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Potato Stocks Up 2 Percent From December 2015

The 13 major potato States held 269 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2016, up 2 percent from December 1, 2015. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the fall storage States' 2016 production, the same as last year. Potato disappearance, at 136 million cwt, was up 1 percent from December 1, 2015. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 12.0 million cwt, was 3 percent lower than the same time last year. Processors in the 8 major States used 73.6 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 4 percent from December 2015.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: December 1, 2015-2016

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2015 totaled 29.4 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2015			Crop of 2016		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2015	December stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2016	December stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,528	2,400	68	3,516	(D)	(D)
Colorado	22,575	16,500	73	21,944	15,700	72
Idaho	130,400	90,000	69	139,320	100,000	72
Maine	16,160	12,500	77	14,490	11,100	77
Michigan	17,550	10,900	62	17,205	9,900	58
Minnesota	16,200	10,400	64	17,640	11,800	67
Montana	3,543	3,400	96	3,808	3,600	95
Nebraska	6,885	4,400	64	7,076	4,300	61
New York	4,144	2,200	53	3,312	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	27,600	19,500	71	19,840	15,300	77
Oregon	21,784	17,000	78	23,146	18,900	82
Washington	100,300	56,000	56	106,470	57,000	54
Wisconsin	27,813	17,500	63	27,405	17,500	64
Other States	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	3,900	(NA)
Total	398,482	262,700	66	405,172	269,000	66
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	5,100	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath Co. Oregon.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2007-2016

[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)							
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	396,798	265,700	(NA)	200,800	(NA)	128,700	(NA)	56,335
2015	398,482	262,700	(NA)	198,500	(NA)	125,900	(NA)	51,710
2016	405,172	269,000						

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 13 Selected States: December 1, 2015-2016

State	Potato types									
	Reds		Round whites		Long whites		Yellows		Russets	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
California ¹	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(D)
Colorado	5	6	12	10	-	-	8	8	75	76
Idaho	2	3	2	1	1	2	1	2	94	92
Maine	3	3	34	30	2	2	3	1	58	64
Michigan	-	-	85	83	-	-	1	1	14	16
Minnesota	12	9	10	2	3	2	1	1	74	86
Montana ¹	(NA)	3	(NA)	3	(NA)	-	(NA)	1	(NA)	93
Nebraska ¹	(NA)	3	(NA)	57	(NA)	1	(NA)	2	(NA)	37
New York	3	(D)	94	(D)	-	(D)	2	(D)	1	(D)
North Dakota	23	20	28	28	6	7	1	1	42	44
Oregon	3	2	6	4	1	1	2	1	88	92
Washington	3	3	5	4	2	2	2	3	88	88
Wisconsin	4	4	34	24	-	1	1	1	61	70
13 State average ²	5	4	14	12	1	2	2	2	78	80

- Represents zero.

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Estimates began in 2016.

² 2015 estimates represent 10 State average.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 8 States: 2015-2017

[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	Current year	Following year						
	December 1, 2015	January 1, 2016	February 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016	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 Malheur County, Oregon	26,850	33,115	39,655	46,455	53,710	61,050	68,435	86,250
Maine	1,170	1,590	2,050	2,490	2,980	3,495	4,065	5,724
Washington and Oregon	33,955	39,970	46,320	54,455	60,985	67,560	74,285	91,720
Other States ¹	8,995	12,515	16,380	20,720	24,550	28,665	33,020	38,742
United States	70,970	87,190	104,450	124,120	142,225	160,770	179,805	222,436
Dehydrated ²	12,155	15,885	19,620	23,560	27,605	31,585	35,645	45,735

State	Current year	Following year						
	December 1, 2016	January 1, 2017	February 1, 2017	March 1, 2017	April 1, 2017	May 1, 2017	June 1, 2017	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 Malheur County, Oregon	25,720							
Maine	1,340							
Washington and Oregon	36,495							
Other States ¹	10,035							
United States	73,590							
Dehydrated ²	11,560							

¹ Other States include Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

² Dehydrated products except starch and flour. Includes Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington.

Accumulated Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2015-2017

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2015	January 1, 2016	February 1, 2016	March 1, 2016	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016
2015	(million cwt) 12.4	(million cwt) 14.5	(million cwt) 16.3	(million cwt) 17.9	(million cwt) 19.7	(million cwt) 21.5	(million cwt) 23.4
Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2016	January 1, 2017	February 1, 2017	March 1, 2017	April 1, 2017	May 1, 2017	June 1, 2017
2016	(million cwt) 12.0	(million cwt)					

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The potato stock estimates in this report are based on a survey conducted in the first week of December in the 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for 92 percent of all potato production. The potato stocks survey includes a sample of approximately 975 growers, processors, and storage facilities that are contacted to obtain the quantity of potatoes stored as of the first of the month, as well as shrinkage and loss information.

Monthly processing data is collected from all known potato processing facilities in eight States (Colorado, Idaho, Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington, and Wisconsin). An effort is made to obtain a report from all facilities. Estimates are made for missing facilities to make the survey complete.

Estimating Procedures: Information obtained from the potato stocks survey, processing survey, and 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, shrink and loss, and processing 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, are thoroughly reviewed and any necessary revisions for the entire crop year are published in the *Potatoes Annual Summary*.

Reliability: Reliability of the stocks and processing data must be treated separately because the survey designs for the two surveys are very different. The stocks estimates are subject to sampling variability because all operations holding stocks are not included in the sample. This variability, as measured by the relative standard error at the United States level, is approximately 1.4 percent. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that survey estimates for stocks will be within plus or minus 2.4 percent of the value that could be developed by averaging the estimates produced from all possible samples selected from the same population and surveyed using the same procedures.

Survey indications are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omission, duplication, imputation for missing data, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. Processing, as well as stocks, are subject to these types of errors. 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.

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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