

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.16

November 5, 1952

RETAIL FURNITURE REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 1952

Total sales at furniture stores during September were unchanged from the preceding month. Decreases in cash and charge-account sales of 2 per cent and 4 per cent, respectively, were offset by an increase of 3 per cent in instalment sales. Compared with a year ago, however, total sales were up 9 per cent, reflecting a substantial gain in instalment sales; cash sales were unchanged from a year ago, while charge-account sales were down 3 per cent.

Instalment accounts receivable increased 2 per cent during September, and at the month-end were 16 per cent above a year ago. Collections on these accounts during the month were 2 per cent above both the preceding month and a year ago.

The retail value of inventories increased 3 per cent during September, a month during which some increase is usual. Month-end stocks, however, continued moderately below a year ago. At the current rate of sales, merchandise on hand amounted to about a 4 month's supply.

Furniture Store Statistics for September 1952

Item	Percentage change from:	
	Aug. 1952	Sept. 1951
	to Sept. 1952	to Sept. 1952
Net sales		
Total	0	+ 8
Cash sales	- 2	0
Credit sales: Instalment	+ 3	+14
Charge account	- 4	- 3
Accounts receivable, at end of month		
Total	+ 2	+16
Instalment	+ 2	+16
Collections during month		
Total	+ 2	+ 2
Instalment	+ 2	+ 2
Inventories, end of month, at retail value	+ 3	- 7

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

RETAIL FURNITURE STORES - SEPTEMBER 1952*

Sales and Inventories

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change							
	Total net sales		Cash sales		Credit sales		Inventories end of month 1/	
	Aug.'52	Sept.'51	Aug.'52	Sept.'51	Aug.'52	Sept.'51	Aug.'52	Sept.'51
	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52
Boston	-10	+ 3	-12	+ 6	-10	+ 3	+ 3	- 1
New York	+17	+10	+17	- 7	+18	+17	+ 4	- 4
Philadelphia	+ 2	+ 4	-16	- 3	+ 3	+ 2	+ 6	- 9
Cleveland	+ 3	+ 8	+ 2	+ 2	+ 4	+ 7	+ 1	-10
Richmond	- 7	+ 4	- 8	- 4	- 6	+ 4	+ 2	- 1
Atlanta	- 5	+15	-11	0	- 5	+15	+ 4	- 4
Chicago	- 3	+ 5	- 1	- 1	- 5	+ 7	+ 5	- 8
St. Louis	- 2	+ 5	+ 1	+25	- 2	+ 6	+ 3	+ 2
Minneapolis	+ 5	+ 9	+ 9	+ 2	+ 4	+11	+ 4	-10
Kansas City	- 2	+19	- 6	+12	- 1	+20	+ 4	- 7
Dallas	- 7	+10	+ 2	+11	- 8	+ 8	+ 3	- 8
San Francisco	- 1	+ 6	- 8	- 3	+ 2	+ 8	+ 1	-12
U. S. Total	0	+ 8	- 2	0	+ 1	+10	+ 3	- 7
Number of stores	723	723	569	569	569	569	546	546

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	
	Aug.'52	Sept.'51	Aug.'52	Sept.'51	Aug.'52	Sept.'51	Aug.'52	Sept.'51
	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52	to Sept.'52
Boston	+ 2	+15	+ 2	+16	- 3	+ 4	+ 2	+ 7
New York	- 0	+10	0	+11	+ 4	0	+ 2	+ 1
Philadelphia	+ 1	+12	0	+11	+ 2	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2
Cleveland	+ 2	+15	+ 2	+13	+ 4	0	+ 2	- 6
Richmond	+ 2	+14	+ 3	+20	+ 1	+ 2	0	- 3
Atlanta	+ 2	+37	+ 1	+26	- 1	+16	- 1	+ 9
Chicago	+ 2	+13	+ 3	+16	+ 2	+ 1	+ 3	+ 1
St. Louis	+ 2	+14	+ 1	+22	+ 2	+ 3	+ 7	+11
Minneapolis	+ 3	+ 9	+ 3	+13	- 4	- 7	- 2	- 8
Kansas City	+ 5	+18	+ 2	+19	+11	+ 8	- 3	+11
Dallas	+ 1	+23	0	+33	+ 2	+ 4	- 2	0
San Francisco	+ 3	+11	+ 2	+21	+ 1	- 4	+13	+22
U. S. Total	+ 2	+16	+ 1	+15	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2
Number of stores	648	648	219	219	648	648	219	219

Digitized by September 1952 figures are preliminary and subject to revision.

<http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/>

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis