

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

February 8, 1943  
R&S ric - 5

RETAIL INSTALMENT CREDIT

December 1942

Instalment accounts outstanding at jewelry stores showed about the usual seasonal rise in December. Household appliance store accounts receivable continued to decline at about the same rate as in recent months, while those at furniture stores remained unchanged. For the year as a whole accounts receivable showed declines of 34 per cent for jewelry stores, 36 per cent for furniture stores, and 59 per cent for household appliance stores.

Collections on instalment accounts at jewelry stores rose sharply in December, resulting in a collection ratio of 45, compared with 31 the previous month. Collections during the month were 18 per cent of instalment accounts receivable at the beginning of the month at furniture stores and 16 per cent at household appliance stores.

Indexes of Instalment Accounts Outstanding at End of Month

December 31, 1939 = 100

End of Month	Furniture stores			Household appliance stores			Jewelry stores		
	1941	1942	Percent-age change	1941	1942	Percent-age change	1941	1942	Percent-age change
January	103	105	+ 2	102	103	+ 1	103	111	+ 8
February	102	102	0	101	100	- 1	96	102	+ 6
March	101	101	0	101	96	- 5	93	98	+ 5
April	104	100	- 4	107	91	-15	92	93	+ 1
May	107	97	- 9	112	85	-24	93	87	- 6
June	109	91	-17	116	77	-34	94	81	-14
July	109	85	-22	118	71	-40	93	72	-23
August	113	80	-29	122	64	-48	94	69	-27
September	111	76	-32	120	59	-51	98	65	-34
October	110	73	-34	117	54	-54	96	63	-34
November	109	70	-36	113	50	-56	98	62	-37
December	110	p70	-36	110	45	-59	123	81	-34

p-Preliminary.

Collection Ratios on Instalment Accounts  
(Instalment collections as per cent of accounts at beginning of month)

Month	Furniture stores		Household appliance stores		Jewelry stores	
	1941	1942	1941	1942	1941	1942
January	10	12	10	11	15	19
February	10	11	9	11	15	13
March	11	13	10	13	16	19
April	11	13	10	13	16	19
May	12	13	11	13	17	20
June	11	14	10	13	17	22
July	11	14	10	13	16	22
August	12	16	10	13	17	25
September	11	16	11	14	18	26
October	12	18	11	15	18	30
November	12	17	11	15	18	r31
December	11	p18	12	16	23	45

r - Revised. p - Preliminary.