

JUN 2 - 1943

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

May 31, 1943  
R&S ric-9

RETAIL INSTALMENT CREDIT

April 1943

Instalment accounts receivable at furniture and jewelry stores showed little change in April, while those at household appliance stores continued to decline at about the same rate as during the preceding seven months. At both furniture and jewelry stores, accounts outstanding are now 43 per cent below the corresponding month of last year, as compared with a decline of 69 per cent at household appliance stores.

Collections on instalment accounts during April increased at both furniture and jewelry stores, resulting in collection ratios of 20 and 30, respectively, both of which are one-third above the level of the corresponding month in 1942. At household appliance stores, collections during April were 17 per cent of instalment accounts outstanding at the beginning of the month as compared with 13 in March and 13 in April 1942.

Instalment Accounts Outstanding and Collection Ratios

| Month       | Accounts outstanding at end of month<br>December 31, 1939 = 100 |                            |                | Collection ratios <sup>1/</sup> |                            |                |
|-------------|---|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
|             | Furniture stores  | Household appliance stores | Jewelry stores | Furniture stores                | Household appliance stores | Jewelry stores |
| <u>1941</u> |   |                            |                |                                 |                            |                |
| March       | 101   | 101                        | 93             | 11                              | 10                         | 16             |
| April       | 104   | 107                        | 92             | 11                              | 10                         | 16             |
| May         | 107   | 112                        | 93             | 12                              | 11                         | 17             |
| June        | 109   | 116                        | 94             | 11                              | 10                         | 17             |
| July        | 109   | 118                        | 93             | 11                              | 10                         | 16             |
| August      | 113   | 122                        | 94             | 12                              | 10                         | 17             |
| September   | 111   | 120                        | 98             | 11                              | 11                         | 18             |
| October     | 110   | 117                        | 96             | 12                              | 11                         | 18             |
| November    | 109   | 113                        | 98             | 12                              | 11                         | 18             |
| December    | 110   | 110                        | 123            | 11                              | 12                         | 23             |
| <u>1942</u> |   |                            |                |                                 |                            |                |
| January     | 105   | 103                        | 111            | 12                              | 12                         | 19             |
| February    | 102   | 100                        | 102            | 11                              | 12                         | 18             |
| March       | 101   | 96                         | 98             | 13                              | 13                         | 19             |
| April       | 100   | 91                         | 93             | 13                              | 13                         | 19             |
| May         | 97  | 85                         | 87             | 13                              | 13                         | 20             |
| June        | 91  | 77                         | 81             | 14                              | 13                         | 22             |
| July        | 83  | 71                         | 73             | 14                              | 13                         | 22             |
| August      | 80  | 64                         | r63            | 16                              | 13                         | 25             |
| September   | 76  | 59                         | r64            | 16                              | 14                         | 26             |
| October     | 73  | 54                         | 66             | 18                              | 15                         | 30             |
| November    | 70  | 50                         | 63             | 17                              | 15                         | 31             |
| December    | 69  | 46                         | r80            | 18                              | 15                         | 45             |
| <u>1943</u> |   |                            |                |                                 |                            |                |
| January     | 64  | 41                         | 67             | 17                              | 15                         | 30             |
| February    | 60  | 36                         | 59             | 17                              | 16                         | 29             |
| March       | 57  | 32                         | 54             | 19                              | 18                         | 29             |
| April       | 57  | 28                         | 53             | 20                              | 17                         | 30             |

r = Revised.

<sup>1/</sup> Instalment collections as per cent of accounts outstanding at beginning of month.