



G.16

March 11, 1966

RETAIL FURNITURE REPORTNOTICE OF TERMINATION

This is the final G.16 monthly retail furniture report to be issued by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

During the past few years, national statistical agencies in consultation with representatives from retailing have been working to improve the statistics on retail trade. The Bureau of the Census, which has general responsibility for the retail trade statistics programs of the Federal Government, is broadening its activities in this field and, at the same time, the Federal Reserve is transferring appropriate parts of its retail trade data collection program to that agency.

At present the Bureau of the Census publishes national statistics for end-of-month instalment and charge accounts receivable. These are shown in the Census Bureau's "Monthly Retail Trade Report," which includes separate figures for furniture stores. However, the sample design used by Census to develop the estimates of accounts receivable will produce data only for the United States as a whole, so that statistics for individual areas will not be available from Census.

Basic data from the Census retail collection program will be utilized by the Federal Reserve Board in preparing its regular monthly estimates of consumer credit statistics.

All inquiries concerning the availability of Census reports should be addressed to:

Mr. Harvey Kailin, Chief,
Business Statistics Division,
Bureau of the Census,
Suitland, Maryland. 20023



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RETAIL FURNITURE REPORT FOR JANUARY 1966

Instalment accounts receivable at reporting furniture stores declined slightly in January, as is usual at this time of year. However, they continued well above the corresponding period last year. These accounts were being repaid at about the same rate as in January 1965--in about seventeen months, on the average.

Charge account balances declined 8 per cent from a month ago and at the end of January were about the same as at this time last year.

Sales at reporting furniture stores exhibited the normal seasonal contraction during the month, with cash and instalment business registering the largest declines. Sales of all types were up from a year ago with cash volume up 10 per cent and credit transactions up 8 per cent.

Furniture Store Statistics for January 1966

Item	Percentage increase or decrease (-) from:	
	Month ago	Year ago
Net sales during month		
Total	-44	8
Cash	-41	10
Instalment	-47	8
Charge account	-29	8
Accounts receivable, at end of month		
Total	- 4	5
Instalment	- 2	7
Charge account	- 8	0

	January 1966	December 1965	January 1965
Collection ratios on instalment accounts $\frac{1}{1}$	11	11	11

$\frac{1}{1}$ Collections during month as percentage of accounts outstanding at beginning of month.

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RETAIL FURNITURE STORES - JANUARY 1966

Total Net Sales

Federal Reserve District	Percentage increase or decrease (-) from:	
	Month ago	Year ago
Boston	-36	8
New York	-64	12
Philadelphia	-48	15
Cleveland	-62	- 1
Richmond	-50	- 1
Atlanta	-47	10
Chicago	-38	17
St. Louis	-47	14
Minneapolis	-30	2
Kansas City	-21	- 1
Dallas	-19	8
San Francisco	-24	3
U. S. Total	-44	8

Instalment Accounts Receivable

Federal Reserve District	Percentage increase or decrease (-) from:	
	Month ago	Year ago
Boston	0	2
New York	- 4	9
Philadelphia	- 6	6
Cleveland	- 5	8
Richmond	- 3	15
Atlanta	- 1	7
Chicago	0	16
St. Louis	- 1	7
Minneapolis	- 7	- 8
Kansas City	1	7
Dallas	- 2	3
San Francisco	0	2
U. S. Total	- 2	7