

## END-NOVEMBER 2015 GB POTATO STOCKS ESTIMATE

The AHDB Potatoes indicative estimate for end-November 2015 GB potato stocks is 3.2 million tonnes. This estimate is around 300 thousand tonnes lower than the estimate for end-November 2014. **Please note that this estimate covers grower’s stocks only** and does not include stocks held by purchasers. The estimate should be treated as such and changes year-on-year are more informative than the specific end-November figure. The end-November estimate is based on survey data received by the end of December 2015. The survey covered 492 growers, of which 359 still held stocks of potatoes.

Month	End-Nov 2012	End-Nov 2013	End-Nov 2014	End-Nov 2015
Estimate, Million Tonnes	2.7	3.3	3.5	3.2

With the 2015 crop estimated down 300 thousand tonnes from the 2014 crop, at 5.4 million tonnes, it comes as no surprise that end-November stocks are also down. The quantity of potatoes in store at end November 2015 (59% of the estimated crop) is very similar to end-November 2013 (also 59%) when production was estimated around 150 thousand tonnes larger than the 2015 crop.

With a large proportion of the season still to come, the impact of stocks levels will depend on a number of factors, including net import levels, effective crop utilisation, the rate of consumption, the impact of ambient temperatures on continued storability and the selling decisions of growers, amongst others. AHDB Potatoes intend to produce the next estimate of GB potato stocks, as at end-January, in mid-March.

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