

Cleaning, dyeing, pressing, and repair of garments. Trade association data indicate that cleaning and dyeing establishments transact on a charge-account basis a substantial proportion of their business—perhaps as much as one-fifth of the total. Year-end estimates for credit outstanding were derived from these data and from the annual estimates of consumption expenditures for cleaning and dyeing from the Department of Commerce. Monthly estimates between year-end points are based on changes in the Department of Labor's monthly data on employment and earnings in cleaning and dyeing establishments.

Automobile repair services. Service credit for automobile repairs includes only the amount outstanding at service garages. Credit for automobile repairs that is carried on the books of automobile dealers and other retailers is included in the consumer credit series either in instalment credit on other consumer goods or in charge accounts outstanding.

In making estimates for this sector, it was assumed that the relationship of year-end re-

ceivables to consumer expenditures in service garages (derived from the Department of Commerce data) would be the same as that shown by charge accounts at automobile tire and accessory stores. Interpolation between year-end benchmarks and extrapolation from the latest year-end figures make use of the seasonal pattern for charge accounts of automobile tire and accessory stores in deriving end-of-month estimates.

Other services. Remaining services involving some consumer credit but for which no benchmark or monthly credit data are available include radio, television, and other household repair services; accessory and jewelry repair; and dressmaking (not in shops). Credit for these services, which account for no more than 1 per cent of all service credit, is estimated by assuming that one-tenth of the Department of Commerce figures for annual expenditures are made on a 30-day credit basis. The straight-line method of interpolation is used between year-end points.

SPECIAL ADJUSTMENTS

SEASONAL AND RELATED ADJUSTMENTS

The monthly amounts of instalment credit extended and repaid reflect various seasonal influences, for the most part closely related to the expenditure patterns for the commodities associated with each type of credit.

Automobile instalment credit extended, for example, tends to increase during the spring, with the seasonal expansion in automobile sales. After some decline during the summer, it tends to rise again in the fall when most new models are introduced. Seasonal variations in automobile credit extended have been somewhat less in recent years than before World War II.

Two other types of instalment credit ex-

tended also tend to rise and fall twice during the year. This is particularly true of non-automotive consumer goods paper, which shows wider seasonal variations than other segments. This type of credit has its first seasonal peak late in the spring. From this point it usually declines somewhat in the summer months and then gradually increases during the remainder of the year. It reaches its highest point with the Christmas peak in retail sales.

Extensions of personal loans tend to expand from a comparatively low level in January and February to a high point around the middle of the year. The increase during this period is accelerated temporarily in the spring by an expansion in loans to pay income taxes. Ex-