



Canadian (**Fresh**) Potato Storage Holdings by Province

April 1, 2023 Infohort: AAFC (000 cwt)

Province	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2022/23 vs. 2021/22	3-yr. Average	2022/23 vs. 3-yr. avg
Prince Edward Island	1,762	2,537	1,963	3,332	3,034	-8.9%	2,611	16.2%
New Brunswick	640	588	925	1,588	1,566	-1.3%	1,033	51.6%
Quebec	1,846	1,600	1,778	2,306	1,856	-19.5%	1,895	-2.1%
Ontario	332	428	528	661	513	-22.4%	539	-4.8%
Eastern Canada	4,580	5,153	5,194	7,887	6,969	-11.6%	6,078	14.7%
Manitoba	606	783	718	581	766	32.0%	694	10.4%
Alberta	309	146	228	248	387	56.0%	207	86.7%
British Columbia	233	118	227	155	106	-31.6%	167	-36.4%
Western Canada	1,148	1,047	1,173	984	1,259	28.0%	1,068	17.9%
Total Canada	<u>5,728</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>6,368</u>	<u>8,870</u>	<u>8,229</u>	-7.2%	<u>7,146</u>	15.1%

Holdings of Fresh potatoes are down 7.2% overall when compared to last year but are still well above previous years due to increases in the initial crop in the East of the country last year and this year. Canadian growers and packers shipped 3.4 million cwt of fresh potatoes during March, well up from the 2.6 million cwt in February, mostly due to boosted demand and extra retail promotions for St Patrick's Day in March and leading up to the Easter holiday in April. Concerns about sluggish movement of red potatoes in certain areas of the country early in the year seem to have dissipated with the increased shipments in March and continued high exports to the US. With fryers and dehy digging into the Fresh pile throughout the season and an overall tightness in the market across North America due to lower production in the US, many areas are now focusing closely on stocks and the forecasted transition to new crop later in the summer, metering out storage to support

existing customers and contracts. Although Florida came to market early with a good crop, the cold and rainy weather in California impacting yields and sizing, as well as emergence delayed in the Columbia Basin, have created some concern that early crops may not be there to carry the old crop into the new if demand keeps at the current pace; weather in the next few weeks will certainly be a determining factor, including for planting in many areas.

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