

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS  
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STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK  
HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS

(March 31, 1945)

Stocks of canned milk held by wholesale grocers on March 31, 1945, were appreciably higher than at the beginning of the year, but were about one-fourth lower than on March 31, 1944, according to reports received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The 603 firms reporting holdings to the Bureau gave their March 31 stocks as 24 million pounds of evaporated milk, case goods, and 1/2 million pounds of sweetened condensed milk, case goods.

As compared with the same date a year ago, stocks of both evaporated and condensed milk were down sharply. The 594 firms reporting stocks for both dates showed 23.9 million pounds of evaporated milk on hand March 31, 1945, a decrease of 25 percent as compared with 32.0 million pounds for the same date of 1944. Stocks of condensed milk for comparable firms totaled 500 thousand pounds this year as compared with 664 thousand pounds on March 31 a year ago. As compared with three months earlier, stocks of evaporated milk held by 595 firms had increased from 20.1 million pounds to 24.0 million pounds, a gain of one-fifth. However, 473 firms indicated this supply would meet current demands for only 20 days as compared with an average of 21 days reported by 455 firms for December 31, 1944. The 20 days' supply of evaporated milk on hand March 31 was the lowest for the date in seven years for which data are available, but was somewhat more than the record low 16 days' supply reported held by wholesale grocers on December 31, 1942. Stocks of canned condensed milk held by comparable firms increased from 476 thousand pounds on December 31, 1944, to 499 thousand pounds on March 31, 1945, a gain of 5 percent.

Government purchases of both evaporated and condensed milk in the first quarter of 1945 were considerably heavier than in the last quarter of 1944. Production of evaporated milk in early months this year has been much greater than in those months of 1944; while condensed milk production has been somewhat lower than last year's high level.

STOCKS REPORTED MARCH 31, 1945

		Number of firms reporting	Condensed Milk (pounds)	Evaporated Milk (pounds)
TOTAL	MAR. 31, 1945	603	501,060	24,063,803
	MAR. 31, 1944	630	668,802	32,970,425
	DEC. 31, 1944*	613	482,974	20,228,689
	DEC. 31, 1943	312	598,181	33,012,790
COMBINED TOTALS -			-- pounds --	
	MAR. 31, 1945	603	24,564,863	
	MAR. 31, 1944	630	33,639,227	
	DEC. 31, 1944*	613	20,711,663	
	DEC. 31, 1943	312	33,610,971	

\* Revised figures include late reports.

COMPARISON FOR SAME FIRMS REPORTING DIFFERENT PERIODS

Firms	Milk	Period	Stocks (pounds)	Firms	Milk	Period	Stocks (pounds)
594	Evap.	Mar. 31, 1945	23,908,023	595	Evap.	Mar. 31, 1945	24,063,803
"	"	Mar. 31, 1944	31,969,526	"	"	Dec. 31, 1944	20,065,627
"	Cond.	Mar. 31, 1945	499,620	"	Cond.	Mar. 31, 1945	499,816
"	"	Mar. 31, 1944	663,717	"	"	Dec. 31, 1944	475,654

473 firms reported an average of 20 days' supply - March 31, 1945

552 firms reported an average of 34 days' supply - March 31, 1944 (revised)

455 firms reported an average of 21 days' supply - December 31, 1944