

# POTATO MARKETING BOARD

RCP/79/10  
 JCCP/79/12 ✓  
 PCCP/79/24  
 CCCP/79/24

## POTATO SUPPLY POSITION & PROSPECTS SEPTEMBER 1979

### 1. 1978 Crop Season

#### (a) Estimated Average Producer Price (excluding sacks)

1st August to End of Season:-

Great Britain £43.50 per tonne  
 United Kingdom £43.60 " "

(UK Guaranteed Price £43.94 per tonne)

#### (b) Movement into Human Consumption Off Farms (GB)

Estimate for Season - 4,910,000 tonnes

Being 5.4% less than from 1974 crop  
 9.7% more than from 1977 crop

#### (c) Ware Imports

	<u>Tonnes</u>
Holland (approx.)	16,100
Germany "	40
Eire "	20
France "	50
Belgium	<u>415</u>
	<u>16,625</u>

#### (d) Ware and Seed Exports

Ware 32,505 tonnes  
 Seed 43,966 " - An all time record for seed

#### (e) New Potato Imports (Provisional)

	<u>1977/78</u>	<u>1978/79</u>
	<u>Tonnes</u>	
Canaries	23,657	6,029
Cyprus - winter	5,763	5,911
spring	112,071	114,300
Egypt - winter	3,325	-
spring	64,079	82,194
Italy	1,207	17,294
Israel	629	959
Jersey	33,899	35,129
Spain	52,025	22,208
Greece	15,037	11,398
France	41,043	24,010
Eire	502	-
Portugal	301	-
	<u>353,538</u>	<u>319,432</u>
Total to 31st July		

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(f) Potato Marketing Board Buying Programmes - 1978 Crop

Provisional Summary

	<u>Thousand Tonnes</u>
Contracted - First Contracts	452
Second Contracts	<u>68</u>
<u>Total Contracted</u>	<u>520</u>
Loadings - First Contract Underloadings	14
Sales Away	326
Sales Back	95
Ware Sales	1
Variation - For Export	2
For Dehydrators	18
For Trade	31
Compensation - Second Contracts	<u>33</u>
<u>TOTAL DISPOSALS</u>	<u>520</u>

(g) Season's Surplus - Approx. 454,000 tonnes

2. 1979 Crop

(a) Plantings (with comparisons) - Registered Producers

	<u>1979</u> (prov.)	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
Earlies	39,400	45,735	46,065	37,500
Maincrop	<u>131,835</u>	<u>138,200</u>	<u>153,295</u>	<u>157,445</u>
All varieties	<u>171,235</u>	<u>183,935</u>	<u>199,360</u>	<u>194,945</u>

The provisional figures for the 1979 crop represent a reduction over 1978 of 13.9% for early varieties, 4.6% for maincrop varieties and 6.9% overall. Based on 93% of plantings returns.

(b) Clearance and Yield

(i) Clearance

Up to 3rd August

1979	-	19,254 ha
1978	-	20,880 ha
1977	-	22,647 ha
1976	-	23,898 ha

Up to 31st August

1979	-	30,090 ha	(17.6% of total crop)
1978	-	29,275 ha	(15.9% " " " )

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(ii) <u>Yields</u>	<u>Cumulative Average up to 3rd August</u>		
	1979	-	19.7 t.p.h.
	1978	-	21.8 "
	1977	-	18.5 "
	1976	-	16.6 "
	<u>Current Average Yield as at 31st August</u>		
	1979	-	29.3 "
	1978	-	33.4 "

Average Final Harvested Yields for Season - 1978 Crop

Earlies	-	21.4 t.p.h.	
Maincrop	-	36.3 "	
All Varieties	-	34.9 "	(record yield)

(c) Average Ex-farm Price (Including Sacks)

Week ending	<u>June</u>	1	£310	<u>July</u>	6	£75	<u>Aug.</u>	3	£73.42
		8	£208		13	£70		10	£74.11
		15	£193		20	£72		17	£75.10
		22	£114		27	£72		24	£68.69
		29	£ 96					31	£63.07

1979 Crop UK Guaranteed Price £43.94 per tonne - from 1st August

Trade Comment The steady trade which persisted throughout July with prices averaging at or above £70 per tonne, continued into August. During the second and third weeks of August lifting was frequently restricted by adverse weather conditions and prices increased marginally. At the end of the month with improved weather conditions and more producers being in a position to load potatoes, there was a tendency for markets to be over-supplied and in consequence some reduction in prices occurred. Over the past few days, however, with harvest work taking priority, loadings have again reduced leading to a better balance between supply and demand and prices have resumed an upward trend.

(d) Import of Ware (from 1st August) - Latest Figures

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>	
Belgium	8,556	-	
Holland	1,591	330	(conformed to import definition of new potatoes but classified as ware for stats. purposes)
	<u>10,147</u>	<u>330</u>	

(c) Exports of Ware (from 1st August to 31st August) - Provisional

	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>
N.Ireland	286	-
Canary Islands	1,133	-
	<u>1,419</u>	<u>    </u>

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3. Other Information

(a) Cost of Production

1976 Crop	£1,496 per ha	} Model farm of 60 ha with 8 ha potatoes
1977 "	£1,862 " "	
1978 "	£1,481 " "	
1979 "	£1,617 " "	

(b) Quota and Target Areas

	<u>Quota</u>	<u>Target</u>
1978 Crop	95%	172,000 ha
1979 "	90%	170,000 "
1980 "	92.5%	168,000 "

(c) Provisional Plantings - EEC Countries - 1979

	<u>Thousand Hectares</u>		<u>Change</u>
	<u>1979</u>	<u>1978</u>	
W. Germany	335	365	- 8.2%
France	240	250	- 4%
Holland	165.1	161.5	+ 2.2%
Denmark	35	37	- 5.4%
Eire	100	101.8	- 1.8%
Belgium	40?	35	+ 14.3%

4. 1979 Crop Buying Programme - 1st Contracts

2114 producers offered 188,069 tonnes of which 109,936 tonnes were under the entitlement and 78,133 tonnes were additional.

Contracts were sent to producers by 24th August. Reminder letters for the return of contracts by 19th September were sent out by Areas on 7th September.