



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down Slightly From December 2014

The 13 major potato States held 264.6 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2015, down slightly from December 1, 2014. Potatoes in storage accounted for 66 percent of the 2015 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point lower than last year. Potato disappearance, at 138 million cwt, was up 5 percent from December 1, 2014. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 12.9 million cwt, was 9 percent lower than last year. Processors in the 9 major States used 75.1 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 1 percent from December 2014.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: December 1, 2014-2015

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2014 totaled 26.1 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2014			Crop of 2015		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2014	December stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2015	December stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,901	2,500	64	3,720	1,900	51
Colorado	23,196	17,200	74	22,677	16,400	72
Idaho	132,880	95,000	71	130,320	90,000	69
Maine	14,645	11,600	79	16,002	12,500	78
Michigan	15,725	9,400	60	17,550	10,900	62
Minnesota	16,400	10,000	61	18,480	12,500	68
Montana	3,616	3,500	97	3,379	3,200	95
Nebraska	7,943	4,800	60	6,636	4,000	60
New York	4,345	2,100	48	4,817	2,200	46
North Dakota	23,870	16,900	71	27,200	19,500	72
Oregon	22,562	17,700	78	21,784	17,000	78
Washington	101,475	57,000	56	100,300	56,000	56
Wisconsin	26,240	18,000	69	29,440	18,500	63
Total	396,798	265,700	67	402,305	264,600	66
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	5,000	(NA)	(NA)	4,600	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2006-2015

[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)							
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	357,467	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	402,305	264,600						

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 10 Selected States: December 1, 2014-2015

State	Potato types										
	Reds		Round whites		Long whites		Yellows		Russets		
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Colorado	5	5	12	12	-	-	9	8	74	75	
Idaho	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	93	94	
Maine	5	3	28	34	5	2	6	3	56	58	
Michigan	-	-	85	85	-	-	1	1	14	14	
Minnesota	14	23	5	7	1	-	2	1	78	69	
New York	1	3	95	94	-	-	1	2	3	1	
North Dakota	22	33	18	28	3	6	1	1	56	32	
Oregon	2	3	4	6	1	1	2	2	91	88	
Washington	3	3	5	5	4	2	2	2	86	88	
Wisconsin	9	3	32	35	2	-	2	1	55	61	
10 State average	5	6	12	14	2	1	2	2	79	77	

- Represents zero.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 9 States: 2014-2016

[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, 2014	January 1, 2015	February 1, 2015	March 1, 2015	April 1, 2015	May 1, 2015	June 1, 2015	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	27,685	33,995	40,850	47,985	54,665	63,025	70,600	86,870
Maine	1,410	1,845	2,415	2,930	3,475	3,980	4,445	5,622
Washington and Oregon	31,870	37,190	42,715	50,380	57,340	64,525	72,365	88,615
Other States ¹	13,705	17,295	20,865	24,685	28,550	32,080	35,415	40,456
United States	74,670	90,325	106,845	125,980	144,030	163,610	182,825	221,563
Dehydrated ²	13,045	16,325	19,965	23,645	26,345	31,515	35,490	46,340

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							
Maine	1,250							
Washington and Oregon	33,955							
Other States ¹	13,062							
United States	75,117							
Dehydrated ²	12,154							

¹ Other States include Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Estimates for 2015-2016 no longer include Nevada.

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

Accumulated Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2014-2016

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2014	January 1, 2015	February 1, 2015	March 1, 2015	April 1, 2015	May 1, 2015	June 1, 2015
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2014	14.2	16.6	18.2	20.4	22.1	24.0	25.5
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
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2015	12.9						

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 90 percent of all potato production. The potato stocks survey includes a sample of approximately 900 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 3.2 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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