

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.16

July 9, 1952

## RETAIL FURNITURE REPORT FOR MAY 1952

Total sales of furniture stores increased sharply in May, reflecting increases in all types of sales. The largest increase, 27 per cent, occurred in instalment sales, while cash and charge-account sales increased 17 per cent and 11 per cent, respectively. Instalment sales were also up sharply from a year ago, but cash and charge-account sales were moderately below May of last year.

Instalment accounts outstanding increased 3 per cent from April to May, and at the month-end were 5 per cent above the level of a year ago. Collections on instalment accounts increased 8 per cent in May, but were practically unchanged from May 1951.

The retail value of inventories dropped 3 per cent during May, reducing month-end stocks to a level 16 per cent below that of a year ago. At the current rate of sales, merchandise on hand is equivalent to approximately 4 months' supply.

## Furniture Store Statistics for May 1952

Item	Percentage change from:	
	Apr. 1952 to May 1952	May 1952 to Apr. 1952
Net sales		
Total	+23	+14
Cash sales	+17	- 5
Credit sales: Instalment	+27	+26
Charge account	+11	- 7
Accounts receivable, at end of month		
Total	+ 4	+ 4
Instalment	+ 3	+ 5
Collections during month		
Total	+ 5	- 3
Instalment	+ 8	+ 1
Inventories, end of month, at retail value	- 3	-16

NOTE:--These figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

## RETAIL FURNITURE STORES - MAY 1952\*

## Sales and Inventories

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change							
	Total net sales		Cash sales		Credit sales		Inventories end of month <sup>1/</sup>	
	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52
	May '52	May '52	May '52	May '52	May '52	May '52	May '52	May '52
Boston	+35	+19	+42	+ 1	+35	+21	- 5	-12
New York	+19	+16	+19	- 3	+21	+21	- 3	-15
Philadelphia	+32	+13	+35	+ 5	+32	+16	- 6	-17
Cleveland	+23	+11	+20	- 7	+23	+13	- 7	-15
Richmond	+25	+20	+34	+28	+24	+18	- 4	- 4
Atlanta	+33	+45	+19	- 9	+42	+57	- 5	- 9
Chicago	+22	+ 7	+15	- 7	+27	+17	- 2	-16
St. Louis	+20	+19	+13	-13	+29	+34	- 5	-22
Minneapolis	+25	+10	+13	-12	+27	+16	- 7	-19
Kansas City	+18	+ 9	+11	- 8	+20	+12	- 1	-20
Dallas	+38	+31	+29	+ 6	+41	+32	0	-17
San Francisco	+16	+ 3	+ 9	-10	+16	+ 6	- 2	-17
U. S. Total	+23	+14	+17	- 5	+26	+20	- 3	-16
Number of stores	688	688	564	564	564	564	514	514

<sup>1/</sup> At retail value.

## Accounts Receivable and Collections

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change							
	Accounts receivable, end of month				Collections during month			
	Total		Instalment		Total		Instalment	
	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52	Apr. '52 to May '51	May '51 to May '52
Boston	+ 5	+ 3	+ 3	+10	+12	- 4	+11	+ 1
New York	+1	+4	+1	+4	+ 6	0	+ 6	+ 1
Philadelphia	+4	+ 6	+ 3	+ 7	+19	+ 8	+27	+18
Cleveland	+4	+4	+ 6	+ 2	+ 8	- 2	+ 5	- 7
Richmond	+ 3	+ 6	+ 4	+11	+ 8	- 2	+ 8	- 3
Atlanta	+ 8	+24	+ 6	+12	+ 7	+12	+ 4	+ 3
Chicago	+ 2	- 1	+ 3	+ 3	+ 5	- 6	+ 9	- 7
St. Louis	+ 5	+ 1	+ 5	+ 6	+ 1	- 4	+ 8	0
Minneapolis	+ 4	- 4	+ 4	- 1	+10	-10	+13	- 7
Kansas City	+ 5	- 3	+ 4	- 1	0	-12	+ 5	+10
Dallas	+ 6	+ 5	+ 8	+ 9	+ 7	0	0	+ 2
San Francisco	+ 4	- 2	- 1	+ 4	0	-10	+10	- 4
U. S. Total	+ 4	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	+ 5	- 3	+ 8	+ 1
Number of stores	634	634	214	214	634	634	214	214

\* May 1952 figures are preliminary and subject to revision.