

Census Summary of Fats and Oils, 1930

Year Marked by Lessened Production and Imports,
Heavier Stocks, and Consumption at Practical Standstill

THE Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, has issued its annual summary of the production, consumption, imports, exports and stocks of animal and vegetable fats and oils, including fish oils and marine animal oils. The report is embodied in a bulletin of the Bureau, on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at five cents per copy. The entire summarized report, excluding the detailed tables, is as follows:

THE statistics in this report relate to factory production, factory consumption, and factory and warehouse stocks. Three general classes of factories are canvassed for 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 products do not themselves contain or retain any considerable portion of the fats and oils used as agents in their manufacture.

The scope of these statistics might be further defined by describing it in a negative way. The figures of production do not include those considerable quantities of lard, tallow, and grease produced in the households, on the farms, and by the smaller local butcheries and meat markets. The figures of consumption do not include the quantities used either for culinary purposes by households, hotels, and bakeries, or by local painters, contractors, etc., or for lubrication purposes of any kind. The figures of stocks do not include any in the hands of householders, local tradesmen, retailers, wholesalers, or jobbers, except such as may be held in public warehouses. However, because importers and exporters sometimes hold considerable quantities of these com-

modities, data as to stocks are collected from that class of dealers.

The limitations of the statistics as indicated above must be borne in mind in any analysis of them. In addition, consideration should be given to the fact that the schedule used in collecting the data carries more than 60 items, some of which are so closely related in nature and use as to lead to some confusion of terms by those furnishing the data. A striking illustration of this condition is found in "Tankage grease." It seems to be the practice of most producers of grease to report under this heading all the production from certain classes of materials by whatever process obtained, and it is evident from the small amount of this grease reported as consumed that those who purchase it for consumption classify it specially as inedible tallow, yellow grease, brown grease, or merely grease. The production of bone grease also is much larger than the consumption reported, indicating that it is probably classified as tallow or yellow grease by consumers. There is doubtless some confusion also between hydrogenated oils and vegetable stearin; between the crude and the refined of any of the oils for which data for both kinds are asked; and between neutral and other edible lard.

Another factor operating to affect the statistics is the practice of some establishments of furnishing data for only the final products of rapidly successive processes of manufacture. This is due probably to the difficulty of determining accurately the quantities of the intermediate products made and consumed in a practically continuous process. Consequently, the figures for production and consumption of such commodities as vegetable oil foots, fatty acids, acidulated soap stocks, and, to some extent, other intermediate products fall short of the facts. But as they do represent in a qualified sense a net production and consumption during the periods covered they carry a certain statistical value. In this connection it should be stated that the figures for production

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of crude glycerin presumably represent the entire primary production of glycerin in this country. Those producers of crude glycerin who also do refining furnish sufficient data to make this possible. It is probable, therefore, that the production figures of chemically pure glycerin are also complete, but it is possible that the figures for the production and consumption of dynamite glycerin are somewhat below the facts for the reason stated at the beginning of this paragraph.

Table 1 is an index of the supply and distribution of three general classes of fats and oils as a whole. The quantities are shown in millions of pounds and the balancing item under the caption "Other consumption" represents the quantities used in homes, hotels, etc., and that consumed by the trades and those classes of factories not included in the scope of this inquiry as set forth in paragraphs one and two of the introduction.

TABLE 1.—SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE FATS AND OILS FOR THE CALENDAR YEARS 1928 TO 1930

	—Vegetable Oils—			—Edible Animal Fats ¹ —			—Fish Oils—		
	1930	1929	1928	1930	1929	1928	1930	1929	1928
Supply									
Total	4,810	5,077	4,660	1,721	1,985	1,965	396	342	316
Stocks at beginning of year	1,074	969	1,105	77	82	57	118	91	96
Primary factory production	2,719	2,951	2,736	1,643	1,901	1,894	111	116	86
Imports	1,017	1,157	819	1	2	14	167	135	134
Distribution									
Total	4,810	5,077	4,660	1,721	1,985	1,965	396	342	316
Stocks at end of year	1,105	1,074	969	50	77	82	198	118	91
Exports	76	90	115	662	852	787	2	1	2
Potential consumption ²	3,629	3,913	3,576	1,009	1,056	1,096	196	223	223
Factory consumption ³	2,960	3,077	2,864	68	74	74	165	188	206
Other consumption ⁴	669	836	712	941	982	1,022	31	35	17

¹ Does not include oleo stock, for which no data were collected.

² Total supply minus exports during year and stocks at end of year.

³ Amount of refined vegetable oils produced was deducted from total factory consumption of all kinds.

⁴ Potential consumption minus factory consumption.

Vegetable Oils

SUPPLY.—The total supply of vegetable oils in 1930 was 4,810 million pounds as compared with 5,077 million pounds in 1929 and 4,660 million in 1928. The year 1930 started with 105 million pounds more stocks than 1929 and 31 million less than 1928. The production in 1930, however, was 232 million less than in 1929 and 17 million less than in 1928, while the imports during 1930 were 140 million less than during 1929 but 198 million more than during 1928.

Although the total primary factory production of vegetable oils in 1930 shows a loss of 232 million pounds as compared with the production in 1929 only three of the individual oils contributed to the decrease. Linseed oil shows a loss of 247 million; castor oil, 29 million; and corn oil, 13 million, a total of 289 million. Against these losses cottonseed oil showed a gain of 32 million; peanut oil, 9 million; soybean oil, 3 million; olive and palm-kernel oils, 1 million each, and "Other vegetable oils" 11 million, a total of 57 million. To the total production, "Other vegetable oils," 23,716,896 pounds, sesame oil contributed 21,993,134 pounds. So striking has been the increased activity in the production of this oil that, in the future, separate statistics will be shown for it in the regular quarterly reports.

Of the 140 million decrease in total imports of vegetable oils in 1930, as compared with

1929, sesame oils shows a loss of 11 million, which equals practically its increase in production. Four oils show a gross increase of 61 million pounds, viz, palm oil, 26 million; sulphur olive oil, 17 million; peanut oil, 12 million; and China wood oil, 6 million. The greater part of the peanut oil imported was either exported to Canada or held for export at the end of the year. The gross decrease in imports was 201 million pounds which, in addition to the 11 million shown by sesame oil, was distributed as follows: Coconut oil, 94 million; palm kernel, 31 million; soybean, 11 million; linseed oil, 8 million; edible olive oil and vegetable tallow, 4 million each; rapeseed oil and inedible olive oil, 3 million each; vegetable wax, 2 million; and miscellaneous vegetable oils not specified, 30 million.

Distribution.—By the end of 1930 total stocks of vegetable oils as a whole showed an increase of 31 million pounds over the beginning of the year, exports a decrease of 14 million pounds as compared with 1929, and potential consumption, arrived at by deduction, a decrease of 284 million. The factory consumption for the year as reported by those establishments within the scope of this inquiry was 2,960 million pounds, compared with 3,077 million in 1929 and 2,864 million in 1928. The balancing item under the caption "Other consumption" really represents the trade move-

ment toward those consumers not canvassed as stated in the introduction. This figure was 669 million for 1930, 836 million for 1929, and 712 million for 1928.

Edible Animal Fats

THE total supply of edible animal fats exclusive of oleo stock and the production and stocks of householders, bakers, meat markets, and wholesale and retail dealers, for which no data were collected, was 1,721 million pounds in 1930, 1,985 million in 1929, and 1,965 in 1928. Deducting from these amounts the sum of the stocks held over and the exports for each year, the potential consumption for 1930, 1929, and 1928 is respectively 1,009 million, 1,056 million, and 1,096 million. The reported factory consumption, used principally in the manufacture of lard and butter substitutes, was 68 million pounds in 1930 and 74 million in both 1929 and 1928, indicating a domestic trade absorption of 941 millions in 1930, 982 millions in 1929, and 1,022 millions in 1928. To arrive at a conception of the enormous quantities of factory produced animal and vegetable fats and oils consumed yearly by the American people for culinary purposes, the domestic consumption of lard substitutes should also be considered. An analysis of the supply and distribution of the commodities falling under this designation indicates that the consumption in 1930 was 1,206 million pounds as compared with 1,208 million in 1929 and 1,134 million in 1928.

Fish Oils

THE total supply of fish and marine animal oils in 1930 was 396 million pounds, a gain of 54 million over 1929 and 80 million over 1928. All items of supply were much heavier in 1930 than in either of the other two years shown in the table with the exception of production in 1929 which was 5 million pounds more than in 1930.

Of the 167 million pounds of these oils imported in 1930 whale oil, cod oil, and cod-liver oil represented almost 112 million. The remaining 55 million designated merely as "Other fish oils" includes almost 29 million "Herring, menhaden, sod oils" leaving over 26 million unclassified. This condition makes it impossible to determine the actual supply of the individual oils listed in Tables 2 and 3.

The total stock of fish oils at the end of 1930 was 198 million pounds, which is larger than the carry over from 1929 by 80 million, and from 1928 by 107 million. The indicated domestic consumption during 1930 was 196 million pounds as compared with 223 million for both 1929 and 1928.

Form Whale Oil Sales Combine

Surplus whale oil production for the 1930-31 season which estimates at Oslo place at 770,000 barrels according to Commercial Attache Lund at that city, will be sold through a newly formed syndicate so that this large quantity of oil will not be thrown on the market with depressing effect. The oil is in storage in Norway. England, Holland, and some in Hamburg. The large whaling companies who own the oil have formed the sales combine which will have offices located at Tonsberg, Norway, in charge of a Mr. Krogh-Hansen. It is hoped in this way to market the oil gradually at a reasonable price.

Ceylon Coconut Industry

Coconut products in Ceylon are going through the same depression that all other industries are experiencing. Shipment figures on copra, coconut oil, and coconuts are on an average about 5 per cent higher than for the first three months of last year, but prices all around hardly cover the cost of production and the strictest economy is being carried on on all estates. No new land is being opened up for coconuts at the present, and the estates have either considerably curtailed or stopped entirely their manuring programs.

Shipments of copra to the North Continental ports have not been great, the chief buyers appearing to be Trieste and Scandinavia.

The Vegetable Oil Products Company, Los Angeles, Calif., has appointed the Murray Oil Products Company, 17 Battery Place, New York, as its exclusive representative in the metropolitan district of this city and the city of Philadelphia. The company produces a complete line of waterwhite and yellow sesame oils.

A report from the Suva Consulate, Fiji, gives exports of copra for the year 1930 as 23,882 tons valued at \$1,998,288 as compared with 33,226 tons valued at \$2,744,599 exported during 1929.

Burma has the largest acreage sown to sesame, 1,291,000 acres with an estimated production of 75,000 tons during the 1930-31 season. United Provinces is next with an acreage of 1,103,000 acres and an estimated production of 112,000 tons. Madras third with acreage totaling 734,000 acres and production of 95,000 tons.