



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Up 9 Percent From April 2014

The 13 major potato States held 130 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2015, up 9 percent from April 2014. Potatoes in storage accounted for 32 percent of the 2014 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point higher than last year. Potato disappearance, at 272 million cwt, was up 1 percent from April 1, 2014. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.1 million cwt, was 1 percent higher than last year. Processors in the 9 major States used 144 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 3 percent from April 2014.

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

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2013 totaled 25.6 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2013			Crop of 2014			
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2014	April stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks February 1, 2015	Stocks April 1, 2015	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	3,504	800	23	4,038	1,600	700	17
Colorado	20,304	7,000	34	23,735	13,300	8,800	37
Idaho	131,131	47,000	36	135,920	76,000	50,000	37
Maine	15,660	4,400	28	15,150	8,500	5,500	36
Michigan	15,840	2,100	13	15,725	5,000	1,650	10
Minnesota	17,325	6,000	35	16,800	7,800	5,000	30
Montana	3,441	1,800	52	3,616	3,400	2,000	55
Nebraska	8,418	2,200	26	6,438	2,700	1,700	26
New York	4,959	650	13	4,424	1,400	500	11
North Dakota	22,620	6,500	29	24,255	12,400	7,400	31
Oregon	21,582	7,600	35	22,562	13,200	8,200	36
Washington	96,000	26,000	27	101,475	44,000	29,000	29
Wisconsin	26,040	7,000	27	27,090	13,400	9,100	34
Total	386,824	119,050	31	401,228	202,700	129,550	32
Klamath Basin ¹ .	(NA)	1,850	(X)	(NA)	3,000	1,500	(X)

(NA) Not available.

(X) Not applicable.

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

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2005-2014

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop year	Stocks							
	Production	December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 cwt)							
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	383,962	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	401,228	267,400	(NA)	202,700	(NA)	129,550		

(NA) Not available.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing, 9 States: 2012-2014

[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								
2012	27,900	34,740	41,890	49,980	57,750	65,430	73,430	89,780
2013	25,770	32,060	39,090	46,320	53,755	61,780	70,425	85,280
2014	27,685	33,995	40,850	47,905	55,720			
Maine ¹								
2012	1,890	2,380	3,005	3,600	4,290	5,075	5,740	7,720
2013	1,570	1,990	2,510	3,060	3,680	4,240	4,800	6,315
2014	1,410	1,845	2,415	2,925	3,475			
Washington and Oregon, Other								
2012	31,295	37,730	43,820	51,765	57,915	64,500	70,470	80,400
2013	31,575	37,990	45,420	52,690	59,025	64,905	72,325	80,655
2014	31,870	37,190	42,715	50,380	57,340			
Other States ²								
2012	14,270	16,765	19,785	22,520	25,170	28,320	31,100	40,395
2013	11,365	14,280	17,470	20,475	23,695	26,990	30,195	37,425
2014	13,440	16,730	20,190	23,660	27,300			
Total								
2012	75,355	91,615	108,500	127,865	145,125	163,325	180,740	218,295
2013	70,280	86,320	104,490	122,545	140,155	157,915	177,745	209,675
2014	74,405	89,760	106,170	124,870	143,835			
Dehydrated ³								
2012	13,965	17,640	22,000	26,105	30,135	34,610	38,945	47,305
2013	12,065	15,875	19,835	23,380	27,140	31,095	34,895	44,385
2014	12,935	16,170	19,770	23,450	27,150			

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, and Washington.

Potato Shrinkage and Loss – 13 Fall Storage States: 2011-2014

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)						
2011	13.7	16.4	18.8	20.8	22.9	24.5	25.9
2012	13.8	16.4	18.9	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	21.9	25.0	27.6
2014	14.2	16.6	18.2	20.4	22.1		

(NA) Not available.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: Potato stocks surveys are conducted in 13 major fall potato producing States, which account for 90 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 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 3.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 130 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 6.3 percent.

Changes between the April 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.29 million cwt, ranging from 200,000 cwt to 8.98 million cwt. During the 20 year period, the April 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 12 times, and above 7 times.

Fall Potato Preliminary and Final April 1 Stocks – United States: 2004-2014 Crop Years

Crop year	Preliminary stocks (1,000 cwt)	Percent of final (percent)	Final stocks (1,000 cwt)
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	100.3	128,700
2010	105,600	95.1	111,000
2011	115,850	100.2	115,650
2012	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
2013	112,150	94.2	119,050
2014	129,550	(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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