



Potato Stocks

ISSN: 1949-1565

Released April 15, 2010, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Special Note

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This is the first issue produced using the new layout. This report issue is published using both layouts but future issues will only be produced using this layout. The previous layout is available on the NASS website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.

Potato Stocks Up 11 Percent From April 2009

The 13 major potato States held 129 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 34 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 3 percentage points above April 1, 2009. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 1.40 million cwt on April 1, 2010, down 3 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Potato disappearance, at 255 million cwt, was slightly above April 1, 2009. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 24.4 million cwt, was up 18 percent from the same date in 2009. Processors in the 9 major States have used 125 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 6 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 23.0 million cwt of the total processing, down 7 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks - 13 Major States: April 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 April 1, 2009	April stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks March 1, 2010	Stocks April 1, 2010	April 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	800	20	4,158	1,100	900	22
Colorado	21,907	9,000	41	22,080	10,500	8,100	37
Idaho	116,475	45,000	39	131,000	65,500	51,000	39
Maine	14,769	5,600	38	15,263	7,800	6,000	39
Michigan	14,875	1,800	12	15,660	*3,200	1,200	8
Minnesota	20,400	6,400	31	20,700	8,700	7,300	35
Montana	3,465	2,100	61	3,347	3,000	2,000	60
Nebraska	8,245	2,200	27	8,756	3,300	2,200	25
New York	5,696	700	12	4,950	800	500	10
North Dakota	22,680	6,300	28	19,125	7,000	5,000	26
Oregon	18,676	7,400	40	21,460	10,700	8,000	37
Washington	93,000	23,700	25	88,450	36,200	28,300	32
Wisconsin	25,730	4,800	19	28,980	12,000	8,600	30
Total	369,866	115,800	31	383,929	*169,800	129,100	34
Klamath Basin ¹		1,450			2,200	1,400	

* Revised.

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

Fall Potato 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	Stocks							
	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	129,100		

* 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	49,170			
Maine ¹								
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			
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			
Other States ²								
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	21,525			
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	124,780			
Dehydrated ³								
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	23,045			

* Revised.

¹ Includes Maine grown potatoes only. Amounts exclude quantities used for potato chips.

² Other States include 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.

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		

* Revised.

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 fall 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 April 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the April 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 April 1 stocks estimate is 4.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 129 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 4.7 percent, or approximately 6.07 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 8.0 percent, or approximately 10.3 million cwt.

Changes between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.99 million cwt, ranging from 300 cwt to 12.8 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 14 times and above 6 times.

Fall Potato Stocks: Preliminary and Final April 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	127,570	99.3	128,410
2000	154,030	100.3	153,520
2001	128,930	107.5	119,950
2002	125,030	99.4	125,770
2003	126,410	100.2	126,110
2004	129,620	100.6	128,900
2005	113,900	98.4	115,700
2006	113,600	94.0	120,900
2007	133,600	106.5	125,500
2008	114,550	98.9	115,800
2009	129,100		

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

Lance Honig, Chief, Crops Branch.....	(202) 720-2127
Jorge Garcia-Pratts, Head, Fruits, Vegetables and Special Crops Section.....	(202) 720-2127
Debbie Flippin – Fresh and Processing Vegetables, Onions, Strawberries	(202) 720-2157
Fred Granja – Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Plums, Prunes, Tobacco	(202) 720-4288
Dawn Keen – Floriculture, Maple Syrup, Nursery, Tree Nuts	(202) 720-4215
Steve Maliszewski – Citrus, Coffee, Grapes, Tropical Fruits.....	(202) 720-5412
Tierra Mobley – Berries, Cranberries, Potatoes, Sweet Potatoes	(202) 720-4285
Dan Norris – Austrian Winter Peas, Dry Edible Peas, Lentils, Mints, Mushrooms, Peaches, Pears, Wrinkled Seed Peas, Dry Beans	(202) 720-3250
Kim Ritchie – Hops.....	(360) 902-1940

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.