17
Other States .....	-	1,000	(X)	-	-	230	(X)
Total .....	369,866	78,100	21	383,929	*129,000	87,030	23
Klamath Basin <sup>1</sup> .....	(NA)	750	(NA)	(NA)	*1,300	770	(NA)

\* Revised.

- Represents zero.

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(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 Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, 2000-2009

[For 2000-2004, data accounts for 15 major producing States. Beginning in 2005 data accounts for 13 major producing States]

Crop year	Production	December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 cwt)							
2000 .....	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001 .....	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
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 .....	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 .....	383,929	265,800	235,300	203,400	169,800	*129,000	87,030	

\* Revised.

## Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 States: 2007-2009

[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								
2007 .....	26,230	33,250	40,310	48,660	55,460	63,000	70,700	88,030
2008 .....	22,380	28,980	35,430	42,150	49,030	55,570	62,940	77,340
2009 .....	23,110	29,180	35,170	42,050	*49,200	56,100		
Maine <sup>1</sup>								
2007 .....	1,700	2,170	2,815	3,440	3,990	4,670	5,240	7,550
2008 .....	1,635	2,240	2,895	3,515	4,005	4,795	5,540	7,545
2009 .....	1,575	2,060	2,680	3,265	3,915	4,575		
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2007 .....	30,595	36,940	42,350	50,165	57,160	67,690	72,380	82,770
2008 .....	32,560	38,050	42,795	49,865	56,350	62,635	70,625	81,260
2009 .....	25,350	31,200	36,490	43,750	50,170	56,700		
Other States <sup>2</sup>								
2007 .....	15,040	17,535	20,755	23,900	26,650	29,710	32,600	39,430
2008 .....	12,480	15,120	18,165	21,030	24,025	26,515	29,590	37,285
2009 .....	10,605	13,260	16,225	18,920	*21,555	24,155		
Total								
2007 .....	73,565	89,895	106,230	126,165	143,260	165,070	180,920	217,780
2008 .....	69,055	84,390	99,285	116,560	133,410	149,515	168,695	203,430
2009 .....	60,640	75,700	90,565	107,985	*124,840	141,530		
Dehydrated <sup>3</sup>								
2007 .....	12,815	16,785	21,040	25,350	29,500	33,650	37,975	46,660
2008 .....	10,675	14,490	18,335	21,465	24,875	28,195	31,870	39,345
2009 .....	10,945	13,950	17,065	19,800	*23,075	26,550		

\* Revised.

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

<sup>2</sup> Other States include 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.

## Potato Shrinkage and Loss - 13 Fall Storage States: 2006-2009

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)						
2006 .....	13.2	16.1	18.4	20.4	22.3	24.0	25.5
2007 .....	14.2	16.4	18.4	20.2	22.1	24.0	25.3
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	26.6	

## 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 production. Growers, processors, and storage facilities are contacted each month from December through 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 May 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the May 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 May 1 stocks estimate is 6.8 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 87.0 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 6.8 percent, or approximately 5.92 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 11.8 percent, or approximately 10.3 million cwt.

Changes between the May 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 4.01 million cwt, ranging from 140 cwt to 11.5 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the May 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 15 times and above 5 times.

**Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final May 1 Stocks - United States: 1999-2009 Crop Years**

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
1999 .....	85,670	98.6	86,915
2000 .....	111,425	102.1	109,160
2001 .....	91,140	112.2	81,200
2002 .....	83,180	100.2	83,040
2003 .....	84,800	99.8	85,000
2004 .....	86,990	98.2	88,550
2005 .....	72,950	96.1	75,900
2006 .....	73,200	92.6	79,050
2007 .....	92,710	110.4	83,960
2008 .....	75,400	96.5	78,100
2009 .....	87,030		

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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