

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17.2

July 10, 1951

Retail Instalment Credit at Furniture and Household Appliance Stores

MAY 1951

Instalment accounts receivable at retail furniture stores continued to decline in May, and at the month-end were about 2 per cent below the level of the preceding month-end. This decline brought such receivables approximately 5 per cent below the year-ago figure. Large year-to-year gains have been the rule in other postwar years.

Household appliance store instalment accounts receivable also continued to decline substantially in May, in contrast to increases shown during the corresponding month of recent years. The amount of receivables at month-end was about 15 per cent above the level of May 31, 1950.

Collection ratios indicate that the rate of repayment of furniture store instalment accounts outstanding was the same as in April of this year, but above the rate of May 1950. Household appliance store instalment accounts were being repaid in May at a more rapid rate than in April, but the rate of repayment was about the same as a year ago.

Indexes of Instalment Accounts Outstanding at End of Month  
December 31, 1939 = 100

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>FURNITURE:</b>												
1949	131	128	126	127	131	134	136	141	146	153	160	174
1950	168	166	168	170	174	177	182	186	192	190	187	192
1951	183	178	172	169	166							
<b>HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE:</b>												
1949	134	129	128	129	134	140	148	153	160	167	170	183
1950	180	180	184	190	197	206	219	241	258	258	258	260
1951	255	248	240	234	226							

Instalment Collection Ratios  
Instalment collections during month as percentage of accounts outstanding at beginning of month

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
<b>FURNITURE:</b>												
1949	12	12	14	13	13	12	12	12	11	11	11	10
1950	10	10	11	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	10	11
1951	10	10	11	11	11							
<b>HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE:</b>												
1949	15	14	15	14	14	14	13	14	12	12	12	12
1950	12	11	12	11	12	10	11	11	10	11	10	10
1951	12	11	12	11	12							

NOTE:--Figures for May 1951 are preliminary and subject to revision.