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STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK
HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS
(December 31, 1940)

Reports to the Agricultural Marketing Service from 325 wholesale grocers indicate that on December 31, 1940, their combined stocks of evaporated milk (case goods) totaled 27,292,000 pounds. This quantity is estimated to have been the equivalent of 37 days' supply for that group based upon their prevailing rate of sales as of December 31.

Stocks of evaporated milk held by wholesale grocers at the end of 1940 were much larger than those of a year earlier. Reports from 354 wholesale grocers as of December 31, 1939 showed combined stocks of only 18,649,000 pounds on that date. That quantity was then estimated to have been sufficient to meet the prevailing requirements of the group reporting for 32 days. A comparison between the two periods indicates that the average daily sales of wholesale grocers at the end of 1940 was much larger than that on the same date a year earlier. This comparison, however, is probably influenced to some extent by the fact that shortly after the European war started in August 1939, many large users of evaporated milk stocked up rather heavily in anticipation of price increases, and when this anticipation was not fully realized, they began to draw upon the supplies accumulated during September, October, and November of that year.

Compared with stocks reported by wholesale grocers at the end of the third quarter of 1940 (September 30), the December 31 stocks were about 17 percent higher on a quantitative basis, but only about 3 percent higher when compared on the basis of the number of days' supply on such stocks represented on both dates. The stocks reported on September 30 were estimated to have been the equivalent of 36 days' supply compared with the equivalent of 37 days' supply three months later.

STOCKS REPORTED DECEMBER 31, 1940			
	No. of firms reporting	Condensed Milk (pounds)	Evaporated Milk (pounds)
TOTAL -- DEC. 31, 1940	325	333,056	27,291,703
DEC. 31, 1939	354	419,002	18,648,888
SEPT. 30, 1940**	345	397,806	23,334,637
SEPT. 30, 1939	348	636,602	34,418,742
COMBINED TOTALS --			
DEC. 31, 1940	325	27,624,759 lb.	
DEC. 31, 1939	354	19,067,890 lb.	
SEPT. 30, 1940**	345	23,732,443 lb.	
SEPT. 30, 1939	348	35,055,344 lb.	

**Revised figures include late reports.

COMPARISON FOR SAME FIRMS REPORTING DIFFERENT PERIODS
(Pounds)

306 Firms--Evap. Milk--Dec. 31, 1940--	26,678,921	309 Firms--Dec. 31, 1940 --	26,867,104
" " " Dec. 31, 1939--	18,384,571	" Sept. 30, 1940 --	23,015,739
" Cond. Milk--Dec. 31, 1940--	322,635	" Dec. 31, 1940 --	326,834
" " " Dec. 31, 1939--	415,122	" Sept. 30, 1940 --	391,384
304 firms reported an average of 37 days' supply --	Dec. 31, 1940		
289 " " " " " 32 " " --	Dec. 31, 1939 (Revised)		

January 22, 1941

Both the production and sales of evaporated milk during 1940 reached new highs. Total production for the year is estimated to have been around $2\frac{1}{2}$ billion pounds, an increase of between 14 and 15 percent over the production in 1939. Exports for 1940 were also large, totaling about 114,314,000 pounds for the first 11 months compared with 24,882,000 pounds during the same period a year earlier. Most of the evaporated milk exported in 1940 went to England.

Stocks of evaporated milk (case goods) held by manufacturers at the beginning of 1941 were approximately the same as those of a year earlier when they totaled around 186 million pounds. They were around 12 million pounds larger than the 5-year (1935-39) January 1 average, however.

TOTAL STOCKS ON DECEMBER 31, 1940 - 325 FIRMS

Class of Product	Net weight per can	Cans per case	Cases on Hand Dec. 31, 1940
Evaporated Milk (Unsweetened)	$1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	48	538,861
" " "	6 oz.	96	18,685
" " "	6 oz.	48	158,289
" " "	8 lbs.	6	6,860
Condensed Milk (Sweetened)	15 oz.	24	5,118
" " "	14 oz.	24	7,663
" " "	14 oz.	48	712
" " "	11 oz.	48	812
