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Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent From February 2018

The 13 major potato States held 214 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2019, up 3 percent from February 1, 2018. Potatoes in storage accounted for 51 percent of the fall storage States' 2018 production, the same percentage as the previous year. Potato disappearance, at 206 million cwt, was up 4 percent from February 1, 2018. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 17.1 million cwt, was 9 percent higher than the same time last year. Processors in the 8 major States used 111 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 4 percent from February 2018.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: February 1, 2018-2019

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2018 totaled 29.9 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2017			Crop of 2018			
	Production	Stocks February 1, 2018	February stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2019	Stocks February 1, 2019	February stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,321	1,800	54	3,225	2,200	(D)	(D)
Colorado	21,220	11,400	54	21,722	15,400	11,300	52
Idaho	134,850	75,000	56	140,175	101,000	79,000	56
Maine	15,200	8,500	56	15,345	12,000	8,900	58
Michigan	18,315	6,900	38	18,240	10,200	6,500	36
Minnesota	18,428	10,400	56	18,705	13,000	8,000	43
Montana	3,774	3,400	90	3,830	3,600	3,500	91
Nebraska	9,025	3,900	43	9,361	5,000	3,700	40
New York	4,032	1,300	32	4,118	2,000	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	24,420	15,300	63	23,360	17,000	11,700	50
Oregon	25,245	11,300	45	28,060	20,700	15,000	53
Washington	99,220	45,000	45	105,600	62,000	49,000	46
Wisconsin	29,750	14,400	48	28,400	19,500	14,500	51
Other States	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,800	(NA)
Total	406,800	208,600	51	420,141	283,600	213,900	51
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	3,100	(NA)	(NA)	4,700	(D)	(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: 2009-2018

[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)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)
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	396,655	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	119,050	(NA)	46,885
2014	406,080	265,700	(NA)	200,800	(NA)	128,700	(NA)	56,335
2015	409,281	262,700	(NA)	198,100	(NA)	125,700	(NA)	51,280
2016	412,688	272,900	(NA)	203,100	(NA)	131,400	(NA)	54,070
2017	406,800	274,900	(NA)	208,600	(NA)	137,500	(NA)	63,240
2018	420,141	283,600	(NA)	213,900				

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 13 Selected States: February 1, 2018 and 2019

State	Potato Types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Feb 2018	Dec 2018	Feb 2019	Feb 2018	Dec 2018	Feb 2019	Feb 2018	Dec 2018	Feb 2019	Feb 2018	Dec 2018	Feb 2019	Feb 2018	Dec 2018	Feb 2019
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
California	-	5	(D)	76	61	(D)	-	-	(D)	1	2	(D)	23	32	(D)
Colorado	6	7	5	8	8	8	-	-	-	5	8	6	81	77	81
Idaho	2	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	92	92	93
Maine	4	6	5	37	38	35	1	1	1	4	3	4	54	52	55
Michigan	-	1	1	81	78	77	-	-	-	1	1	1	18	20	21
Minnesota	8	7	5	5	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	85	86	92
Montana	5	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	1	4	4	92	92	92
Nebraska	2	2	1	68	62	58	-	-	-	1	1	1	29	35	40
New York	-	5	(D)	99	88	(D)	-	1	(D)	1	5	(D)	-	1	(D)
North Dakota	24	21	18	23	27	23	6	4	4	3	3	3	44	45	52
Oregon	2	1	2	4	3	1	4	4	4	4	2	3	86	90	90
Washington	3	4	2	5	1	2	1	1	-	2	3	3	89	91	93
Wisconsin	3	4	2	24	28	21	-	-	-	3	2	9	70	66	68
13 State average	4	5	4	14	12	10	1	1	1	2	2	3	79	80	82

- Represents zero.

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

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 8 States: 2017-2019

[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, 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	24,840	31,920	38,950	46,610	54,060	61,285	69,840	87,379
Maine	1,510	1,880	2,370	2,880	3,460	4,010	4,560	4,829
Washington and Oregon	32,885	39,925	46,515	54,355	61,780	68,555	76,495	91,160
Other States ¹	10,030	14,181	18,075	22,740	26,535	30,425	34,740	42,856
United States	69,265	87,906	105,910	126,585	145,835	164,275	185,635	226,224
Dehydrated ²	10,595	14,304	18,085	21,680	25,775	29,800	34,410	44,263

State	Current year	Following year						
	December 1, 2018	January 1, 2019	February 1, 2019	March 1, 2019	April 1, 2019	May 1, 2019	June 1, 2019	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	25,170	31,985	39,535					
Maine	1,470	1,890	2,400					
Washington and Oregon	36,395	43,385	50,300					
Other States ¹	10,738	14,578	18,381					
United States	73,773	91,838	110,616					
Dehydrated ²	13,655	17,030	20,820					

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: 2017-2019

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2017	11.9	14.0	15.7	17.3	19.1	20.8	22.2
Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2018	January 1, 2019	February 1, 2019	March 1, 2019	April 1, 2019	May 1, 2019	June 1, 2019
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2018	13.1	15.1	17.1				

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The potato stock estimates in this report are based primarily on a survey conducted in the first week of February in the thirteen major fall potato producing States, which account for 92 percent of all potato production last year. The potato stocks survey is a probability survey that 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 monthly shrinkage and loss information.

Monthly processing data is collected from a census of 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.

Data was collected by mail, internet, telephone, or personal interview to obtain information on potato stocks, monthly potato processing, and monthly shrink and loss.

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 2.1 percent which means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current potato stock estimate will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent.

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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