



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Down 3 Percent From February 2019 For Comparable States

The major potato States held 204 million cwt of potatoes in storage February 1, 2020, down 3 percent from February 1, 2019 for comparable States. Potatoes in storage accounted for 48 percent of the States' 2019 production. For comparable States, potatoes in storage accounted for 51 percent of the States' 2019 production, the same as the previous year. Potato disappearance, at 219 million cwt, was down 4 percent from February 1, 2019 for comparable States. Season-to-date shrink and loss was reported as 16.5 million cwt. Processors in the 8 major States used 113 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 2 percent from February 2019.

Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: February 1, 2019-2020

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2019 totaled 27.6 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2019			Crop of 2020			
	Production	Stocks February 1, 2019	February stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2019	Stocks February 1, 2020	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 ¹	3,212	(D)	(D)	18,601	2,800	1,600	9
Colorado	21,722	11,600	53	19,219	13,500	10,200	53
Florida ²	5,512	(NA)	(NA)	7,074	(D)	(D)	(D)
Idaho	141,750	79,000	56	130,900	92,000	73,000	56
Maine	15,035	7,800	52	16,223	12,100	9,600	59
Michigan	18,240	6,700	37	19,763	12,400	8,000	40
Minnesota	18,705	9,700	52	18,040	12,300	9,300	52
Montana ³	3,885	3,600	93	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nebraska	9,264	3,700	40	9,456	5,100	4,000	42
New York ³	3,886	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
North Dakota	23,725	11,700	49	20,300	14,000	10,300	51
Oregon	27,000	14,500	54	25,144	20,400	14,300	57
Texas ²	7,438	(NA)	(NA)	6,825	(D)	(D)	(D)
Washington	100,800	46,000	46	103,125	59,500	46,500	45
Wisconsin	27,135	15,700	58	28,220	19,600	15,400	55
Other States ⁴	-	2,800	(NA)	-	2,700	2,100	(NA)
Total ⁵	414,359	212,800	51	422,890	266,400	204,300	48
Klamath Basin ⁶	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	5,600	3,200	(NA)

- Represents zero.

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Beginning in 2019, estimates represent all potatoes.

² Estimates began in 2019.

³ Estimates discontinued in 2019.

⁴ Includes data withheld above.

⁵ For 2018, production total excludes Florida and Texas.

⁶ Includes potato stocks in California and Klamath County, Oregon. Already included in the total.

Potato Production and Stocks – 13 Major States: 2010-2019

[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)							
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	388,204	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)	119,450	(NA)	47,085
2014	399,118	267,500	(NA)	206,600	(NA)	139,200	(NA)	63,535
2015	403,062	267,900	(NA)	205,900	(NA)	137,200	(NA)	60,080
2016	412,688	275,800	(NA)	213,000	(NA)	142,600	(NA)	67,570
2017	406,800	277,900	(NA)	210,600	(NA)	138,800	(NA)	63,740
2018	414,359	279,300	(NA)	212,800	(NA)	144,700	(NA)	70,370
2019 ¹	422,890	266,400	(NA)	204,300				

(NA) Not available.

¹ Beginning in 2019, production represents all potatoes.

Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 13 Selected States: February 1, 2019 and 2020

State	Potato Types														
	Reds			Round whites			Long whites			Yellows			Russets		
	Feb 2019	Dec 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Dec 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Dec 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Dec 2019	Feb 2020	Feb 2019	Dec 2019	Feb 2020
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
California ¹	(D)	5	(D)	(D)	51	42	(D)	-	(D)	(D)	19	17	(D)	25	35
Colorado	5	3	3	8	(D)	4	-	(D)	1	6	7	4	81	86	88
Florida ²	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
Idaho	3	3	3	1	3	4	1	(D)	-	2	(D)	2	93	91	91
Maine	5	5	4	35	35	37	1	(D)	(D)	4	(D)	(D)	55	56	55
Michigan	1	(D)	(D)	77	79	80	-	-	-	1	(D)	(D)	21	20	18
Minnesota	5	3	3	1	3	4	1	1	(D)	1	2	(D)	92	91	90
Montana ³	2	(NA)	(NA)	2	(NA)	(NA)	-	(NA)	(NA)	4	(NA)	(NA)	92	(NA)	(NA)
Nebraska	1	(D)	(D)	58	61	59	-	(D)	(D)	1	(D)	(D)	40	36	38
New York ³	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)	(D)	(NA)	(NA)
North Dakota	18	20	20	23	24	(D)	4	(D)	(D)	3	(D)	3	52	51	56
Oregon	2	(D)	2	1	2	1	4	(D)	(D)	3	(D)	(D)	90	91	90
Texas ²	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)	(NA)	(D)	(D)
Washington	2	3	2	2	(D)	2	-	(D)	-	3	3	3	93	92	93
Wisconsin	2	3	5	21	22	28	-	(D)	-	9	(D)	2	68	71	65
13 State average	4	3	3	10	12	12	1	1	1	3	2	2	82	82	82

- Represents zero.

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

(NA) Not available.

¹ Beginning in 2019, estimates represent all California.

² Estimates began in 2019.

³ Estimates discontinued in 2019.

Quantity of Potatoes Used for Processing – 8 States: 2018-2020

[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, 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	25,325	32,020	39,495	47,395	55,250	63,225	71,340	95,974
Maine	1,470	1,890	2,400	2,870	3,450	3,870	4,290	5,050
Washington and Oregon	36,405	43,420	50,400	57,720	65,095	71,405	79,130	97,176
Other States ¹	10,643	15,048	18,836	23,479	27,079	30,423	34,392	40,470
United States	73,843	92,378	111,131	131,464	150,874	168,923	189,152	238,670
Dehydrated ²	13,810	17,065	20,775	24,420	28,315	32,620	36,660	47,648

State	Current year	Following year						
	December 1, 2019	January 1, 2020	February 1, 2020	March 1, 2020	April 1, 2020	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020	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	26,655	33,155	39,815					
Maine	1,585	2,050	2,610					
Washington and Oregon	34,755	42,045	49,685					
Other States ¹	13,315	17,485	21,170					
United States	76,310	94,735	113,280					
Dehydrated ²	11,850	15,075	18,620					

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 Major States: 2018-2020

[Blank cells indicate estimation period has not yet begun]

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	12.2	13.8	15.5	17.2	18.6	20.2	22.0

Crop year	Current year	Following year					
	December 1, 2019	January 1, 2020	February 1, 2020	March 1, 2020	April 1, 2020	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020
	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)
2019	13.4	14.9	16.5				

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The February 1 potato stocks estimate in this report are based primarily on a survey conducted in the first week of February in the potato producing States. The potato stocks survey is a probability survey that includes a sample of approximately 885 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 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* released in September.

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. To assist users in evaluating the reliability of the February 1 stocks estimate, the "Root Mean Square Error," a statistical measure based on past performance, is computed. The deviation between the February 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 February 1 potato stocks estimate is 2.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current potato stocks estimate will not be above or below the final estimates by more than 2.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.5 percent.

Changes between the February 1 potato stocks estimate and the final estimates during the past 20 years have averaged 3.83 million cwt, ranging from 100,000 cwt to 9.66 million cwt. The February 1 estimate for potato stocks has been below the final estimate 12 times and above 7 times. The difference does not imply that the February 1 potato stocks estimate this year is likely to understate or overstate final production.

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@usda.gov

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Fleming Gibson – Cauliflower, Celery, Grapefruit, Lemons, Macadamia, Mandarins and tangerines, Mushrooms, Olives, Oranges	(202) 720-5412
Greg Lemmons – Cranberries, Cucumbers, Pistachios, Potatoes, Pumpkins, Raspberries, Squash, Strawberries, Sugarbeets, Sugarcane, Sweet Potatoes, Tame Blueberries, Wild Blueberries	(202) 720-4285
Dan Norris – Artichokes, Cantaloupes, Dry Edible Peas, Green Peas, Lentils, Nectarines, Papayas, Peaches, Snap Beans, Spinach, Walnuts, Watermelons	(202) 720-3250
Krishna Rizal – Dry Beans, Garlic, Hazelnuts, Honeydews, Kiwifruit, Lettuce, Maple Syrup, Mint, Pears, Sweet Cherries, Tart Cherries, Tomatoes	(202) 720-2157
Dawn Smoker – Avocados, Bell Peppers, Broccoli, Cabbage, Chickpeas, Chile Peppers, Dates, Floriculture, Grapes, Hops, Pecans	(202) 720-4215

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@usda.gov.

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