

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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STOCKS OF EVAPORATED AND CONDENSED MILK
HELD BY WHOLESALE GROCERS
(December 31, 1945)

Canned evaporated milk in the hands of wholesale grocers on December 31, 1945 was about average for that date, while stocks of canned condensed milk were considerably less, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. Although stocks of canned milk have risen from a year earlier, the rate of disappearance of those products from wholesale grocer's stocks during the last quarter of 1945 was double that of a year earlier.

Information obtained from 595 firms showed stocks of 29,970,000 pounds of evaporated case goods held on December 31, compared with 20,229,000 pounds on that date in 1944. The stocks of 171,000 pounds of canned condensed milk (sweetened) held by the same wholesale grocers, however, were much lower than the 483,000 pounds on hand at the end of 1944. Total stocks of both canned evaporated and canned condensed milk held by wholesalers were 30,141,000 pounds on December 31, 1945, whereas stocks of the same group were 20,712,000 pounds a year earlier. Comparisons based on reports from 578 firms show a 51 percent gain in stocks from December 31, 1944. The same firms reported a decline of 64 percent in their stocks of canned condensed (sweetened) milk during the same period.

Stocks of both evaporated and condensed milk dropped sharply from September to December 1945. Reports from 576 wholesale grocer firms reporting for both dates showed stocks of evaporated milk of 29,472,000 pounds in December and 51,389,000 pounds in September, or a decline of 43 percent. These firms likewise reported a decrease of 59 percent in their stocks of canned condensed milk (sweetened) - 168,000 pounds in December, compared with 412,000 pounds in September.

On the basis of the current rate of sales, wholesale grocers estimated that their stocks on December 31, 1945 were sufficient for 27 days supply, compared with 21 days a year earlier and with 43 days on September 30, 1945. The demand for the canned products is apparently somewhat higher this year than last.

STOCKS OF CANNED MILK REPORTED QUARTERLY BY WHOLESALE GROCERS

Quarter Ending	Number of firms	Evaporated Milk		Condensed milk	Total evaporated and condensed milk
		Thousand pounds	Days' supply 1/		
Dec. 31, 1945	595	29,970	27	171	30,141
Sept. 30, 1945 2/	603	52,584	43	424	53,008
June 30, 1945	621	35,302	32	419	35,721
March 31, 1945	613	24,257	20	502	24,759
Dec. 31, 1944	613	20,229	21	483	20,712

1/ Slightly over three-fourths of the firms reporting, estimate the number of days their stocks would last at prevailing rate of sales. The number of "days' supply" represent the weighted average of those estimates.

2/ Revised to include late reports.

STOCKS OF CANNED MILK HELD BY SAME FIRMS ON CORRESPONDING DATES

	Number of firms	December 31		Change in 1945 from 1944	Number of firms	Dec. 31 1945	Sept. 30 1945	Change in Dec. 1945 from Sept. 1945
		1945	1944					
		Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Percent	Thousand pounds	Percent		
Evaporated milk	578	29,660	19,608	+51	576	29,472	51,389	-43
Condensed milk	578	168	458	-64	576	168	412	-59