

# MARKET INFORMATION

15 May 2015

## END-MARCH 2015 GB POTATO STOCKS ESTIMATE

The AHDB/PCL indicative estimate for end-March 2015 GB potato stocks is 1.3 million tonnes. This estimate is around 300 thousand tonnes higher than the estimate for end-March 2014.

**Please note that this estimate covers grower stocks only** and does not include stocks held by purchasers. The end-March 2015 estimate is based on survey data received by the end of April. This year the survey covered 444 growers, of which 267 still held stocks of potatoes.

Month	End- Mar 2012	End- Mar 2013	End-Mar 2014	End-Mar 2015
Estimate, Million Tonnes	1.0	0.8	1.0	1.3

With production in 2014/15 estimated up 3% from last season, at 5.74 million tonnes, and end-November and end-January stocks higher than recent years, it comes as no surprise that end-March stocks are also up. There has been a reduction in grower stocks of around 1.0 million tonnes since end-January 2015, a similar level of draw down as in the 2011 season when market conditions were similar.

With the end-March stocks level higher than recent years the impact it will have on the market will depend on a number of factors including when and how 2015 crop lifting begins and imports and exports over the rest of this current crop year.

Please note that potato stock changes year-on-year are more informative than the specific end-March figure, and this estimate should be treated in this context. The stocks estimates are based on survey evidence and, as such, are subject to survey error margins.

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