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Potato Stocks Up 2 Percent From April 2017

The 13 major potato States held 134 million cwt of potatoes in storage April 1, 2018, up 2 percent from April 1, 2017. Potatoes in storage accounted for 33 percent of the fall storage States' 2017 production, 1 percentage point more than last year. Potato disappearance, at 266 million cwt, was down 3 percent from April 1, 2017. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 19.3 million cwt, was 8 percent lower than the same time last year. Processors in the 8 major States used 146 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 1 percent from April 2017.

Fall Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: April 1, 2017-2018

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2017 totaled 29.9 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2016			Crop of 2017			
	Production	Stocks April 1, 2017	April stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks February 1, 2018	Stocks April 1, 2018	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	3,516	(D)	(D)	3,690	2,100	1,400	38
Colorado	22,236	7,600	34	21,527	11,800	7,300	34
Idaho	139,320	52,000	37	131,325	73,000	50,000	38
Maine	15,113	4,900	32	15,035	8,100	5,100	34
Michigan	17,020	2,600	15	18,000	6,900	3,800	21
Minnesota	16,800	5,500	33	18,428	8,200	5,200	28
Montana	3,685	2,700	73	3,740	3,450	2,650	71
Nebraska	7,380	1,400	19	9,072	3,800	(D)	(D)
New York	3,552	(D)	(D)	4,321	1,300	(D)	(D)
North Dakota	21,600	7,500	35	25,160	13,400	8,900	35
Oregon	22,951	7,500	33	21,395	11,300	7,000	33
Washington	105,625	29,000	27	99,000	45,000	30,000	30
Wisconsin	27,840	8,800	32	29,145	14,400	9,900	34
Other States	(NA)	1,900	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	2,400	(NA)
Total	406,638	131,400	32	399,838	202,750	133,650	33
Klamath Basin ¹ ..	(NA)	1,800	(NA)	(NA)	3,400	2,000	(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: 2008-2017

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop year	Production	Stocks						
		December 1	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 cwt)							
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	398,482	262,700	(NA)	198,100	(NA)	125,700	(NA)	51,280
2016	406,638	272,900	(NA)	203,100	(NA)	131,400	(NA)	54,070
2017	399,838	266,750	(NA)	202,750	(NA)	133,650		

(NA) Not available.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 8 States: 2016-2018

[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, 2016	January 1, 2017	February 1, 2017	March 1, 2017	April 1, 2017	May 1, 2017	June 1, 2017	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	25,720	32,650	39,475	46,880	54,625	61,950	70,110	92,760
Maine	1,260	1,665	2,175	2,660	3,080	3,470	3,825	5,059
Washington and Oregon	36,700	42,180	47,835	55,365	62,125	68,705	76,635	90,785
Other States ¹	10,035	13,570	17,140	21,005	25,085	28,505	32,385	38,631
United States	73,715	90,065	106,625	125,910	144,915	162,630	182,955	227,235
Dehydrated ²	11,560	15,305	19,085	22,675	26,565	30,545	34,890	46,317

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	31,915	38,950	46,615	54,075			
Maine	1,510	1,880	2,370	2,880	3,460			
Washington and Oregon	32,885	39,925	46,515	54,355	61,780			
Other States ¹	9,995	14,146	18,040	22,710	26,505			
United States	69,230	87,866	105,875	126,560	145,820			
Dehydrated ²	10,595	14,304	18,085	21,685	25,790			

¹ Other States include Colorado, Minnesota, Nevada, 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: 2016-2018

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2016	January 1, 2017	February 1, 2017	March 1, 2017	April 1, 2017	May 1, 2017	June 1, 2017
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2016	12.0	14.3	16.2	18.8	20.9	23.1	25.4

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	12.2	13.8	15.6	17.5	19.3		

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The potato stock estimates in this report are based primarily on a survey conducted in the first week of April in the thirteen major fall potato producing States, which account for 91 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 3.3 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 3.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.8 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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