

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.16

October 3, 1946

RETAIL FURNITURE REPORT FOR AUGUST 1946

Retail furniture store sales increased 10 per cent from July to August, reflecting similar gains in both cash and credit transactions. Instalment sales exceeded the volume of a year ago by nearly three-fifths, while cash and charge-account sales showed more marked increases.

Inventories were built up further, and on August 31 were 41 per cent above the year-ago level. At the end of August they amounted to about three and one-half months' supply at the current rate of sale, compared with about four and one-half months' supply on the corresponding date of 1945.

Instalment accounts receivable rose slightly in August, and at the end of the month were 23 per cent larger than a year earlier. Collections on instalment accounts continued to increase, and the ratio of collections during the month to accounts outstanding on the first of the month was 27 per cent. The repayment period for these accounts was approximately six and one-half months, about one month shorter than in August last year.

Furniture Store Statistics for August 1946

	Percentage change from:	
	July 1946 to August 1946	August 1945 to August 1946
Net sales		
Total	+10	+70
Cash sales	+10	+88
Credit sales: Instalment	+11	+58
Charge account	+10	+74
Accounts receivable, at end of month		
Total	+ 3	+31
Instalment	+ 2	+29
Collections during month		
Total	+ 4	+47
Instalment	+ 4	+43
Inventories, end of month, at retail value	+ 6	+41

Note.—These figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

RETAIL FURNITURE STORES - AUGUST 1946*

Sales and Inventories

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change							
	Total net sales		Cash sales		Credit sales		Inventories end of month ^{1/}	
	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46
	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
Boston	+14	+55	+ 5	+67	+16	+65	+17	+53
New York	+20	+83	+16	+122	+22	+72	+ 6	+53
Philadelphia	+ 2	+58	+ 4	+51	+ 1	+47	+ 8	+31
Cleveland	+ 9	+76	+ 4	+81	+ 9	+73	+ 7	+47
Richmond	+ 9	+70	+ 4	+76	+ 9	+69	+ 9	+53
Atlanta	+14	+73	+18	+96	+14	+69	+ 8	+41
Chicago	+ 9	+78	+13	+103	+13	+80	+ 7	+27
St. Louis	+ 9	+53	+11	+87	+ 4	+41	+ 9	+58
Minneapolis	+ 7	+78	+ 4	+94	+ 8	+72	+ 5	+47
Kansas City	+14	+85	+17	+104	+12	+77	+ 8	+51
Dallas	0	+47	- 7	+48	+ 1	+47	+12	+56
San Francisco	+ 7	+57	+11	+56	+ 5	+58	- 6	+22
U. S. Total	+10	+70	+10	+88	+11	+66	+ 6	+1
Number of stores	742	742	610	610	610	610	521	521

^{1/} At retail value.

Accounts Receivable and Collections

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change							
	Accounts receivable, end of month				Collections during month			
	Total		Instalment		Total		Instalment	
	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46	July '46 to Aug. '46	Aug. '45 to Aug. '46
Boston	+ 3	+27	+ 3	+32	- 7	+50	- 8	+29
New York	+ 2	+31	+ 2	+28	+ 2	+15	+ 3	+43
Philadelphia	- 1	+25	0	+37	+ 3	+29	+ 3	+46
Cleveland	+ 2	+31	+ 1	+23	+ 4	+50	- 1	+26
Richmond	+ 2	+35	+ 5	+36	+ 3	+46	+ 2	+50
Atlanta	+ 3	+32	+ 1	+23	+ 6	+48	+ 7	+38
Chicago	+ 4	+33	+ 3	+59	+10	+51	+28	+53
St. Louis	+ 3	+21	+ 4	+20	+ 3	+16	+13	+40
Minneapolis	+ 1	+48	+ 2	+37	+ 8	+71	+ 6	+60
Kansas City	+ 6	+44	+ 6	+29	- 2	+60	+ 8	+76
Dallas	+ 3	+27	+ 2	+27	- 4	+34	- 1	+32
San Francisco	+ 7	+31	+ 4	+46	+ 9	+48	- 4	+42
U. S. Total	+ 3	+31	+ 2	+29	+ 4	+47	+ 4	+43
Number of stores	696	696	243	243	696	696	243	243

August 1946 figures are preliminary and subject to revision.