



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Up 6 Percent From June 2011

The 13 major potato States held 43.9 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2012, up 6 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 12 percent of the 2011 fall storage States' production, unchanged from the previous year. Potato disappearance, at 336 million cwt, was 6 percent above June 1, 2011. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 25.9 million cwt, was up 11 percent from the same date in 2011. Processors in the 9 major States have used 177 million cwt of potatoes this season, up 10 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 35.3 million cwt of the total processing, up 37 percent from last year.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: June 1, 2011-2012

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2011 totaled 23.6 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2010			Crop of 2011			
	Production	Stocks June 1, 2011	June stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks April 1, 2012	Stocks June 1, 2012	June stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	2,828	(D)	(D)	4,128	850	(D)	(D)
Colorado	21,528	2,700	13	21,291	7,700	2,900	14
Idaho	112,970	17,500	15	127,070	44,000	18,000	14
Maine	15,892	2,300	14	14,310	4,400	1,700	12
Michigan	15,660	(D)	(D)	15,180	1,200	(D)	(D)
Minnesota	17,010	1,900	11	16,685	5,000	2,000	12
Montana	3,673	(D)	(D)	3,795	2,100	(D)	(D)
Nebraska	7,719	(D)	(D)	7,800	2,000	(D)	(D)
New York	5,120	(D)	(D)	4,050	500	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	22,000	1,700	8	18,865	5,600	1,400	7
Oregon	20,058	3,100	15	23,342	8,000	2,300	10
Washington	88,440	10,400	12	98,400	29,000	14,000	14
Wisconsin	24,293	700	3	25,000	5,000	700	3
Other States	(NA)	1,020	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	930	(NA)
Total	357,191	41,320	12	379,916	115,350	43,930	12
Klamath Basin ¹ ..	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	1,800	(D)	(NA)

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

(NA) Not available.

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

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 13 Major States, 2002-2011

[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)							
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	378,732	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	383,962	265,800	234,300	203,500	169,700	128,700	89,610	55,120
2010	357,191	240,200	209,400	180,300	148,500	111,000	72,000	41,320
2011	379,916	250,000	(NA)	186,500	(NA)	115,350	(NA)	43,930

(NA) Not available.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 States: 2009-2011

[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								
2009	23,110	29,180	35,170	42,050	49,200	56,100	62,930	79,400
2010	21,040	26,840	32,700	39,240	46,180	52,830	59,440	70,050
2011	28,060	34,800	41,800	49,460	56,680	63,800	71,530	
Maine ¹								
2009	1,575	2,060	2,680	3,265	3,915	4,550	5,260	7,160
2010	1,860	2,390	3,000	3,620	4,320	4,980	5,645	7,490
2011	1,860	2,365	3,070	3,665	4,320	4,890	5,280	
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2009	25,395	31,245	36,530	43,780	50,130	56,700	64,805	75,690
2010	27,670	33,570	38,815	46,700	53,660	60,145	67,655	77,940
2011	31,745	38,160	44,465	51,620	58,505	65,300	73,020	
Other States ²								
2009	10,865	13,565	16,305	18,995	21,600	24,355	27,375	34,240
2010	11,820	14,785	17,435	20,370	23,215	25,775	28,690	35,430
2011	11,215	14,180	16,915	19,305	22,265	24,548	27,200	
Total								
2009	60,945	76,050	90,685	108,090	124,845	141,705	160,370	196,490
2010	62,390	77,585	91,950	109,930	127,375	143,730	161,430	190,910
2011	72,880	89,505	106,250	124,050	141,770	158,538	177,030	
Dehydrated ³								
2009	10,985	14,035	17,150	19,895	23,155	26,630	30,045	38,915
2010	7,960	10,795	13,645	16,485	19,415	22,740	25,855	32,700
2011	13,375	16,845	20,875	24,410	28,070	31,533	35,330	

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: 2008-2011

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)						
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	26.5	28.5
2010	12.7	14.7	16.6	18.6	20.4	22.1	23.3
2011	13.7	16.4	18.8	20.8	22.9	24.5	25.9

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for nearly 89 percent of the United States all potato production. Growers, processors, and storage facilities are contacted during the months of December, February, April and 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 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, 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 June 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error", a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the June 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 June 1 stocks estimate is 7.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 43.9 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 7.4 percent, or approximately 3.25 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 12.8 percent, or approximately 5.62 million cwt.

Changes between the June 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.05 million cwt, ranging from 160,000 cwt to 8.46 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the June 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 8 times and above 5 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final June 1 Stocks – United States: 2001-2011 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
2001	51,450	119.7	42,990
2002	45,720	99.7	45,880
2003	47,410	103.0	46,020
2004	51,000	98.6	51,700
2005	39,960	96.2	41,560
2006	38,830	87.3	44,460
2007	58,390	115.8	50,420
2008	44,770	98.8	45,300
2009	51,300	93.1	55,120
2010	35,450	85.8	41,320
2011	43,930	(NA)	(NA)

(NA) Not available.

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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