

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK  
 HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS

(March 31, 1943)

Stocks of canned milk held by wholesale grocers, which were at an abnormally low level at the beginning of the year, had more than doubled during the 3-months period ended March 31. According to the reports of 309 firms to the United States Department of Agriculture, their stocks of unsweetened evaporated milk (case goods) totaled 34,393,000 pounds on March 31, 1943, compared with only 13,411,685 pounds on December 31, 1942. These same firms reported 518,563 pounds of sweetened condensed (case goods) on March 31, compared with 367,575 pounds 3 months earlier. Stocks of evaporated milk held by reporting wholesale grocers on March 31 were 51 percent larger than on that date last year while canned condensed stocks were down 31 percent.

During the first 3 months of this year, the Department of Agriculture released more than 139 million pounds of evaporated milk to commercial organizations for civilian use. It did not purchase any evaporated milk from manufacturers during this period. Manufacturers apparently have passed large quantities on to wholesalers because early reports from manufacturers indicate smaller supplies in their hands on April 1 than on January 1 this year despite an increased production and additional supplies purchased from the government.

The supplies of evaporated milk in the hands of wholesale grocers on March 31 were sufficient to meet their prevailing retail store demand for an average of 24 days, compared with only 16 days' supply at the beginning of the year and 29 days on March 31 a year ago.

STOCKS REPORTED MARCH 31, 1943

		Number of firms reporting	Condensed Milk (pounds)	Evaporated Milk (pounds)
TOTAL	MAR. 31, 1943	318	519,121	34,479,740
	MAR. 31, 1942	335	757,626	22,909,054
	DEC. 31, 1942*	333	369,056	13,689,894
	DEC. 31, 1941	330	474,987	28,413,391
COMBINED TOTALS -			(pounds)	
	MAR. 31, 1943	318	34,998,861	
	MAR. 31, 1942	335	23,666,680	
	DEC. 31, 1942	333	14,058,950	
	DEC. 31, 1941	330	28,888,378	

\*Revised figures include late reports.

COMPARISON FOR SAME FIRMS REPORTING DIFFERENT PERIODS

(Pounds)

302 Firms - Evap. Milk -	Mar. 31, 1943 -	34,321,282	309 Firms -	Mar. 31, 1943 -	34,393,007
" " "	Mar. 31, 1942 -	21,980,824	" "	Dec. 31, 1942 -	13,411,685
" " "	Cond. Milk Mar. 31, 1943 -	518,590	" "	Mar. 31, 1943 -	518,563
" " "	Mar. 31, 1942 -	738,230	" "	Dec. 31, 1942 -	367,575
284 firms reported an average of 24 days' supply -	Mar. 31, 1943				
323 " " " " " 29 " " -	Mar. 31, 1942 (Revised)				
291 " " " " " 16 " " -	Dec. 31, 1942				