

Wednesday 2nd January 2008



# Potato Weekly

**British Potato Council report for Great Britain**

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## POTATO MARKET REVIEW 2007

**Happy New Year to all our readers.**

The first full Potato Weekly report of 2008 will be published on Monday 7th January.

However, the following short summary outlines the main developments during 2007.

### 2006 Crop

Following the drought in the summer of 2006, firm prices developed at the start of 2007 due to strong demand for the tight supply of quality stock available.

During the early months of the year, in the free market, purchasers mainly bought ahead to cover requirements to the end of the season.

Maincrop prices therefore dropped rapidly from April, as few buyers remained in the market.

As a result more supplies than expected remained in stores, apparently due to more efficient utilisation and marketing of committed stocks.

### 2007 Crop

Good early start to planting due to favourable spring weather conditions.

The new potato crop season started early, with lifting from the beginning of April.

May, June and July however were the wettest on record and land conditions deteriorated.

Problems with early blight developed and access to fields for spraying became difficult.

Flooding in July followed and destroyed an estimated 2,200 ha of crop.

A dry August and September presented further quality problems, due mainly to Greening and Growth Cracks.

Harvest period was favourable, although conditions were dry which increased the risk of bruising.

Stocks loaded into store were in better than expected condition, due to the dry autumn.

However, as a result of the seasons variable weather conditions wastage was high.

From 10% in best crops, mainly 20-30%, up to 50-70% in some worst affected areas.

Markets were strong with high prices offered from the start of the season for quality stock. Prices increased regularly and the wide differential with the continent attracted a higher than usual interest in Ware potato imports, particularly from France, Belgium and Holland.

By the end of the year the import volume increased and began to have an influence on GB prices.

A steadier market developed towards the end of December.

### Weekly Average Price Survey (WAPS)

BPC Weekly Average Prices for period ending 4th January 2008 will cover trading during weeks ending 21st December, 28th December and 4th January.

**WAPS contributors are reminded to forward completed forms on Monday 7th January on fax 01865 782288 or email [rburrow@potato.org.uk](mailto:rburrow@potato.org.uk).**

Report prepared this week by **Rob Burrow**. For further information please phone 01865 782263 or email [rburrow@potato.org.uk](mailto:rburrow@potato.org.uk) . Copyright ©British Potato Council, 2007.