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Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent From December 2016

The 13 major potato States held 264 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2017, down 3 percent from December 1, 2016. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the fall storage States' 2017 production, 1 percentage point less than last year. Potato disappearance, at 135 million cwt, was up 1 percent from December 1, 2016. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 12.1 million cwt, was 1 percent higher than the same time last year. Processors in the 8 major States used 69.3 million cwt of potatoes for the season, down 6 percent from December 2016.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: December 1, 2016-2017

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2017 totaled 29.9 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2016			Crop of 2017		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2016	December stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2017	December stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,516	(D)	(D)	3,690	2,700	73
Colorado	22,236	16,200	73	21,527	15,400	72
Idaho	139,320	100,000	72	131,325	94,000	72
Maine	15,113	11,100	73	15,200	10,900	72
Michigan	17,020	9,900	58	18,600	11,000	59
Minnesota	16,800	10,300	61	18,883	11,300	60
Montana	3,685	3,500	95	3,740	3,550	95
Nebraska	7,380	4,300	58	8,883	5,000	56
New York	3,552	(D)	(D)	3,657	1,800	49
North Dakota	21,600	16,600	77	25,160	18,200	72
Oregon	22,951	18,700	81	20,790	16,300	78
Washington	105,625	59,000	56	99,000	55,000	56
Wisconsin	27,840	18,800	68	28,475	19,000	67
Other States	(NA)	4,500	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Total	406,638	272,900	67	398,930	264,150	66
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	4,700	(NA)

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Already included in the 13 States total.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2008-2017

[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)							
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)	198,100	(NA)	125,700	(NA)	51,280
2016	406,638	272,900	(NA)	203,100	(NA)	131,400	(NA)	54,070
2017	398,930	264,150						

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 13 Selected States: December 1, 2016-2017

State	Potato types									
	Reds		Round whites		Long whites		Yellows		Russets	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
California	(D)	-	(D)	84	(D)	-	(D)	1	(D)	15
Colorado	6	6	10	10	-	-	8	7	76	77
Idaho	3	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	92	93
Maine	3	4	31	37	1	-	1	4	64	55
Michigan	-	1	81	80	-	-	2	1	17	18
Minnesota	9	7	3	4	2	1	1	1	85	87
Montana	3	6	3	2	-	-	1	2	93	90
Nebraska	3	2	57	68	1	-	2	1	37	29
New York	(D)	3	(D)	93	(D)	-	(D)	4	(D)	-
North Dakota	20	22	28	22	7	6	1	3	44	47
Oregon	2	2	4	3	1	3	1	3	92	89
Washington	3	3	4	5	2	1	3	3	88	88
Wisconsin	4	3	24	25	1	-	1	1	70	71
13 State average	4	4	12	14	2	1	2	3	80	78

- Represents zero.

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

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 8 States: 2016-2018

[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, 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	32,650	39,475	46,880	54,625	61,950	70,110	92,760
Maine	1,260	1,665	2,175	2,660	3,080	3,470	3,825	5,059
Washington and Oregon	36,700	42,180	47,835	55,365	62,125	68,705	76,635	90,785
Other States ¹	10,035	13,570	17,140	21,005	25,085	28,505	32,385	38,631
United States	73,715	90,065	106,625	125,910	144,915	162,630	182,955	227,235
Dehydrated ²	11,560	15,305	19,085	22,675	26,565	30,545	34,890	46,317

State	Current year	Following year						
	December 1, 2017	January 1, 2018	February 1, 2018	March 1, 2018	April 1, 2018	May 1, 2018	June 1, 2018	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	24,605							
Maine	1,510							
Washington and Oregon	33,165							
Other States ¹	9,995							
United States	69,275							
Dehydrated ²	10,595							

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: 2016-2018

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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) 14.3	(million cwt) 16.2	(million cwt) 18.8	(million cwt) 20.9	(million cwt) 23.1	(million cwt) 25.4
Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2017	January 1, 2018	February 1, 2018	March 1, 2018	April 1, 2018	May 1, 2018	June 1, 2018
2017	(million cwt) 12.1	(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 91 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 1.6 percent. This means that chances are approximately 95 out of 100 that survey estimates for stocks will be within plus or minus 2.8 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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