



Potato Stocks

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Potato Stocks Up 3 Percent From December 2017

The 13 major potato States held 283 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2018, up 3 percent from December 1, 2017. Potatoes in storage accounted for 68 percent of the fall storage States' 2018 production, 1 percentage point less than last year. Potato disappearance, at 135 million cwt, was up 7 percent from December 1, 2017. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 13.4 million cwt, was 13 percent higher than the same time last year. Processors in the 8 major States used 72.6 million cwt of potatoes for the season, up 5 percent from December 2017.

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

[Stocks include processor holdings and most of the seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage for all seasons in 2018 totaled 28.3 million cwt]

State	Crop of 2017			Crop of 2018		
	Production	Stocks December 1, 2017	December stocks as a percent of production	Production	Stocks December 1, 2018	December stocks as a percent of production
	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)	(1,000 cwt)	(1,000 cwt)	(percent)
California	3,321	2,600	78	3,225	2,200	68
Colorado	21,220	15,300	72	21,623	15,400	71
Idaho	134,850	96,000	71	138,600	100,000	72
Maine	15,200	11,500	76	15,840	12,000	76
Michigan	17,205	11,000	64	17,390	10,200	59
Minnesota	18,428	13,600	74	18,060	13,000	72
Montana	3,774	3,500	93	3,795	3,600	95
Nebraska	9,025	5,400	60	9,457	4,800	51
New York	4,032	2,300	57	3,976	2,000	50
North Dakota	24,420	20,600	84	23,725	17,000	72
Oregon	21,395	16,800	79	28,458	21,000	74
Washington	99,220	57,000	57	106,425	62,000	58
Wisconsin	28,475	19,300	68	26,800	19,500	73
Total	400,565	274,900	69	417,374	282,700	68
Klamath Basin ¹	(NA)	4,600	(NA)	(NA)	4,700	(NA)

(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	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	400,565	274,900	(NA)	208,600	(NA)	137,500	(NA)	63,240
2018	417,374	282,700						

(NA) Not available.

Fall Potato Stocks by Type as Percent of Total Stocks – 13 Selected States: December 1, 2017-2018

State	Potato types									
	Reds		Round whites		Long whites		Yellows		Russets	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
California	-	5	84	61	-	-	1	2	15	32
Colorado	6	7	10	8	-	-	7	8	77	77
Idaho	2	3	2	3	1	1	2	1	93	92
Maine	4	6	37	38	-	1	4	3	55	52
Michigan	1	1	80	78	-	-	1	1	18	20
Minnesota	7	7	4	5	1	1	1	1	87	86
Montana	6	2	2	2	-	-	2	4	90	92
Nebraska	2	2	68	62	-	-	1	1	29	35
New York	3	5	93	88	-	1	4	5	-	1
North Dakota	23	21	22	27	6	4	3	3	46	45
Oregon	2	1	3	3	3	4	3	2	89	90
Washington	3	4	5	1	1	1	3	3	88	91
Wisconsin	3	4	25	28	-	-	1	2	71	66
13 State average	4	4	14	11	1	1	3	3	78	81

- Represents zero.

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	24,125							
Maine	1,470							
Washington and Oregon	36,295							
Other States ¹	10,738							
United States	72,628							
Dehydrated ²	12,510							

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
2017	(million cwt) 11.9	(million cwt) 14.0	(million cwt) 15.7	(million cwt) 17.3	(million cwt) 19.1	(million cwt) 20.8	(million cwt) 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
2018	(million cwt) 13.4	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)	(million cwt)

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: The potato stock estimates in this report are based primarily on a survey conducted in the first week of December 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 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 1.8 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 3.1 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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