

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

October 29, 1942
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RETAIL FURNITURE REPORT FOR AUGUST 1942

Retail furniture store sales showed somewhat less than the usual marked seasonal rise from July to August. Both instalment and charge-account sales showed smaller increases than are usual. Cash sales were larger in August than in the same month last year and charge-account sales were about the same, while instalment sales were considerably smaller. Instalment sales, however, as shown in the table on page 2, still comprise the major portion of total sales.

Inventories showed little change from July to August but continued substantially above the year ago level. The ratios of inventories at retail value to current month's sales is almost double that for August 1941.

Accounts receivable declined further, as shown in the table on the back of this sheet, and by the end of August were 28 per cent below the corresponding period of 1941. Collections in August were slightly larger than in July, reflecting increased collections on instalment accounts.

Sales and Inventories for August 1942

Federal Reserve District	Total net sales		Cash sales		Credit sales		Inventories, end of month (at retail value)	
	Percentage change from		Percentage change from		Percentage change from		Percentage change from	
	Aug. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1941	July 1942
	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942
Boston	-30	+33	+12	*	-34	+50	+27	-4
New York	-31	+26	+13	+28	-39	+27	+34	0
Philadelphia	-31	+27	+34	+21	-35	+26	+32	-2
Cleveland	-34	+27	+47	+19	-39	+27	+62	-1
Richmond	-32	+27	+34	+17	-37	+29	+28	0
Atlanta	-44	+19	+66	+10	-48	+22	+28	0
Chicago	-17	+17	+35	+ 5	-28	+22	+30	0
St. Louis	-28	+17	+54	+22	-34	+18	+18	+4
Minneapolis	-28	+30	+54	+21	-35	+34	+30	-2
Kansas City	-17	+20	+51	+24	-23	+19	+35	0
Dallas	-37	+11	+54	+13	-41	+12	+28	-1
San Francisco	- 8	+11	+52	+20	-20	+10	+40	-3
U. S. Total	-28	+20	+39	+16	-35	+22	+35	-1
Number of stores reporting	951	955	736	788	736	788	607	649

* Not shown separately but included in United States total.
Note: Figures shown are preliminary and subject to revision.

Total Net Sales by Type of Transaction
Per cent of total

Type of transaction	August 1942	August 1941
Cash sales	16	8
Instalment sales	70	82
Other credit sales	14	10
Total net sales	100	100

Retail Furniture Store Credit, August 1942

Federal Reserve District	Total accounts receivable, end of month		Instalment accounts receivable, end of month		Total collections during month		Instalment collections during month	
	Percentage change from		Percentage change from		Percentage change from		Percentage change from	
	Aug. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1941	July 1942	Aug. 1941	July 1942
Boston	-23	-4	-21	-2	+9	+2	+7	+10
New York	-25	-5	-25	-6	+1	0	+3	+4
Philadelphia	-25	-5	-24	-5	+6	+8	+10	+7
Cleveland	-29	-5	-29	-7	+7	+1	+6	+1
Richmond	-32	-5	-32	-4	+6	+4	+8	+5
Atlanta	-29	-3	-28	-3	+11	0	+11	+1
Chicago	-29	-5	-29	-5	+3	+1	0	+2
St. Louis	-32	-5	-31	-6	+10	+1	+15	+2
Minneapolis	-29	-6	-29	-6	+6	+1	+8	+1
Kansas City	-28	-4	-29	-5	+11	-1	+16	+3
Dallas	-30	-4	-30	-5	+12	-1	+20	+4
San Francisco	-25	-3	-23	-4	+12	+1	+31	+6
U. S. Total	-28	-5	-27	-5	+7	+1	+9	+4
Number of stores reporting	798	868	441	488	798	868	441	488

Note: Figures shown are preliminary and subject to revision.

"Retail Furniture Report", Sept. 1942 is missing. Not available for
filming.