

NASS Survey Training

Refrigerated Storage Capacity - October 2021 **(COLD STORAGE CAPACITY)**



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

NOD-Training Group
October 2021



Survey Background/Overview

- 52nd biennial survey of refrigerated warehouses
- Survey has been conducted since 1914, after allegations that food speculators were “cornering the market” to drive up prices
- Conducted every odd numbered year, results released late January every even year.
- Information is used by warehouse operators, food processors, people servicing the warehouse and processing industries, and government agencies.

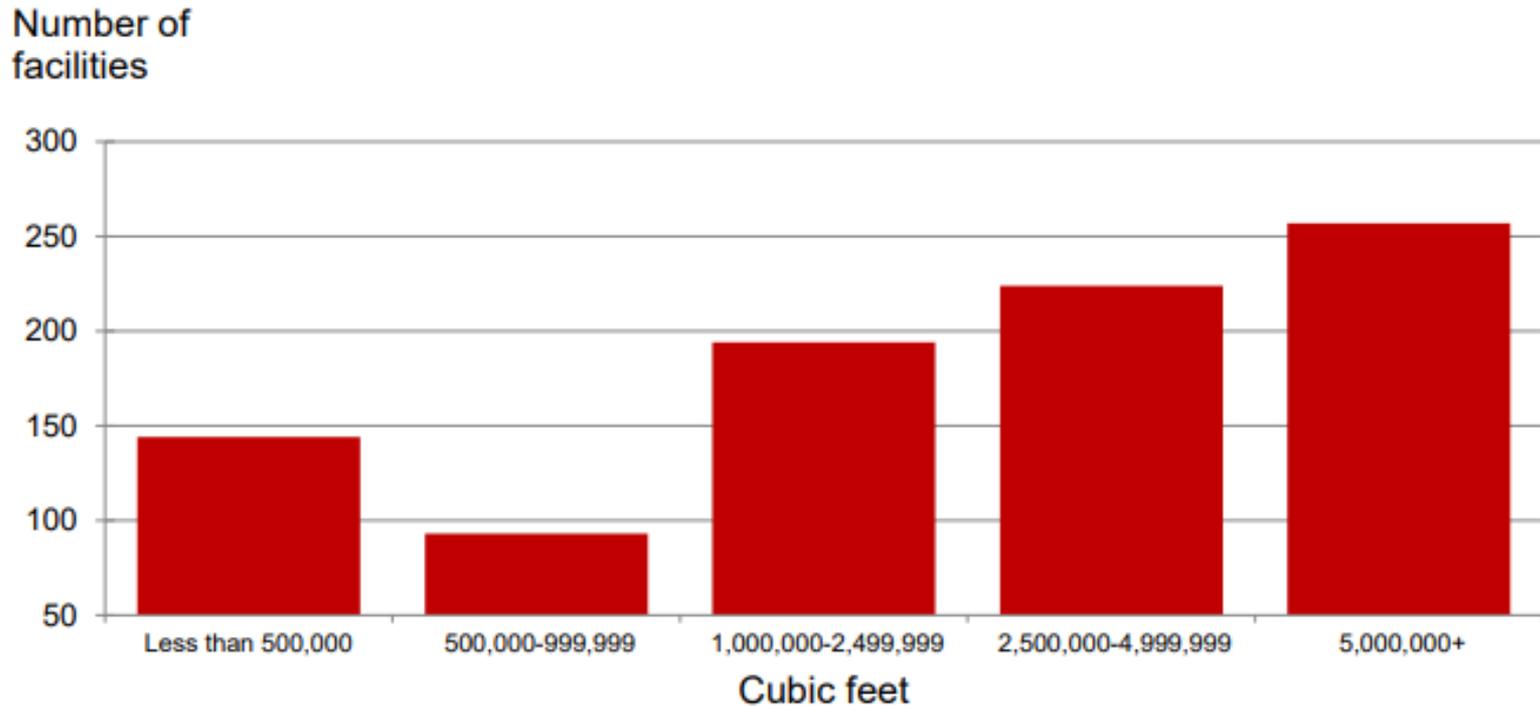
Survey Information

- Project Code: **160** – Cold Storage Survey
- Questionnaires:
 - Mailed around September 20
 - Online reporting available
- Release:
 - *Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses*
 - January 2022

Survey Changes

- Screening changes:
 - Text box added allowing the respondent to list contact info for new company if the facility has been sold
 - Text box added so respondent can specify what happened to the facility if it was used for a purpose other than refrigerated storage in 2021
- Question 3 added: Do you typically store food commodity for 30 days or more?
- Check box added to Item 4. asking if capacities in 2021 are unchanged from preprinted capacity from 2019

Number of Facilities – 912 Total By Size Group – US: October 1, 2019



Warehouses must meet the following criteria:

Artificially cool to at least 50° F or lower

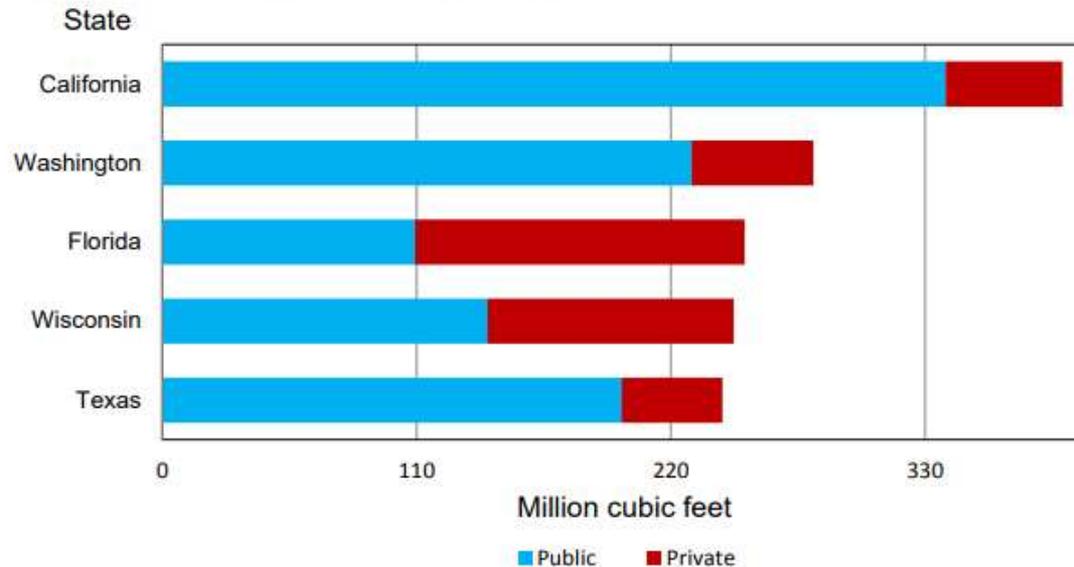
Normally store food products for 30 days or more

Store one of the 110 commodities reported in the Monthly Cold Storage report.

2019 Capacity

- Gross refrigerated capacity: 3.65 billion ft³
- Usable space: 81% of gross capacity (2.97 billion ft³)
- Top 5 states: CA, FL, TX, WA, WI
- Public capacity: 74% of total storage capacity

**Gross Refrigerated Space –
5 Largest States: October 1, 2019**



Survey Terms

- **Cooler space:** maintains between 0°F – 50° F
- **Freezer space:** maintains 0° F or lower
- **Convertible space:** freezer space that can be used as cooler space
- **Total Refrigerated Area:** Length x Width x Height
- **Usable refrigerated area:** actual area available for storing products. (total area less aisles, posts, etc.)

Screening

- Did this facility have **refrigerated space** in 2021?
If Yes or No:
 - Did you manage the facility location listed on page one?
 - If No, Has the facility location been sold or acquired by another firm?
 - If Yes, Please provide to whom the facility was sold or the name of the company that acquired the facility.
 - If No, Has the facility location been demolished?
 - If No, Was it vacant in 2021?
 - If No, Was this facility location used for a purpose other than refrigerated storage space?
 - » If Yes, Please specify what happened to the facility
 - » If No, Go to Item 6, Do you manage any other refrigerated storage facilities?
 - If Yes, List them

Screening Continued

- Do you typically store any food commodity for 30 days or more?

With relatively few refrigerated storage facilities nationwide it is important that we keep our list as current as possible.

Refrigerated Space:

- Asking about **total** and **usable** refrigerated space for 2021.
 - NOTE: 2019 data may be pre-printed on paper questionnaires if operator reported on last survey
- For each category (total and usable), distinction is made between **Cooler** and **Freezer** space.
 - a) Total refrigerated area (length x width x height)
 - Cooler
 - Freezer
 - b) Usable refrigerated area (actual area)
 - Cooler
 - Freezer

Type of Storage:

Classifying operation's type of storage space as one of three options:

- **Public Storage:**
 - For use by the general public
- **Semi-Private Storage:**
 - Partly for public use and partly for private use
 - If semi-private we will be asking for the % that is usually public space
- **Private Storage:**
 - For exclusive use by operator

Other Refrigerated Storage Facilities

- If they manage any other refrigerated storage facilities, record:
 - Building Name
 - Mailing Address
 - Contact Person
 - Phone Number

Reluctant Responses

“Why should I report this data to you?”

- Your data will be combined with other operators’ data to give an accurate assessment of the nation’s cold storage capacity.
- The numbers from this *Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses* report will be used by food processors, food brokers, farmers, and others to ensure they can make the most informed decisions relating to production and marketing demands for their operation.

Conclusion

- Record comments for any unusual circumstances
- Familiarize yourself with the questionnaire before starting work – practice!
- Have a good survey!