

STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK
HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS

(September 30, 1939)

Stocks of evaporated milk (case goods) held by wholesale grocers at the close of the quarter ending September 30, 1939, were more than double the stocks held at the close of the second quarter this year and also the third quarter last year. Stocks of condensed milk (case goods) also increased, but the increase was not as large proportionally as that for evaporated milk.

Reports to the Agricultural Marketing Service from 312 wholesale grocers showed that on September 30, this year, their combined stocks of evaporated milk (case goods) totaled 33,082,000 pounds compared with 16,027,000 pounds on June 30, an increase of 106 percent. These same firms also reported 580,000 pounds of condensed milk (case goods), on September 30, an increase of 9 percent over the 532,000 pounds held on June 30.

Reports from 330 wholesale houses showed combined stocks of 33,717,000 pounds of evaporated milk (case goods) on September 30, this year, compared with only 15,192,000 pounds on the same date last year. This is an increase of 122 percent. The same reports showed stocks of 599,436 pounds of condensed milk (case goods) this year compared with 376,000 pounds a year earlier, an increase of 59 percent.

Measured in terms of the number of days supply, the stocks of evaporated milk on September 30 were the equivalent of 45 days' supply, according to estimates made by 279 wholesale houses. This is an increase of 21 days' supply over the number of days' supply reported on June 30 this year. No comparable data are available for September 30, 1938, but as the volume of stocks reported this year was very much larger than those of last year, it is assumed that the number of days' supply was also much larger.

It is thought that the sharp increase in stocks of evaporated milk held by wholesale grocers as of September 30, has developed indirectly from the situation in Europe. For the first two quarters of 1939, the wholesale distributing stocks were below average, but with the opening of hostilities in Europe in late August and the rush to build up reserves of all kinds of products before any marked advance in prices should take place, orders were placed for large quantities of evaporated milk. Manufacturers had plenty of goods on hand and were able to make full deliveries of all orders without any delay. It is expected that the sharp increase in stocks of evaporated milk held by wholesale grocers on September 30 will be reflected by an equally sharp decrease in the stocks of evaporated milk held by manufacturers on the same date.

STOCKS REPORTED SEPTEMBER 30, 1939

	No. of firms reporting	Condensed Milk (pounds)	Evaporated Milk (pounds)
TOTAL - SEPT. 30, 1939	335	600,199	33,911,261
SEPT. 30, 1938	397	457,326	17,425,252
JUNE 30, 1939**	356	571,839	17,275,055
JUNE 30, 1938	381	496,052	15,797,736
COMBINED TOTALS -			
SEPT. 30, 1939	335	34,511,460 lbs.	
SEPT. 30, 1938	397	17,882,578 lbs.	
JUNE 30, 1939**	356	17,846,894 lbs.	
JUNE 30, 1938	381	16,293,788 lbs.	

**Revised figures include late reports.

COMPARISON FOR SAME FIRMS REPORTING DIFFERENT PERIODS
 (pounds)

330 Firms - Evap. milk - Sept. 30, 1939	33,716,965	312 Firms - Sept. 30, 1939	33,081,665
" Evap. milk - Sept. 30, 1938	15,192,254	" June 30, 1939	16,022,284
" Cond. milk - Sept. 30, 1939	599,436	" Sept. 30, 1939	580,337
" Cond. milk - Sept. 30, 1938	376,328	" June 30, 1939	532,458

279 firms reported an average of 45 days' supply.