

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION OF OILS

A valuable statistical bulletin covering Animal and Vegetable Fats and Oils has just been published by the Bureau of the Census. The bulletin contains statistics relating to factory production, factory consumption and factory warehouse stocks for the years 1924 and 1925. Three general classes of factories were canvassed to secure the data: (1) The producers of animal and vegetable fats and oils, including expressers, extractors, renderers, and reclaimers; (2) the consumers of fats and oils in the production of other fat and oil products, or products of which fats or oils form a constituent part, embracing primarily refiners, mixers, compounders and the like, and secondarily manufacturers of varnish, soap, oilcloth, linoleum, etc.; and (3) manufacturers of tin plate, textiles, and leather, which do not themselves contain or retain any considerable portion of the fats and oils used as agents in their manufacture.

The figures of the report are too many and too detailed to be reproduced here; but readers can secure the full survey for 5 cents a copy by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Concerning vegetable oils, edible animal fats and fish oils, the following brief statements will be of interest:

Vegetable Oils

The total supply of vegetable oils in the United States, made up of factory and warehouse stocks at the beginning of the year and production and imports during the year, no account being taken of the stocks in the possession of householders and certain classes of tradesmen and dealers, aggregated 3,984 millions of pounds in 1925, as compared with 3,372 million in 1924. The amount exported plus the amount carried over at the end of the year was 727 million in 1925 and 692 million in 1924, leaving for a potential consumption 3,257 million in 1925 and 2,680 million in 1924. During these years the net factory consumption, arrived at by deducting the total of refined oils produced from the total consumption of all kinds was 2,491 million in 1925 and 1,951 million in 1924, indicating an actual movement toward home and local trade consumption of 766 million pounds in 1925 and 729 million in 1924. Of these amounts, linseed oil, edible olive oil, and the refined cottonseed and corn oils constitute almost the total.

Edible Animal Fats

The total supply of edible animal fats, exclusive of oleo stock, for which no data were collected, and not counting the production or stocks of householders, local butchers, meat markets, and wholesale and retail dealers, was 1,670 millions of pounds in 1925 and 2,107 million in 1924.

The total of exports during the year and stocks carried over at the end of the year was 757 million in 1925 and 1,038 million in 1924. The factory consumption in the manufacture principally of lard and butter substitutes for the two years was 79 million and 85 million, respectively, indicating a domestic trade absorption of 834 million in 1925 and 984 million in 1924. Against this decrease of 150 million pounds in the household consumption of edible animal fats, an increase of 321 million pounds in the analysis of the supply and distribution of the commodities falling under that classification.

Fish Oils

The total supply of fish oils for the year 1925 appears to be 233 million pounds compared with 180 million for 1924, the increase of 53 million pounds being made up of 2 million in stocks carried over, 32 million in production and 19 million in imports. There was an increase of 38 million pounds in the consumption of those manufacturing establishments covered by the scope of this inquiry and of 11 million pounds in factory and warehouse stocks. The movement toward other consumption was 19 million pounds in 1925 and 15 million in 1924. This other consumption is made up principally of refined cod-liver, menhaden, and sardine oils, the first for medicinal purposes and the last two by the paint trade for mixing and thinning purposes.