

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17.2

February 1, 1950

Retail Instalment Credit
at Furniture, Household Appliance, and Jewelry Stores

DECEMBER 1949

Instalment accounts outstanding at furniture and household appliance stores increased in December at a somewhat faster rate than in other recent months. Accounts of this type outstanding at jewelry stores showed a considerable expansion as is customary during that month. Instalment indebtedness at all three types of outlet on December 31 was well above the amount carried at the end of 1948. Over the year-period household appliance stores experienced the largest growth in outstanding instalment credit--32 per cent--while furniture stores ranked second with an increase of 25 per cent. Jewelry store accounts receivable were up only 7 per cent.

Instalment accounts of furniture and household appliance stores were collected at about the same rate in December as in the three preceding months. The rate of collection at jewelry stores was accelerated during the month, amounting to 16 per cent of the December 1 accounts receivable. For the year 1949, as a whole, all three kinds of outlet have experienced some slackening in the rate of repayment for instalment accounts.

Instalment Accounts Outstanding and Collection Ratios

Month	Accounts outstanding at end of month December 31, 1939 = 100			Collection ratios ^{1/}		
	Furniture stores	Household appliance stores	Jewelry stores	Furniture stores	Household appliance stores	Jewelry stores
<u>1947</u>						
November	98	85	117	18	21	17
December	110	91	156	16	21	21
<u>1948</u>						
January	104	90	143	14	19	15
February	103	90	137	14	17	14
March	104	94	134	15	18	15
April	108	103	130	15	17	15
May	112	112	131	15	18	15
June	116	118	131	16	17	16
July	117	124	129	14	17	16
August	122	131	127	14	17	16
September	123	133	128	14	16	16
October	123	139	127	14	16	16
November	130	138	137	14	15	17
December	140	142	164	14	15	20
<u>1949</u>						
January	131	134	152	12	15	14
February	123	129	140	12	14	13
March	126	128	133	14	15	14
April	127	129	133	13	14	14
May	131	134	132	13	14	14
June	134	140	134	12	14	14
July	136	148	131	12	13	13
August	141	153	130	12	14	14
September	146	160	131	11	12	13
October	153	157	133	11	12	14
November	160	170	133	11	12	13
December p	175	168	175	11	12	16

p - Preliminary.

^{1/} Instalment collections during month as percentage of accounts outstanding at beginning of month.