

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
 Washington, D. C.

April 24, 1944.

STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK  
 HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS

(March 31, 1944)

Stocks of evaporated and condensed milk, canned goods, held by wholesale grocers on March 31, 1944, showed a sharp decrease from those held both on December 31, 1943, and March 31, 1943, according to reports to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Reports from 284 wholesalers reporting on March 31, this year, and three months earlier, showed combined stocks on March 31 of 19,384,190 pounds compared with 32,652,403 pounds on December 31. This is a decrease of 40.6 percent. Two hundred and eighty one wholesalers reporting for this year and last, showed 19,300,914 pounds on March 31 compared to 28,099,781 pounds a year earlier, or a decrease of 31.3 percent.

Measured in terms of number of days supply, 529 firms reporting had average stocks on March 31 that were the equivalent of 33 days supply, at the current rate of disappearance. The majority of reports indicated that some sort of self-imposed rationing program was being followed in order to assure equitable distribution to regular customers. As a result, stocks on March 31 this year were equivalent to 4 days more supply than stocks the same date last year, even though the number of pounds on hand was much smaller this year. During the first quarter of 1944, stocks of canned milk were reduced by the equivalent of 12 days supply while during the same period last year they increased by 13 days supply. During the second quarter of last year, the number of days supply more than doubled, while during the same period this year the change is likely to be no more than seasonal.

Stocks of condensed milk, canned goods, held by wholesale grocers on March 31, were also smaller than those of 3 months earlier and a year earlier. Compared with three months earlier, they were 24.6 percent less, and a year earlier, 13.1 percent less. Production of canned evaporated milk during January and February was about 2 percent less than a year earlier, and canned condensed milk 3 percent.

STOCKS REPORTED MARCH 31, 1944

|                       | Number of firms reporting | Condensed Milk (pounds) | Evaporated Milk (pounds) |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| TOTAL - MAR. 31, 1944 | 599                       | 636,852                 | 32,095,995               |
| MAR. 31, 1943         | 323                       | 514,385                 | 29,174,630               |
| DEC. 31, 1943*        | 312                       | 598,181                 | 33,012,790               |
| DEC. 31, 1942         | 333                       | 369,056                 | 13,689,894               |
| COMBINED TOTALS -     |                           |                         |                          |
| MAR. 31, 1944         | 599                       | 32,732,847              |                          |
| MAR. 31, 1943         | 323                       | 29,689,015              |                          |
| DEC. 31, 1943*        | 312                       | 33,610,971              |                          |
| DEC. 31, 1942         | 333                       | 14,058,950              |                          |

\* Revised figures include late reports.

COMPARISON FOR SAME FIRMS REPORTING DIFFERENT PERIODS

|           |  | (Pounds)                  |                           |            |
|-----------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 281 Firms | Evap. Milk - Mar. 31, 1944               | 19,300,914                | 284 Firms - Mar. 31, 1944 | 19,384,190 |
| "         | " " " " Mar. 31, 1943                    | 28,099,781                | " " " " Dec. 31, 1943     | 32,652,403 |
| "         | Cond. Milk Mar. 31, 1944                 | 439,169                   | " " " " Mar. 31, 1944     | 441,410    |
| "         | " " " " Mar. 31, 1943                    | 505,219                   | " " " " Dec. 31, 1943     | 585,402    |
| 529 firms | reported an average of 33 days' supply - | Mar. 31, 1944             |                           |            |
| 266       | " " " " " " 29 " "                       | - Mar. 31, 1943 (Revised) |                           |            |
| 265       | " " " " " " 45 " "                       | - Dec. 31, 1943           |                           |            |