

# National Potato Census 2004



THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD  
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS BIA

*Bord Bia*  
Irish Food Board

The figures provided in this document are based on the best information available to Bord Bia. For convenience all percentage figures have been rounded.

Data analysis for this census was conducted by Franklin Research (Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin).

## INTRODUCTION

The 2004 National Potato Census has been compiled from a comprehensive survey of 732 producers of both ware and seed potatoes. This census and previous annual data provides an important overview of the trends in the Irish potato industry. The data for the census is collected by the potato inspectorate of the Department of Agriculture and Food and Teagasc advisory staff. The National Potato Census surveys enterprises growing 0.8 hectares (2 acres) or more potatoes, which is defined as 'commercial' potato farming.

Bord Bia, the Department of Agriculture and Food and Teagasc wish to thank the 732 potato growers surveyed for their co-operation and assistance in compiling this year's census.

The report is divided into the following sections:

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## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The potato production area in Ireland was reduced by 1,121 hectares in 2004. Production area in 2004 was 12,604 hectares (31,144 acres), an 8% reduction since 2003. Recent years had been relatively stable, and this is the first significant decline seen since the late 1990s.

Grower numbers also reduced. The number of potato growers declined by 69, to a total of 732 growers (a 9% reduction since 2003). This reduction is fairly consistent with recent years as grower numbers had been declining by an average of 5% between 2000 and 2003. Most of the growers leaving the sector are those with smaller holding sizes and the sector continues to be increasingly dominated by larger growers.

Over half of the total production area is based in North Leinster. The three adjacent counties of Meath, Dublin and Louth account for 58% of potato production area, with Meath alone accounting for 28%.

The decline in production area has come entirely from maincrop varieties, in particular Kerr's Pink, Record and Golden Wonder. The production area of Kerr's Pink fell by 25% in 2004. A total of 2,602 hectares of Kerr's Pink were planted in 2004, which represented a reduction of 847 hectares when compared to 2003. Similarly, production of Record fell 40%, with only 614 hectares planted in 2004. Finally, production of Golden Wonder fell 39%, with only 394 hectares in 2004. The combined production area of these three maincrop varieties fell by 1,510 hectares, from 5,120 hectares to 3,610 hectares in 2004.

In contrast to the above mentioned maincrop varieties, the production area of Rooster grew in 2004. Rooster production increased by 3% to a total of 4,783 hectares and it now accounts for 38% of all production area. Rooster production is dominated by the counties of Meath and Dublin, which together account for over half (52%) of Rooster production area.

Production of early season varieties remained stable in 2004 and accounts for 14% of total production area. British Queen is by far the most important early variety, accounting for 73% of early season production area. With a total area planted of 1,334 hectares, the production of British Queen has remained unchanged year-on-year.

Production of processing varieties increased by 11% and accounts for 15% of total production area. This category is not dominated by any one variety, though production of Lady Claire has grown markedly.

Potato seed planted in 2004 was mostly either Irish Certified (40% of all seed planted) or Home Saved (39%).

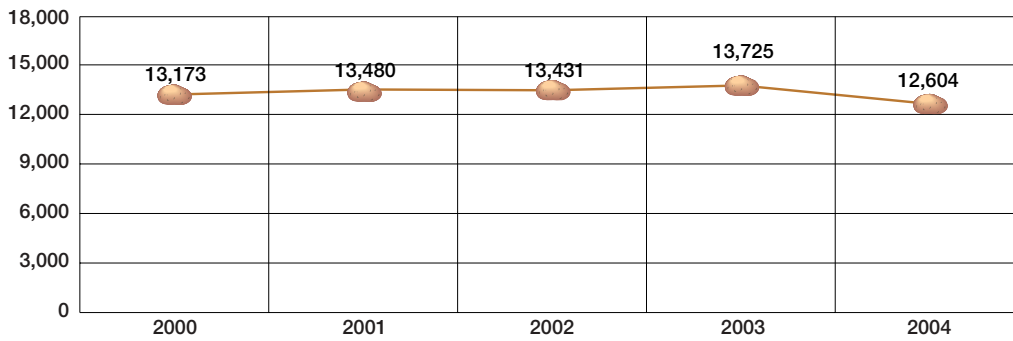
Finally, the census gathered information on the different types of potato stores and their respective capacities. The total storage capacity in 2004 was 349,670 tonnes (a 4% decrease on 2003). There are three main types of potato stores in Ireland, Shed and Lean-To stores (28% of total storage capacity), Ambient stores (33%) and Refrigerated stores (37%).

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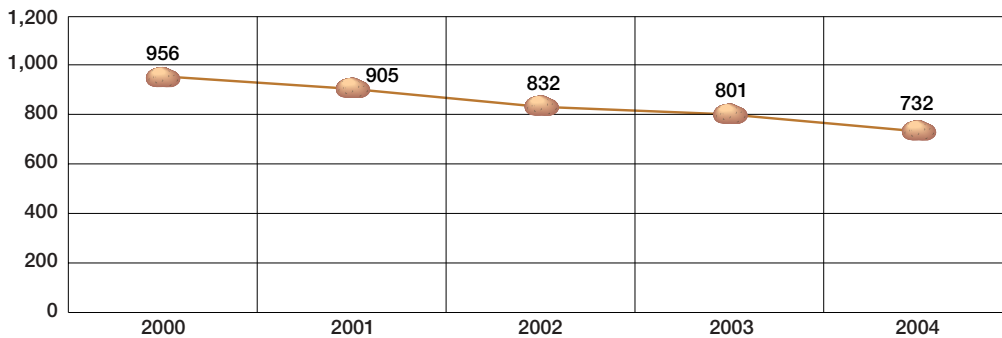
## SECTION ONE: PRODUCTION AREA & GROWER NUMBERS

**Chart 1: Total Potato Production Area 2000–2004 (Hectares)**



- Ireland's total production area showed a dramatic fall in 2004. Production area fell by 1,121 hectares, an 8% reduction on the previous year. This is the first significant change in recent years. Production area had, in fact, increased marginally (4%) between the years of 2000 and 2003, with an average production area over the years of 13,450 hectares.

**Chart 2: Total Number of Potato Growers 2000–2004**



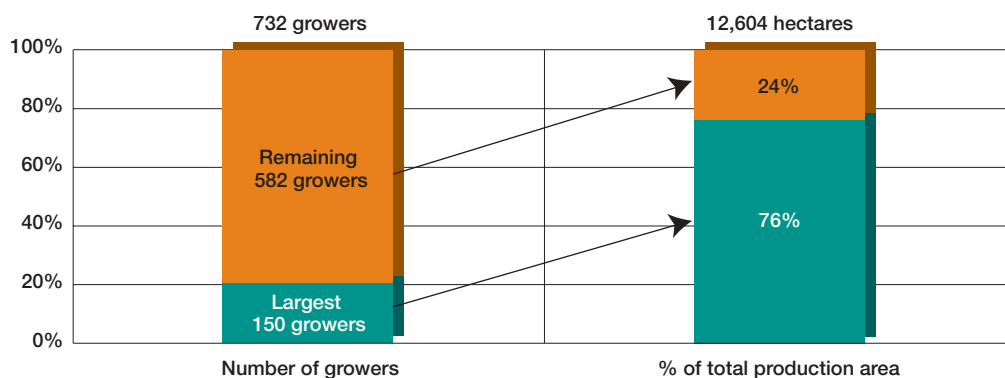
- The number of potato growers has also decreased. The number of growers fell by 69 to a total of 732 growers in 2004 (a 9% decrease). This reduction is fairly consistent with recent years as grower numbers have been falling by an average of 5% between 2000 and 2003.

**Chart 3: Change in Number of Potato Growers 2000 to 2004 by Holding Size**

Holding Size	0.8 to < 5 Ha.	5 to < 20 Ha.	20 to <50 Ha.	50 Ha. or more
2000	554	242	102	58
Change	-186 growers	-28 growers	-15 growers	+5 growers
2004	368	214	87	63

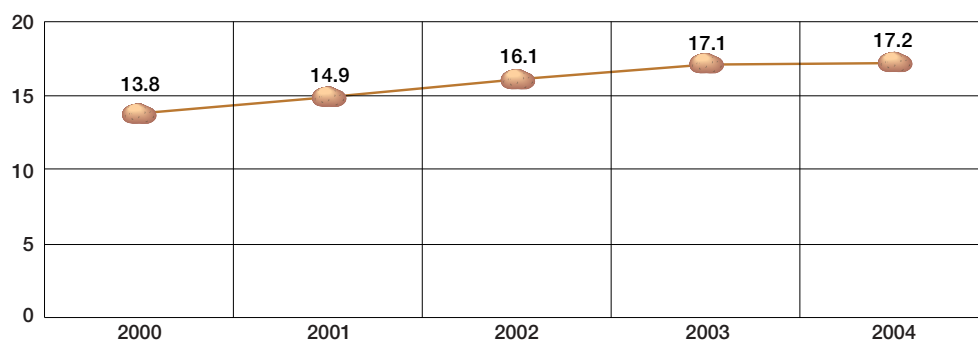
- Growers leaving the potato sector tend to be those with smaller holdings. In 2000, there was a total of 554 growers with holdings between 0.8 hectares and 5 hectares, in 2004 this fell to 368 growers (a 34% reduction). In contrast, the number of growers with holdings between 20 and 50 hectares fell by only 15 growers, while the number of growers with holding of 50 hectares or more actually increased by 5 growers. (Note: these 5 growers would have been recorded in the 20-50 hectare category in the 2000 census).

**Chart 4: Contribution of Large Scale Potato Growers in 2004**



- Irish potato production is dominated by a small number of large-scale growers. Although there are 732 commercial potato growers in Ireland, the 150 largest growers account for 76% of the total production area (9,568 hectares).

**Chart 5: Average Potato Holding Size 2000–2004 (Hectares)**

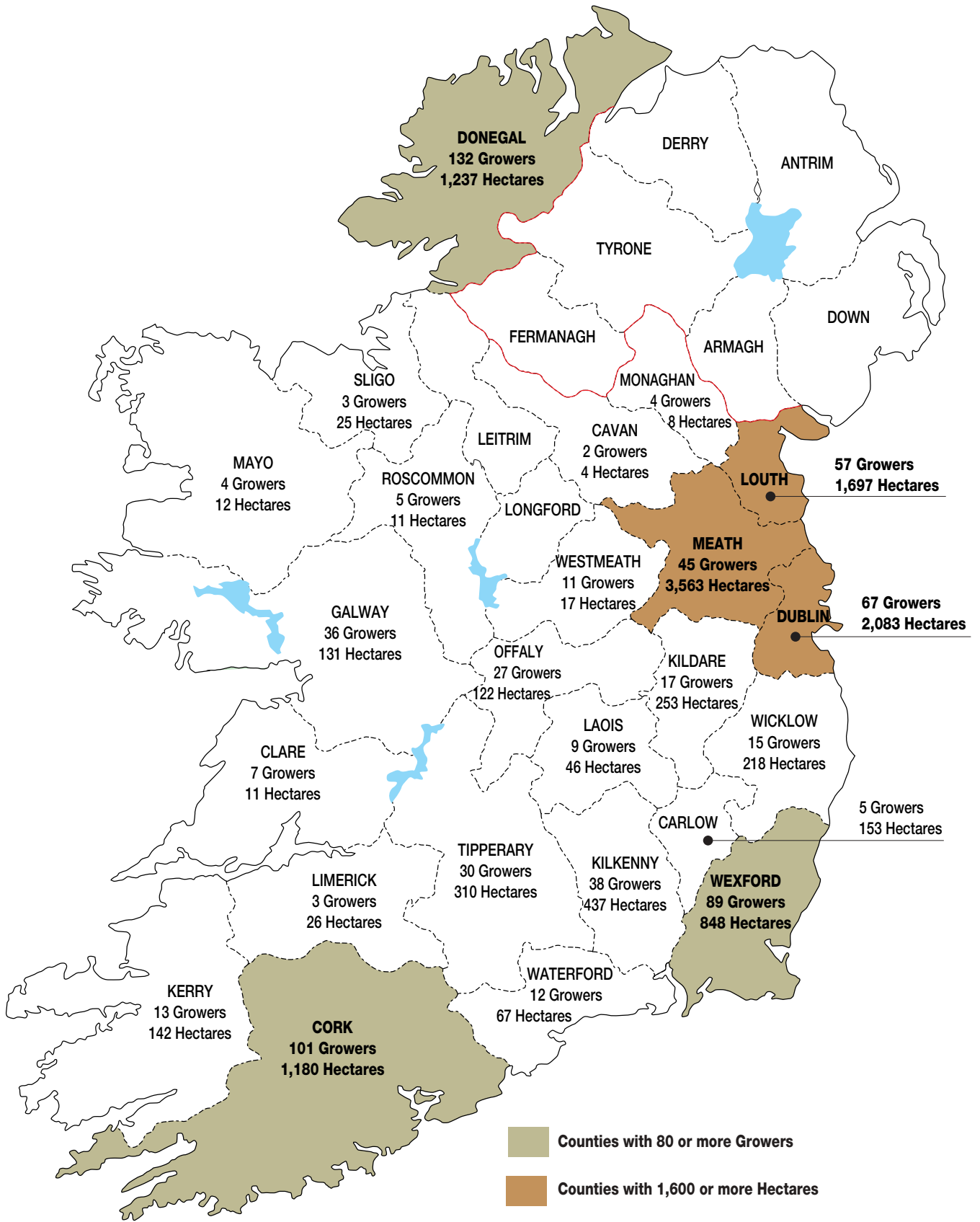


- The size of holding has increased in recent years. In 2000, the average holding was 13.8 hectares, whereas in 2004 it is 17.2 hectares. This is due, primarily, to smaller growers leaving the sector, while some larger growers are increasing their production area.

**MAP 1 Number of Potato Growers in 2004 by County and Production Area (Hectares)**

- Map 1 shows production area and grower numbers for each county in Ireland. It shows that the counties with the most growers are Donegal, Cork and Wexford, while the counties with the most production area are Meath, Dublin and Louth. These latter three counties account for only 23% of growers but account for 58% of total production area.
- Tables 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 in the Appendix show data on production area and grower numbers between 2000 and 2004 for each county. The tables show different stories among the counties. Dublin and Cork are the only counties, among the more important growing counties, to show increased production over the 2000-2004 period. Production in Dublin grew 4% in 2004 and is up 1% over the 2000-2004 period. This is despite the fact that grower numbers in Dublin have declined by 22% over the four years, which also proves that those remaining are increasing their holding size.
- In Cork, while production fell by 5% in 2004, it is nonetheless up 9% over the four years of 2000-2004. Grower numbers in Cork have fallen (by 26% over four years), indicating that those remaining are increasing their holding size.
- Production area in Meath fell 10% in 2004 and also 10% over the four years of 2000-2004. The number of growers in Meath fell by 24% over these four years, again showing that the remaining growers are increasing their holding size.
- Donegal shows a similar story, with a fall in production area of 11% between the years 2000 and 2004, but a higher reduction (26%) in grower numbers.

**MAP 1 Number of Potato Growers in 2004 by County and Production Area (Hectares)**

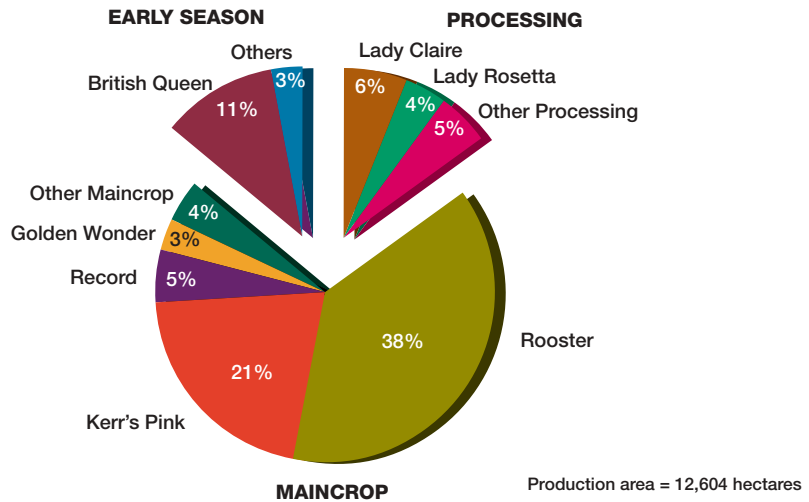


## SECTION TWO: VARIETIES GROWN

This section looks at trends in potato varieties grown. Varieties are categorised into the following three types of potato:

- Early season: includes 1st early and 2nd early. 1st early (also called 'new' potatoes) are planted in early spring for harvesting in early summer. 2nd early (still 'new' potatoes) are planted in late spring for harvesting in mid to late summer.
- Maincrop: planted in spring for harvesting in late summer and early autumn. Unlike early, which go straight from the field to the market, maincrop potatoes are available all year round from storage.
- Processing: these are grown specifically for the production of crisps and chips (fresh and frozen chips).

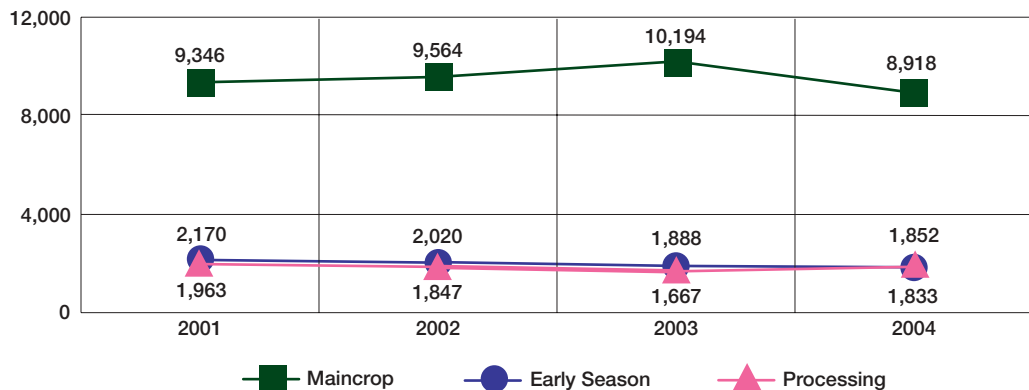
**Chart 6: Potato Varieties Grown 2004 (Variety % of Total Production Area)**



Note: (see Appendix Table 2.3 for full list of varieties and crop types).

- Maincrop varieties account for 71% of Ireland's total production area. The varieties Rooster, Kerr's Pink, Record and Golden Wonder account for 38%, 21%, 5% and 3% respectively of production area.
- 1st and 2nd early varieties account for 14% of production area. The 2nd early variety British Queen is the most important variety in this category, accounting for 11% of production area.
- Processing varieties account for 15% of production area. The four main varieties in this category are Lady Claire, (6%), Lady Rosetta (4%), Maris Piper (3%) and Saturna (2%).
- Overall, the top five varieties (Rooster, Kerr's Pink, British Queen, Lady Claire, and Record) account for 80% of total production area.

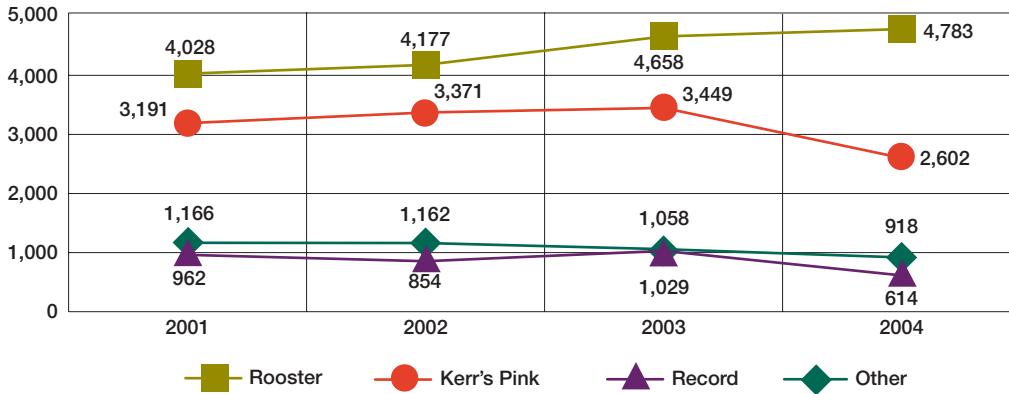
**Chart 7: Production Area of Potato Categories 2001-2004 (Hectares)**



- The reduction in total production area (8%) has occurred almost entirely among maincrop varieties. The production area for maincrop varieties fell 13% in 2004, from 10,194 hectares in 2003 to 8,918 in 2004. The production area for early season varieties remained stable in 2004, while that of processing varieties increased by 11%.

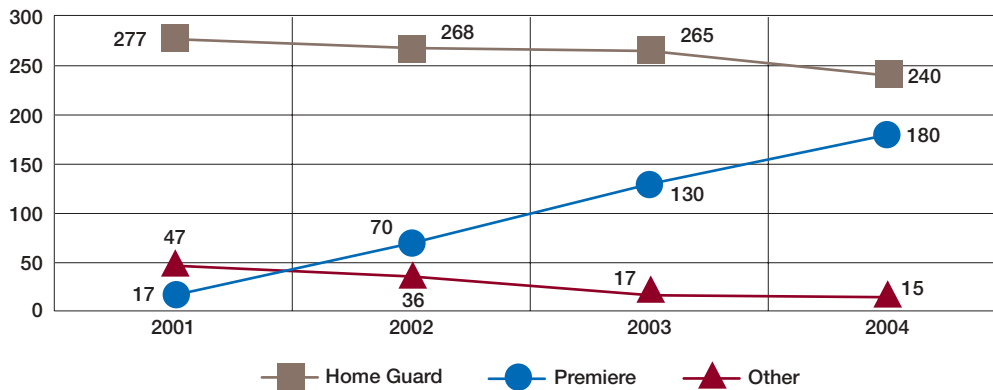


**Chart 8: Production Area of Maincrop Potato Varieties 2001–2004 (Hectares)**



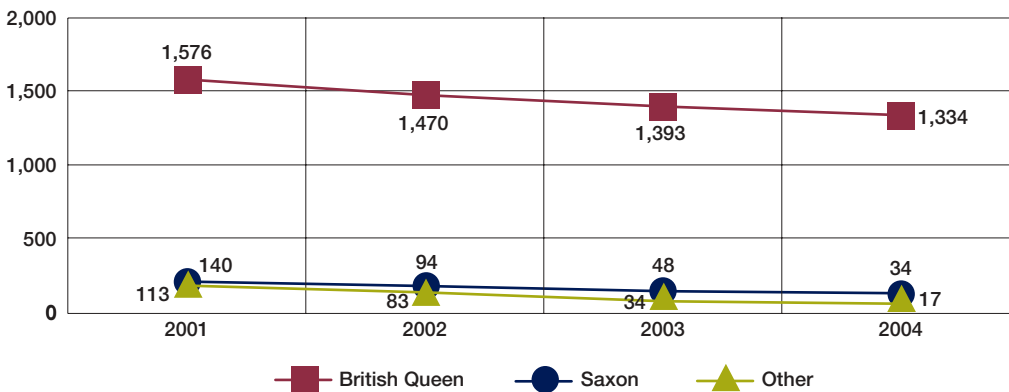
- Production of maincrop varieties is consolidating to Rooster. Though the overall production area of all maincrop varieties fell in 2004, the production area for Rooster showed a small increase (3%). Rooster now accounts for 54% of maincrop production area. The main counties for growing Rooster are Meath and Dublin. These two counties account for 52% of total production area for Rooster (see Map 2, page 8).
- The production area for the next three most widely-grown maincrop varieties fell dramatically in 2004 (Kerr's Pink by 25%, Record by 40% and Golden Wonder by 39%). The combined production area of these three varieties fell by 1,510 hectares (from 5,120 hectares in 2003 to 3,610 hectares in 2004).

**Chart 9: Production Area of 1st Early Season Potato Varieties 2001–2004 (Hectares)**



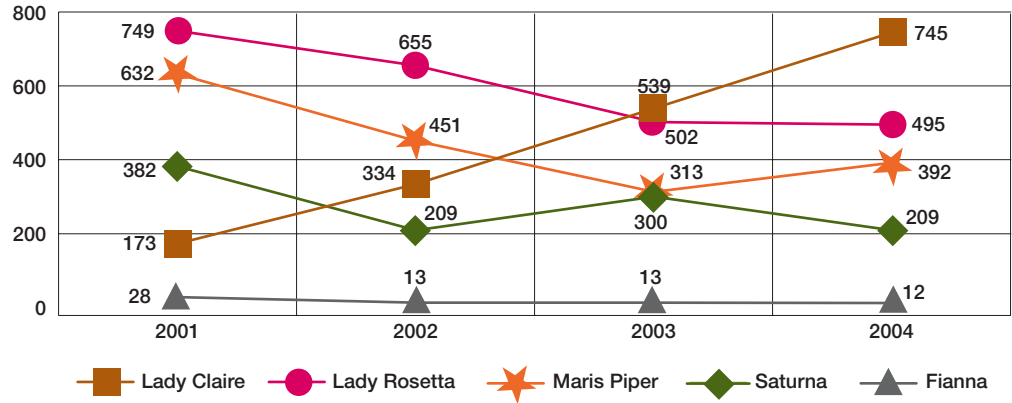
- First earlies account for 24% of the total early crop.
- Home Guard remains the most important first early variety. However, it showed a slight decline (9%) compared to 2003. Premiere is increasing in popularity. Its production area has risen from only 17 hectares in 2001 to 180 hectares in 2004.

**Chart 10: Production Area of 2nd Early Season Potato Varieties 2001–2004 (Hectares)**



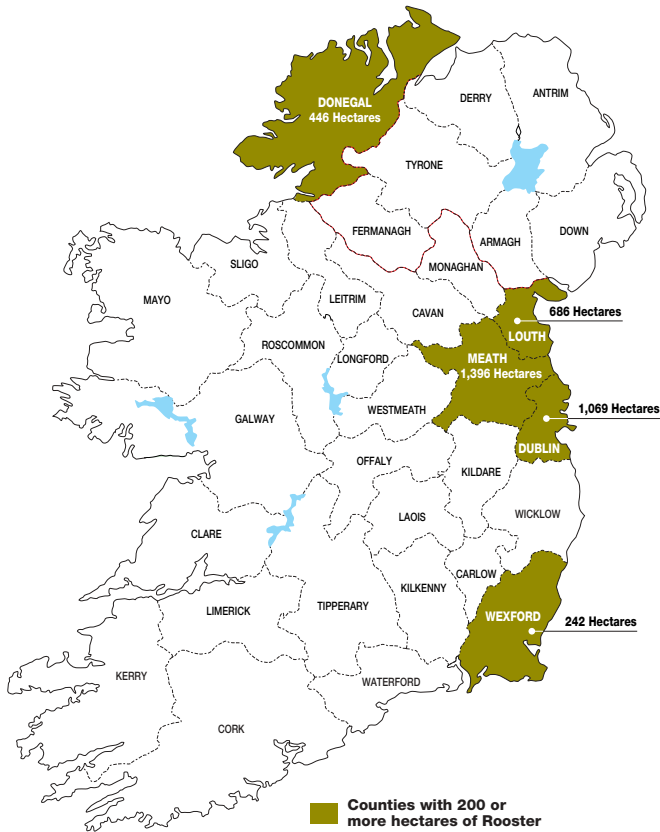
- Second earlies account for 76% of the total early crop.
- British Queen accounts for almost all (96%) of second early production area. Nevertheless, its production area fell marginally (4%) in 2004. The main counties for growing British Queen are Dublin, Wexford, Louth and Cork (see Map 5, page 9).

**Chart 11: Production Area of Processing Potato Varieties 2001–2004 (Hectares)**

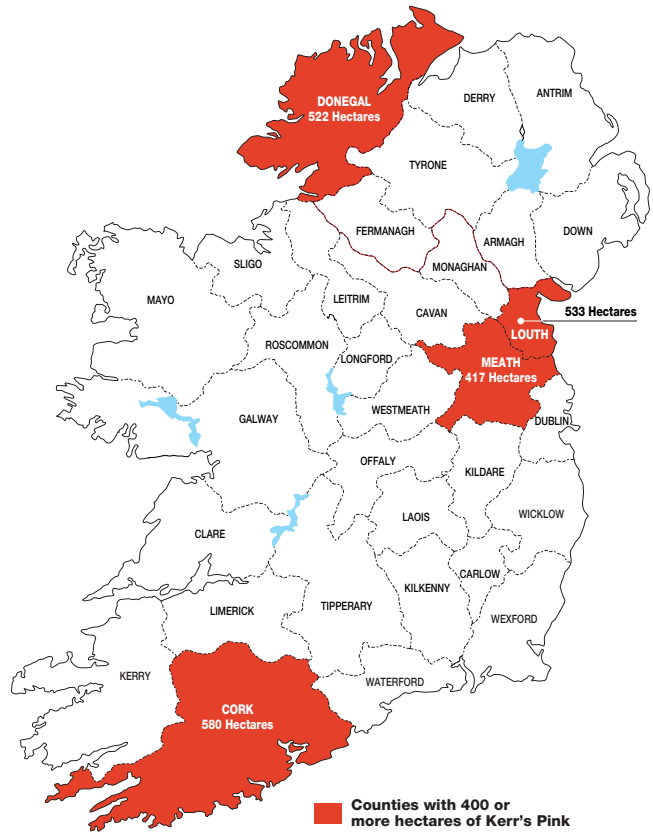


- Production of the crisping variety Lady Claire has grown strongly in recent years. Its production area has risen three-fold, from 173 hectares in 2001 to 745 hectares in 2004. This is most likely due to growers switching to Lady Claire from other crisping varieties.
- 68% of processing varieties are grown in Meath (see Map 6).

**MAP 2**  
Counties with the Highest Production Area for Rooster

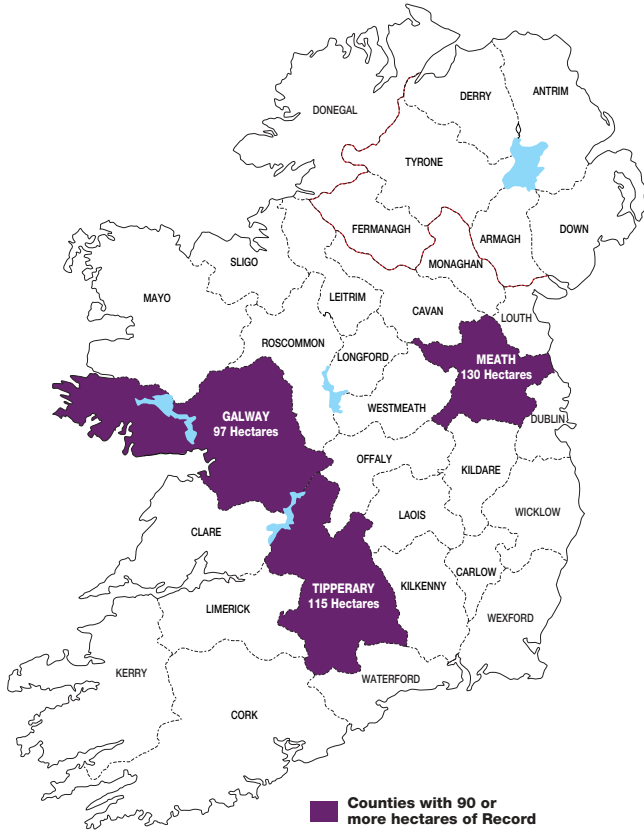


**MAP 3**  
Counties with the Highest Production Area for Kerr's Pink



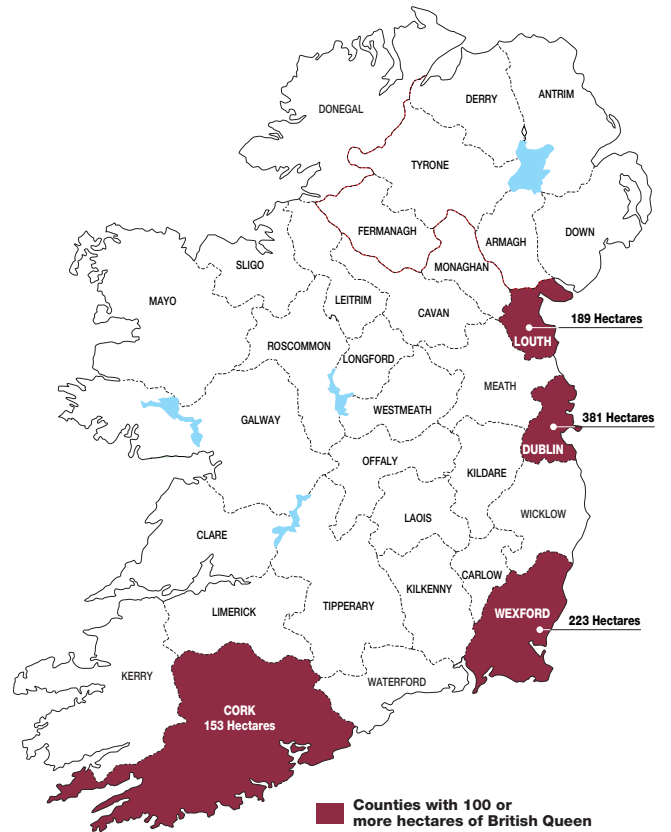
**MAP 4**

**Counties with Highest Production Area for Record**



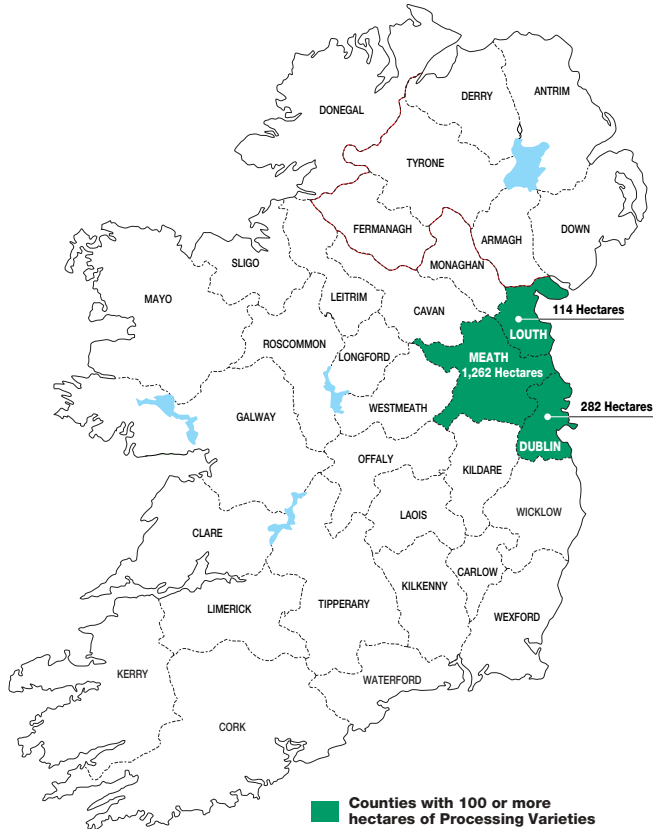
**MAP 5**

**Counties with the Highest Production Area for British Queen**



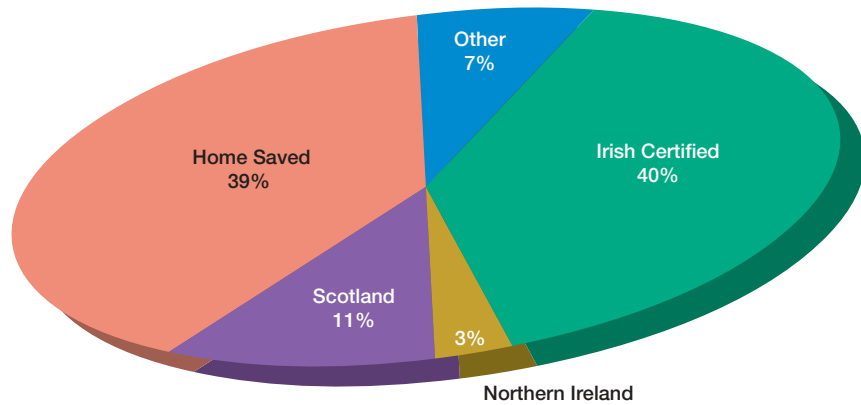
**MAP 6**

**Counties with Highest Production Area for Processing Varieties**



**SECTION THREE: SEED SOURCE**

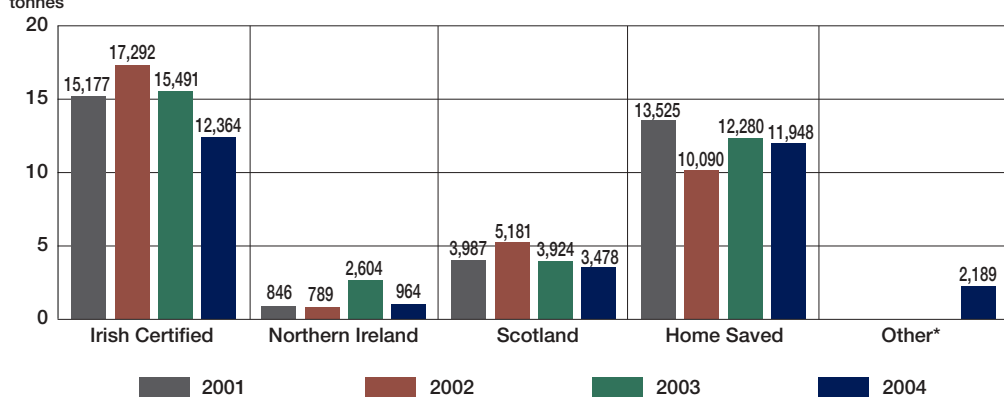
**Chart 12: Source of Potato Seed 2004**



Total seed planted 2004 = 30,943 tonnes

- Of the 30,943 tonnes of seed planted in 2004, 40% was Irish Certified seed and 39% was Home Saved. The remaining 21% of seed planted was either imported or was from 'Other' sources.

**Chart 13: Source of Potato Seed 2001–2004 ('000 tonnes)**



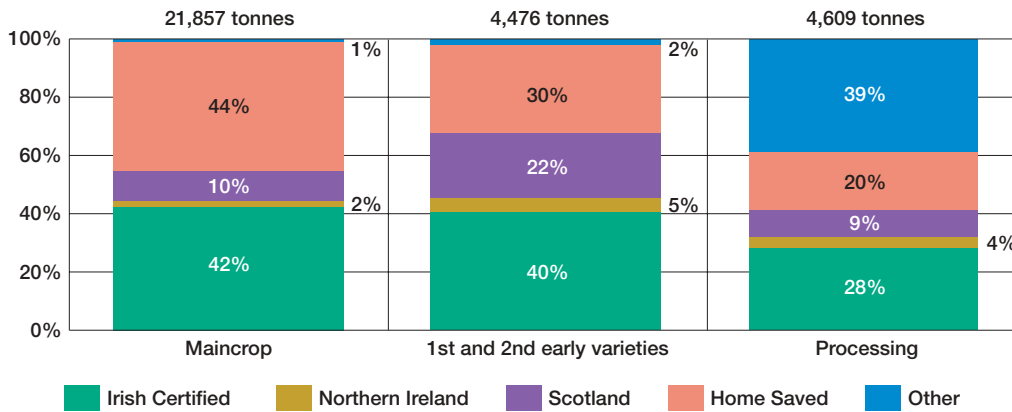
Total seed planted 2004 = 30,943 tonnes

\* Data for 2001, 2002 and 2003 is not available.

Some caution is needed in making comparisons to previous years as the 2004 questionnaire included an 'Other' category which was not included in previous questionnaires.

- The total planting of potato seed fell by 3,356 tonnes (a 10% reduction), to a total of 30,943 tonnes in 2004. This reduction is to be expected given the overall reduction in production area. Planting of Irish Certified seed fell by 3,127 tonnes (a 20% reduction), to 12,364 tonnes in 2004.

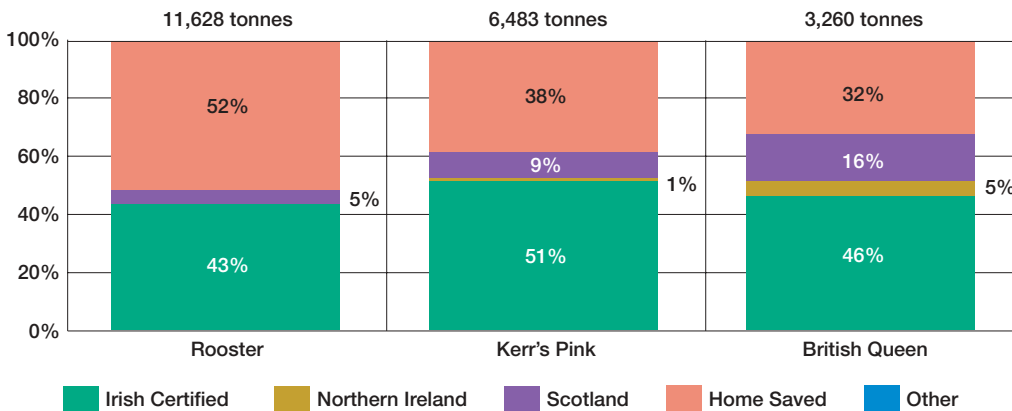
**Chart 14: Source of Potato Seed 2004 by Crop Type**



Total seed planted 2004 = 30,943 tonnes

- Seed for maincrop varieties is mostly Home Saved (44%) or Irish Certified (42%).
- Seed for early season varieties is mostly Irish Certified (40%), Home Saved (30%) or from Scotland (22%).
- Seed for processing varieties is mostly from 'Other' sources (39%), Irish Certified (28%) or Home Saved (20%).

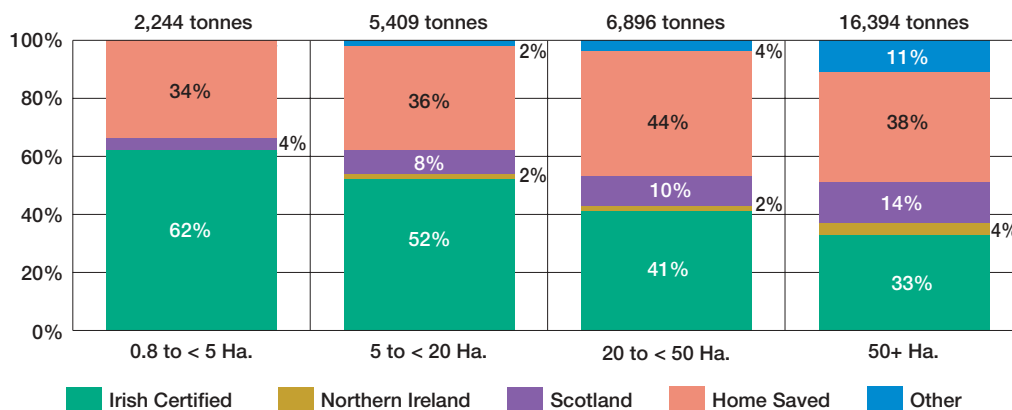
**Chart 15: Source of Potato Seed of Top Three Varieties 2004**



Total seed planted 2004 = 30,943 tonnes

- Seed for Rooster, Kerr's Pink and British Queen is mostly either Irish Certified or Home Saved.

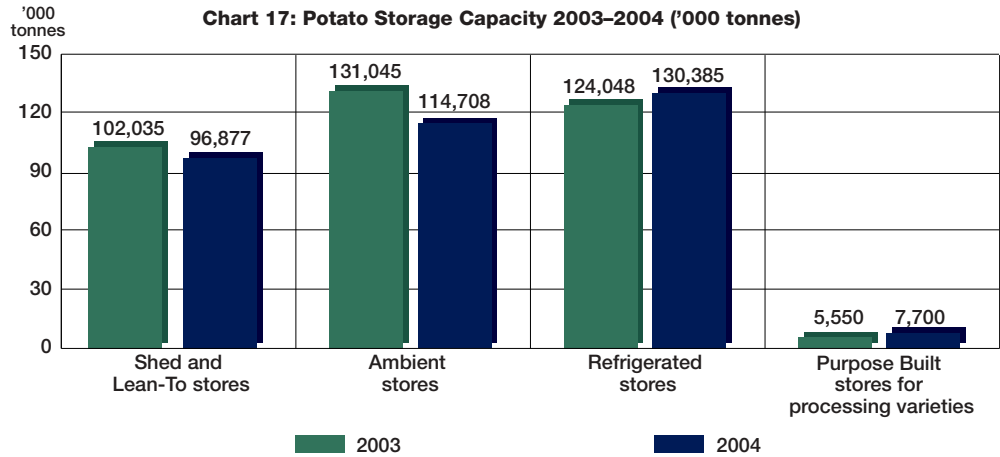
**Chart 16: Source of Potato Seed 2004 by Holding Size**



Total seed planted 2004 = 30,943 tonnes

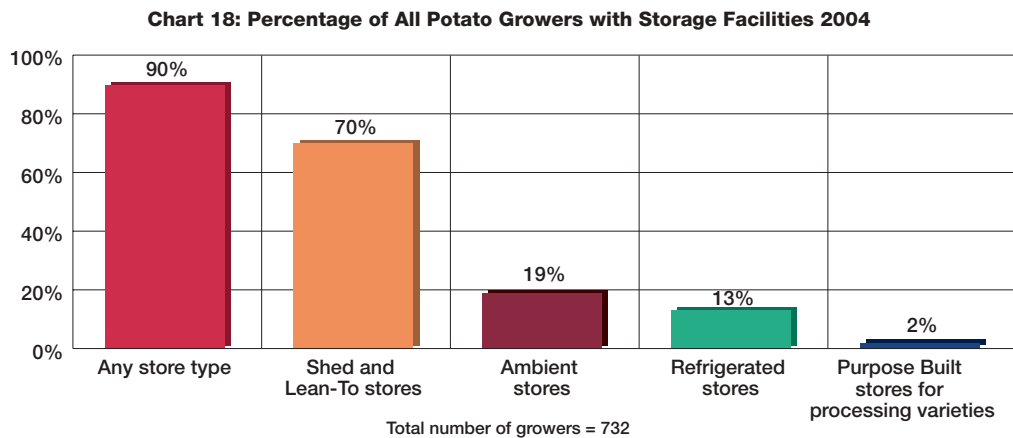
- Growers with 50+ hectares planted 16,394 tonnes of seed, accounting for 53% of total seed planted. Of this, 38% was Home Saved and 33% was Irish Certified, while 14% was sourced from Scotland, 11% from 'Other' sources and 4% from Northern Ireland.
- Those with smaller holdings have a higher likelihood of using Irish Certified seed.

## SECTION FOUR: POTATO STORAGE



Total storage capacity = 362,678 tonnes in 2003 and 349,670 in 2004

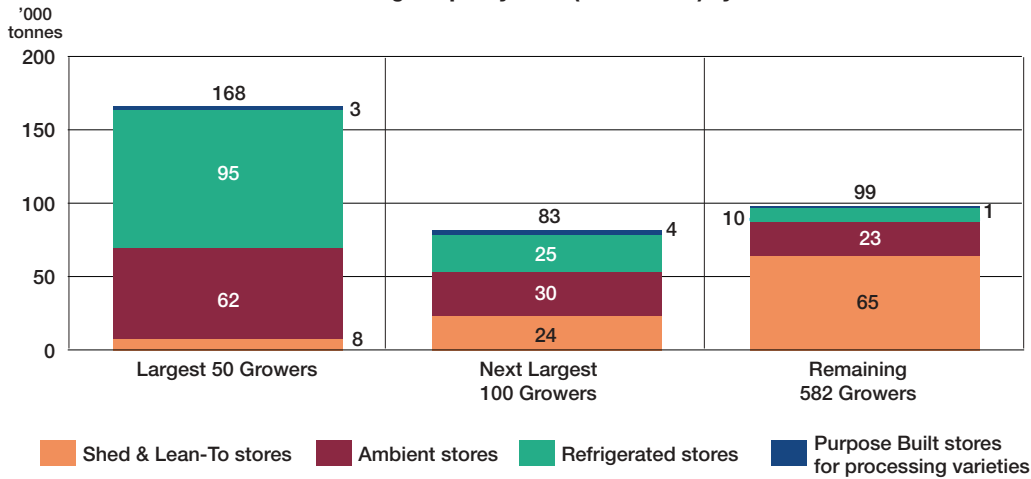
- There was an overall reduction of 13,008 tonnes of storage capacity in 2004 (from 362,678 in 2003 to 349,670 in 2004). This is most likely due to the exit of smaller growers from the sector.
- There was a notable increase in the tonnage capacity of refrigerated stores (5% increase) and purpose built stores (38% increase). This investment came mainly from larger holdings.



**Note:** percents add to more than 100% as a grower may have more than one type of storage facility on his/her holding.

- Of the 732 potato growers, 659 (90%) have some type of storage facility. 70% of growers have Shed & Lean-To stores, 19% have Ambient stores and 13% have Refrigerated stores. Only 13 growers (2%) have Purpose Built stores.

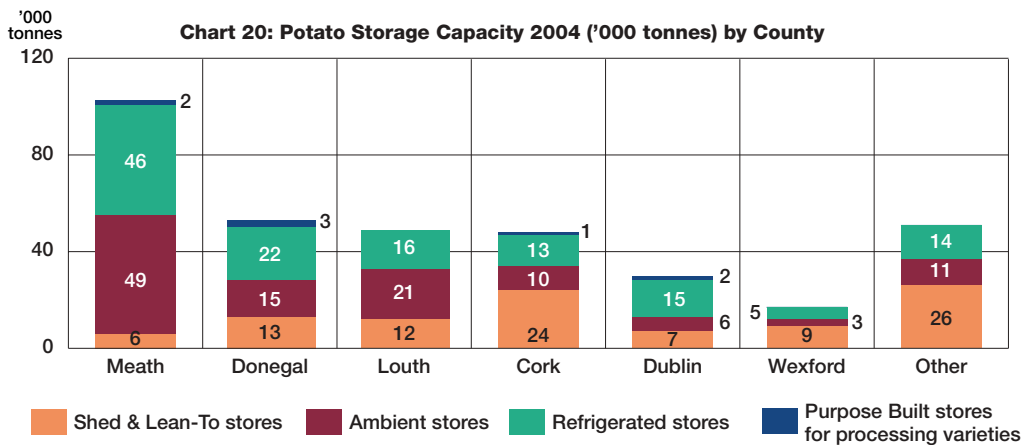
**Chart 19: Potato Storage Capacity 2004 ('000 tonnes) by Grower Size**



Total storage capacity = 349,670 tonnes

- The 50 largest growers predominantly have Ambient and Refrigerated stores, with approximately 62,000 tonnes of Ambient stores and approximately 95,000 tonnes of Refrigerated stores. This represents 54% of all Ambient storage capacity and 73% of all Refrigerated storage capacity.
- Shed & Lean-To storage is predominantly a feature of smaller holdings.

**Chart 20: Potato Storage Capacity 2004 ('000 tonnes) by County**



Total storage capacity = 349,670 tonnes

- Meath accounts for 49,000 tonnes of ambient storage capacity and 46,000 tonnes of refrigerated storage capacity.
- Donegal, Louth and Cork have the largest storage capacity after Meath. Cork has the most Shed & Lean-To storage capacity (approximately 24,000 tonnes).

**APPENDIX TABLES**

**SECTION ONE: PRODUCTION AREA AND GROWER NUMBERS**

**Table 1.1**  
**Potato Production Area 2000–2004 (Hectares) by County**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% of 2004 Total	Change vs. 2003	Four Year Trend
<b>Carlow</b>	135	128	141	197	153	1%	<b>-22%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Cavan</b>	12	8	8	8	4	0%	<b>-50%</b>	<b>-67%</b>
<b>Clare</b>	24	26	28	13	11	0%	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-56%</b>
<b>Cork</b>	1,079	1,099	1,168	1,239	1,180	9%	<b>-5%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	1,395	1,467	1,395	1,366	1,237	10%	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	2,054	2,130	2,019	1,998	2,083	17%	<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Galway</b>	127	134	118	128	131	1%	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	156	129	138	131	142	1%	<b>9%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	284	289	305	285	253	2%	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Kilkenny</b>	470	550	506	493	437	3%	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Laois</b>	79	70	46	59	46	0%	<b>-22%</b>	<b>-42%</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>no growers</b>	<b>no growers</b>
<b>Limerick</b>	32	28	30	33	26	0%	<b>-21%</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>Longford</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>no growers</b>	<b>no growers</b>
<b>Louth</b>	1,652	1,595	1,736	1,838	1,697	13%	<b>-8%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	51	50	33	30	12	0%	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-76%</b>
<b>Meath</b>	3,938	3,894	3,960	3,952	3,563	28%	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	12	8	8	9	8	0%	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-37%</b>
<b>Offaly</b>	129	153	122	126	122	1%	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Roscommon</b>	13	15	16	13	11	0%	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Sligo</b>	73	83	62	36	25	0%	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-65%</b>
<b>Tipperary</b>	277	330	333	478	310	2%	<b>-35%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	89	129	99	89	67	1%	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-25%</b>
<b>Westmeath</b>	40	55	57	21	17	0%	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-57%</b>
<b>Wexford</b>	769	820	839	894	848	7%	<b>-5%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	281	290	263	289	218	2%	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>13,480</b>	<b>13,431</b>	<b>13,725</b>	<b>12,604</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-4%</b>

**Table 1.2**  
**Potato Production Area 2000–2004 (Acres) by County**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% of 2004 Total	Change vs. 2003	Four Year Trend
<b>Carlow</b>	334	317	349	488	379	1%	<b>-22%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Cavan</b>	30	20	21	20	10	0%	<b>-50%</b>	<b>-67%</b>
<b>Clare</b>	60	65	70	31	27	0%	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-56%</b>
<b>Cork</b>	2,666	2,715	2,886	3,061	2,916	9%	<b>-5%</b>	<b>9%</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	3,446	3,624	3,447	3,375	3,058	10%	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	5,075	5,264	4,989	4,937	5,148	17%	<b>4%</b>	<b>1%</b>
<b>Galway</b>	314	331	292	317	323	1%	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	385	318	342	323	352	1%	<b>9%</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	702	715	754	705	624	2%	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Kilkenny</b>	1,162	1,358	1,250	1,218	1,081	3%	<b>-11%</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Laois</b>	196	174	113	145	113	0%	<b>-22%</b>	<b>-42%</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>no growers</b>	<b>no growers</b>
<b>Limerick</b>	80	70	73	82	65	0%	<b>-21%</b>	<b>-18%</b>
<b>Longford</b>	—	—	—	—	—	—	<b>no growers</b>	<b>no growers</b>
<b>Louth</b>	4,082	3,942	4,291	4,541	4,193	13%	<b>-8%</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	127	123	83	75	30	0%	<b>-60%</b>	<b>-76%</b>
<b>Meath</b>	9,731	9,622	9,784	9,766	8,805	28%	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	30	21	20	23	19	0%	<b>-17%</b>	<b>-37%</b>
<b>Offaly</b>	318	377	302	311	301	1%	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Roscommon</b>	31	36	40	31	28	0%	<b>-10%</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>Sligo</b>	181	204	152	89	63	0%	<b>-29%</b>	<b>-65%</b>
<b>Tipperary</b>	685	816	822	1,182	765	2%	<b>-35%</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	221	318	245	220	166	1%	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-25%</b>
<b>Westmeath</b>	99	137	142	53	43	0%	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-57%</b>
<b>Wexford</b>	1,900	2,027	2,073	2,209	2,096	7%	<b>-5%</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	695	717	651	714	540	2%	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,549</b>	<b>33,310</b>	<b>33,189</b>	<b>33,915</b>	<b>31,144</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-8%</b>	<b>-4%</b>



**Table 1.3**  
**Number of Potato Growers 2000–2004 by County**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% of 2004 Total	Change vs. 2003	Four Year Trend
Carlow	9	11	9	10	5	1%	-50%	-44%
Cavan	3	2	2	2	2	0%	0%	-33%
Clare	16	15	10	7	7	1%	0%	-56%
Cork	137	137	120	114	101	14%	-11%	-26%
Donegal	178	164	138	138	132	18%	-4%	-26%
Dublin	86	78	74	71	67	9%	-6%	-22%
Galway	34	31	31	38	36	5%	-5%	6%
Kerry	15	12	11	12	13	2%	8%	-13%
Kildare	27	26	23	21	17	2%	-19%	-37%
Kilkenny	33	32	40	40	38	5%	-5%	15%
Laois	17	15	13	12	9	1%	-25%	-47%
Leitrim	—	—	—	—	—	—	no growers	no growers
Limerick	5	4	3	3	3	0%	0%	-40%
Longford	—	—	—	—	—	—	no growers	no growers
Louth	70	63	64	61	57	8%	-7%	-19%
Mayo	8	5	5	5	4	1%	-20%	-50%
Meath	59	55	54	51	45	6%	-12%	-24%
Monaghan	8	6	4	6	4	1%	-33%	-50%
Offaly	33	37	33	30	27	4%	-10%	-18%
Roscommon	4	5	6	5	5	1%	0%	25%
Sligo	15	16	12	3	3	0%	0%	-80%
Tipperary	38	35	32	36	30	4%	-17%	-21%
Waterford	16	15	14	15	12	2%	-20%	-25%
Westmeath	14	14	13	11	11	2%	0%	-21%
Wexford	103	96	91	87	89	12%	2%	-14%
Wicklow	28	31	30	23	15	2%	-35%	-46%
<b>Total</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>732</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-12%</b>

**Table 1.4**  
**Average Potato Holding Size 2000–2004 (Hectares & Acres)**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Average Holding Size in Hectares	13.8	14.9	16.1	17.1	17.2
Average Holding Size in Acres	34.0	36.8	39.8	42.3	42.5

**Table 1.5**  
**Average (Median) Potato Holding Size 2004 (Hectares & Acres) by County**

	Hectares	Acres
Meath	48.6	120.0
Carlow	30.4	75.0
Dublin	16.2	40.0
Louth	15.4	38.0
Wicklow	7.7	19.0
Limerick	7.3	18.0
Kerry	6.5	16.0
Donegal	5.1	12.6
Kildare	4.9	12.0
Cork	4.0	10.0
Sligo	4.0	10.0
Waterford	4.0	10.0
Tipperary	3.8	9.5
Offaly	3.6	9.0
Wexford	3.6	9.0
Kilkenny	3.5	8.8
Laois	3.2	8.0
Mayo	2.8	7.0
Cavan	2.0	5.0
Galway	2.0	5.0
Roscommon	1.6	4.0
Westmeath	1.6	4.0
Monaghan	1.4	3.5
Clare	1.2	3.0
Leitrim	—	—
Longford	—	—

**Table 1.6**  
**Number of Potato Growers 2000–2004 by Holding Size**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Less than 2 Ha.</b>	248	210	172	176	143
<b>2 to &lt;5 Ha.</b>	306	293	256	217	225
<b>5 to &lt;20 Ha.</b>	242	243	249	254	214
<b>20 to &lt;50 Ha.</b>	102	95	90	85	87
<b>50 Ha. or more</b>	58	64	65	69	63
<b>Total</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>905</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>801</b>	<b>732</b>

**Table 1.7**  
**Potato Production Area 2000–2004 (Hectares) by Holding Size**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Less than 2 Ha.</b>	312	261	227	221	180
<b>2 to &lt;5 Ha.</b>	956	902	801	679	711
<b>5 to &lt;20 Ha.</b>	2,474	2,578	2,594	2,608	2,145
<b>20 to &lt;50 Ha.</b>	3,285	3,044	2,913	2,773	2,825
<b>50 Ha. or more</b>	6,146	6,694	6,897	7,444	6,743
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>13,480</b>	<b>13,431</b>	<b>13,725</b>	<b>12,604</b>

**Table 1.8**  
**Potato Production Area 2000–2004 (Acres) by Holding Size**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
<b>Less than 2 Ha.</b>	771	646	560	546	445
<b>2 to &lt;5 Ha.</b>	2,362	2,229	1,980	1,678	1,756
<b>5 to &lt;20 Ha.</b>	6,113	6,371	6,409	6,444	5,300
<b>20 to &lt;50 Ha.</b>	8,117	7,522	7,197	6,852	6,982
<b>50 Ha. or more</b>	15,187	16,541	17,042	18,394	16,662
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,550</b>	<b>33,310</b>	<b>33,189</b>	<b>33,915</b>	<b>31,144</b>

## SECTION TWO: VARIETIES GROWN

**Table 2.1**  
Production Area of Top 10 Most Important Potato Varieties 2000–2004 (Hectares)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% of 2004 Total	Change vs. 2003	Four Year Trend
<b>Rooster</b>	3,529	4,028	4,177	4,658	4,783	38%	<b>3%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Kerr's Pink</b>	3,354	3,191	3,371	3,449	2,602	21%	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>British Queen</b>	1,547	1,576	1,470	1,393	1,334	11%	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Lady Claire</b>	n/a	173	334	539	745	6%	<b>38%</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Record</b>	1,031	962	854	1,029	614	5%	<b>-40%</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>Lady Rosetta</b>	700	749	655	502	495	4%	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Golden Wonder</b>	575	629	613	642	394	3%	<b>-39%</b>	<b>-31%</b>
<b>Maris Piper</b>	648	632	451	313	392	3%	<b>25%</b>	<b>-39%</b>
<b>Home Guard</b>	274	277	268	265	240	2%	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Cultra</b>	n/a	158	206	190	213	2%	<b>12%</b>	<b>n/a</b>

n/a = data not available

**Table 2.2**  
Production Area of Top 10 Most Important Potato Varieties 2000–2004 (Acres)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	% of 2004 Total	Change vs. 2003	Four Year Trend
<b>Rooster</b>	8,721	9,953	10,321	11,510	11,820	38%	<b>3%</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Kerr's Pink</b>	8,287	7,886	8,330	8,523	6,430	21%	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-22%</b>
<b>British Queen</b>	3,823	3,893	3,632	3,443	3,296	11%	<b>-4%</b>	<b>-14%</b>
<b>Lady Claire</b>	n/a	427	825	1,333	1,840	6%	<b>38%</b>	<b>n/a</b>
<b>Record</b>	2,548	2,376	2,111	2,542	1,517	5%	<b>-40%</b>	<b>-40%</b>
<b>Lady Rosetta</b>	1,730	1,851	1,619	1,240	1,223	4%	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-29%</b>
<b>Golden Wonder</b>	1,420	1,555	1,515	1,587	974	3%	<b>-39%</b>	<b>-31%</b>
<b>Maris Piper</b>	1,601	1,562	1,116	773	969	3%	<b>25%</b>	<b>-39%</b>
<b>Home Guard</b>	677	684	661	654	594	2%	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-12%</b>
<b>Cultra</b>	n/a	391	509	470	527	2%	<b>12%</b>	<b>n/a</b>

n/a = data not available

**Table 2.3**  
Production Area 2004 (Hectares & Acres) by Potato Variety

Crop	Variety	Hectares	Acres
<b>Maincrop</b>	<b>Rooster</b>	4,783	11,820
	<b>Kerr's Pink</b>	2,602	6,430
	<b>Record</b>	614	1,517
	<b>Golden Wonder</b>	394	974
	<b>Cultra</b>	213	527
	<b>Navan</b>	129	319
	<b>Karlana</b>	52	128
	<b>Cara</b>	36	88
	<b>Cabaret</b>	33	81
	<b>King Edward</b>	21	52
	<b>Irene</b>	13	32
	<b>Accord</b>	9	22
	<b>Pentland Squire</b>	8	20
	<b>Fambo</b>	3	8
	<b>Pentland Dell</b>	3	7
	<b>Charlotte</b>	2	6
	<b>Pentland Ivory</b>	1	3
	<b>Catriona</b>	1	2
	<b>Pimpernell</b>	0	1
	<b>Druid</b>	0	0.5
<b>Nicola</b>	0	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,918</b>	<b>22,038</b>

Crop	Variety	Hectares	Acres
<b>1st and 2nd early varieties</b>	<b>British Queen</b>	1,334	3,296
	<b>Home Guard</b>	240	594
	<b>Premiere</b>	180	446
	<b>Saxon</b>	34	85
	<b>Wilja</b>	13	31
	<b>Estima</b>	11	26
	<b>Maris Peer</b>	6	14
	<b>Orla</b>	5	13
	<b>Dunrod</b>	5	12
	<b>Victoria</b>	1	2
	<b>Duke of York</b>	0	1
	<b>Roscor</b>	4	10
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>4,529</b>
<b>Processing</b>	<b>Lady Claire</b>	745	1,840
	<b>Lady Rosetta</b>	495	1,223
	<b>Maris Piper</b>	392	969
	<b>Saturna</b>	209	516
	<b>Fianna</b>	12	30
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,852</b>	<b>4,577</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12,604</b>	<b>31,144</b>

**Table 2.4**  
**Production Area for Most Important Potato Varieties 2004 (Hectares) by County**

County	Rooster	Kerr's Pink	British Queen	Lady Claire	Record	Lady Rosetta	Golden Wonder	Maris Piper	Home Guard	Cultra	Other	Total
Carlow	127	6	2	—	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	153
Cavan	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Clare	2	4	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Cork	171	580	153	—	—	—	118	33	98	12	15	1,180
Donegal	446	522	69	22	39	10	6	17	2	55	49	1,237
Dublin	1,069	93	381	4	39	121	8	102	27	21	217	2,083
Galway	16	9	6	—	97	—	3	—	—	—	—	131
Kerry	20	74	30	—	—	—	7	4	5	—	2	142
Kildare	167	32	9	—	28	—	11	1	—	—	4	253
Kilkenny	202	74	57	—	28	—	38	32	0	—	7	437
Laois	11	0	8	—	25	—	1	—	—	—	0	46
Leitrim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick	4	12	4	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	26
Longford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Louth	686	533	189	19	13	29	—	38	1	64	125	1,697
Mayo	—	6	1	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Meath	1,396	417	66	700	130	332	32	110	—	61	320	3,563
Monaghan	0	7	0	—	—	—	0	—	—	—	—	8
Offaly	25	—	14	—	67	—	13	2	—	—	1	122
Roscommon	2	2	2	—	4	—	0	—	—	—	—	11
Sligo	1	19	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
Tipperary	93	38	23	—	115	—	33	—	—	—	8	310
Waterford	18	20	20	—	—	—	1	—	8	—	—	67
Westmeath	3	—	—	—	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	17
Wexford	242	129	223	—	3	2	97	36	86	—	30	848
Wicklow	81	21	69	—	2	—	4	17	12	—	13	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,783</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>1,334</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>791</b>	<b>12,604</b>

**Table 2.5**  
**Production Area for Most Important Potato Varieties 2004 (Acres) by County**

County	Rooster	Kerr's Pink	British Queen	Lady Claire	Record	Lady Rosetta	Golden Wonder	Maris Piper	Home Guard	Cultra	Other	Total
Carlow	314	14	5	—	—	—	46	—	—	—	—	379
Cavan	2	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
Clare	4	11	4	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Cork	422	1,434	379	—	—	—	292	81	242	30	37	2,916
Donegal	1,103	1,289	170	54	97	25	14	42	5	137	122	3,058
Dublin	2,641	230	942	10	96	300	20	253	67	53	536	5,148
Galway	39	23	15	—	239	—	8	—	—	—	—	323
Kerry	49	184	75	—	0	—	17	10	12	—	5	352
Kildare	413	80	23	—	69	—	28	2	—	—	9	624
Kilkenny	500	182	140	—	69	—	93	79	1	—	18	1,081
Laois	26	1	20	—	63	—	2	—	—	—	1	113
Leitrim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick	11	30	10	—	3	—	8	—	3	—	—	65
Longford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Louth	1,696	1,318	466	46	33	72	—	95	2	157	309	4,193
Mayo	—	16	2	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Meath	3,450	1,031	162	1,730	322	820	78	272	—	150	790	8,805
Monaghan	1	17	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	19
Offaly	62	—	35	—	166	—	31	4	—	—	3	301
Roscommon	5	6	6	—	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	28
Sligo	2	46	13	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
Tipperary	229	93	57	—	284	—	82	—	—	—	20	765
Waterford	44	50	50	—	—	—	2	—	21	—	—	166
Westmeath	7	—	—	—	34	—	2	—	—	—	—	43
Wexford	599	319	551	—	7	6	239	90	213	—	74	2,096
Wicklow	201	51	171	—	4	—	11	41	29	—	32	540
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,820</b>	<b>6,430</b>	<b>3,296</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>1,517</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>974</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>31,144</b>

**SECTION THREE: SEED SOURCE**

**Table 3.1**  
**Source of Potato Seed 2004 (Tonnes) by Variety**

	<b>Irish Certified</b>	<b>N. Ireland</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Home Saved</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Rooster</b>	4,943	—	635	—	6,050	<b>11,628</b>
<b>Kerr's Pink</b>	3,301	74	609	30	2,470	<b>6,483</b>
<b>British Queen</b>	1,508	175	533	—	1,045	<b>3,260</b>
<b>Record</b>	558	101	266	—	633	<b>1,558</b>
<b>Lady Rosetta</b>	518	80	6	417	222	<b>1,243</b>
<b>Golden Wonder</b>	414	—	103	—	369	<b>886</b>
<b>Maris Piper</b>	238	91	374	30	236	<b>968</b>
<b>Saturna</b>	510	—	—	—	—	<b>510</b>
<b>Lady Claire</b>	30	14	14	1,345	453	<b>1,856</b>
<b>Home Guard</b>	276	10	55	0	251	<b>591</b>
<b>Cultra</b>	0	218	193	44	72	<b>527</b>
<b>Cara</b>	14	26	44	—	4	<b>88</b>
<b>Saxon</b>	—	—	51	22	12	<b>85</b>
<b>Premiere</b>	6	46	295	49	46	<b>442</b>
<b>Karlana</b>	—	—	8	119	2	<b>129</b>
<b>Navan</b>	19	118	163	13	11	<b>324</b>
<b>Other</b>	31	12	130	120	73	<b>366</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,364</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>11,948</b>	<b>30,943</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3.2**  
**Source of Potato Seed 2004 (Tonnes) by County**

	<b>Irish Certified</b>	<b>N. Ireland</b>	<b>Scotland</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Home Saved</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Meath</b>	2,082	405	1,200	1,881	3,137	<b>8,705</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	2,511	214	439	147	1,824	<b>5,135</b>
<b>Louth</b>	1,662	101	687	143	1,237	<b>3,830</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	1,876	185	51	18	1,262	<b>3,392</b>
<b>Cork</b>	1,139	25	508	—	1,137	<b>2,808</b>
<b>Wexford</b>	973	9	111	—	1,059	<b>2,152</b>
<b>Kilkenny</b>	469	—	156	—	454	<b>1,078</b>
<b>Tipperary</b>	402	1	93	—	265	<b>761</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	157	—	40	—	427	<b>624</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	181	24	60	—	240	<b>505</b>
<b>Carlow</b>	83	—	—	—	301	<b>384</b>
<b>Galway</b>	95	1	19	—	241	<b>356</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	222	—	5	—	124	<b>351</b>
<b>Offaly</b>	155	—	61	—	89	<b>305</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	160	—	—	—	1	<b>161</b>
<b>Laois</b>	39	—	41	—	33	<b>113</b>
<b>Sligo</b>	30	—	0	—	38	<b>68</b>
<b>Limerick</b>	41	—	4	—	21	<b>66</b>
<b>Westmeath</b>	32	—	3	—	8	<b>43</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	—	—	—	—	32	<b>32</b>
<b>Clare</b>	25	—	—	—	—	<b>25</b>
<b>Roscommon</b>	22	—	—	—	—	<b>22</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	7	—	—	—	11	<b>18</b>
<b>Cavan</b>	2	—	—	—	8	<b>10</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>	—	—	—	—	—	<b>—</b>
<b>Longford</b>	—	—	—	—	—	<b>—</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,364</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>3,478</b>	<b>2,189</b>	<b>11,948</b>	<b>30,943</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3.3**  
**Production Area of Certified Seed 2004 (Hectares)**

Variety	Foundation (EEC1)		Super Elite (EEC2)			Elite (EEC2)	Class H (EEC3)	Totals
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3			
<b>Arran Victory</b>	0.10		0.10					<b>0.20</b>
<b>British Queen</b>	3.40	14.50	23.53	37.45	26.30	12.40		<b>117.58</b>
<b>Cara</b>	0.40	2.30		5.50	12.40			<b>20.60</b>
<b>Catriona</b>			0.20		0.20			<b>0.40</b>
<b>Champion</b>						0.10		<b>0.10</b>
<b>Druid</b>	0.20							<b>0.20</b>
<b>Duke of York</b>			0.20					<b>0.20</b>
<b>Golden Wonder</b>		2.80	19.50	1.80	3.80	26.75	0.40	<b>55.05</b>
<b>Home Guard</b>	2.10	2.13	5.40	1.50	5.70	4.65	0.10	<b>21.58</b>
<b>Irene</b>						0.40		<b>0.40</b>
<b>Kerr's Pink</b>	7.25	20.25	73.64	187.70	149.15	211.38	7.60	<b>656.97</b>
<b>King Edward</b>		1.00						<b>1.00</b>
<b>Lady Rosetta</b>	1.00	5.55		10.60		8.10		<b>25.25</b>
<b>Maris Piper</b>	2.19	4.60	11.50	3.25	1.50	17.00		<b>40.04</b>
<b>Orla</b>	0.74			2.40	0.20			<b>3.34</b>
<b>Pentland Ivory</b>		0.40						<b>0.40</b>
<b>Pimpernel</b>					0.20			<b>0.20</b>
<b>Premiere</b>						1.30		<b>1.30</b>
<b>Record</b>	2.00	14.00	14.30	13.10	37.80	53.50	0.60	<b>135.30</b>
<b>Rooster</b>	4.60	3.62	10.45	183.26	42.04			<b>243.97</b>
<b>Saturna</b>	1.00	5.70	5.90			1.60		<b>14.20</b>
<b>Sharpe's Express</b>		0.20						<b>0.20</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24.98</b>	<b>77.05</b>	<b>164.72</b>	<b>446.56</b>	<b>279.29</b>	<b>337.18</b>	<b>8.70</b>	<b>1,338.48</b>

## SECTION FOUR: POTATO STORAGE

**Table 4.1**  
**Number of Growers and Storage Capacity 2004 (Tonnes)**

	Number of Growers	Capacity in Tonnes
<b>Shed and Lean-To Stores</b>	513	96,877
<b>Ambient Air Stores</b>	138	114,708
<b>Refrigerated Stores</b>	97	130,385
<b>Purpose Built Store for Processing Varieties</b>	13	7,700
<b>Total</b>		<b>349,670</b>

**Table 4.2**  
**Storage Capacity 2004 (Tonnes) by Holding Size**

	Less than 2 Ha.	2 to <5 Ha.	5 to <20 Ha.	20 to <50 Ha.	50 Ha. or more	Total
<b>Shed and Lean-To Stores</b>	7,970	23,337	33,750	19,920	11,900	<b>96,877</b>
<b>Ambient Air Stores</b>	650	2,110	20,400	26,398	65,150	<b>114,708</b>
<b>Refrigerated Stores</b>	—	420	9,325	19,510	101,130	<b>130,385</b>
<b>Purpose Built Store for Processing Varieties</b>	—	200	900	1,800	4,800	<b>7,700</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,620</b>	<b>26,067</b>	<b>64,375</b>	<b>67,628</b>	<b>182,980</b>	<b>349,670</b>
<b>Total %</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 4.3**  
**Storage Capacity 2004 (Tonnes) by County**

	Shed and Lean-To Stores	Ambient Air Stores	Fridge Stores	Purpose Built for Processing Varieties Stores	Total
<b>Meath</b>	6,000	48,800	45,950	1,800	<b>102,550</b>
<b>Donegal</b>	12,870	15,210	21,920	2,900	<b>52,900</b>
<b>Louth</b>	11,730	20,780	16,115	—	<b>48,625</b>
<b>Cork</b>	24,100	9,510	12,550	1,000	<b>47,160</b>
<b>Dublin</b>	7,350	6,400	14,700	2,000	<b>30,450</b>
<b>Wexford</b>	9,160	2,700	4,800	—	<b>16,660</b>
<b>Tipperary</b>	7,070	1,448	1,150	—	<b>9,668</b>
<b>Kildare</b>	4,250	2,100	3,100	—	<b>9,450</b>
<b>Kilkenny</b>	4,220	—	4,200	—	<b>8,420</b>
<b>Galway</b>	3,155	3,400	—	—	<b>6,555</b>
<b>Carlow</b>	60	2,200	4,100	—	<b>6,360</b>
<b>Offaly</b>	1,830	250	1,100	—	<b>3,180</b>
<b>Wicklow</b>	1,980	200	200	—	<b>2,380</b>
<b>Waterford</b>	747	710	—	—	<b>1,457</b>
<b>Sligo</b>	690	—	500	—	<b>1,190</b>
<b>Limerick</b>	—	800	—	—	<b>800</b>
<b>Westmeath</b>	680	—	—	—	<b>680</b>
<b>Laois</b>	430	200	—	—	<b>630</b>
<b>Monaghan</b>	230	—	—	—	<b>230</b>
<b>Clare</b>	120	—	—	—	<b>120</b>
<b>Cavan</b>	100	—	—	—	<b>100</b>
<b>Roscommon</b>	80	—	—	—	<b>80</b>
<b>Mayo</b>	25	—	—	—	<b>25</b>
<b>Kerry</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>—</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>—</b>
<b>Longford</b>	—	—	—	—	<b>—</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,877</b>	<b>114,708</b>	<b>130,385</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>349,670</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

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Full contact details for Potato Inspectors are available from the Department of Agriculture and Food website at [http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/crops\\_and\\_plants/certseedpotatocrops2004.rtf](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/crops_and_plants/certseedpotatocrops2004.rtf)



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