

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17.2

August 6, 1951

Retail Instalment Credit at Furniture and Household Appliance Stores

JUNE 1951

Instalment accounts outstanding at furniture stores were down approximately 2 per cent in June, about the same rate of decrease as in recent months. The amount outstanding on June 30 continued moderately below the year-ago figure.

At household appliance stores, instalment accounts receivable dropped 3 per cent during June. This decline continues the downward trend that has occurred since the beginning of the year. In comparison with the year-ago level, however, instalment accounts were up 6 per cent.

Instalment indebtedness at furniture stores continued to be repaid in June at the rate prevailing in the three preceding months. At household appliance stores, however, accounts were collected somewhat more rapidly than in May. Both types of outlet reported a shortening of the repayment period from a year earlier.

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  | 163  | 170  | 174 | 177  | 182  | 186  | 192   | 190  | 187  | 192  |
| 1951                        | 183  | 178  | 172  | 163  | 166 | 163  |      |      |       |      |      |      |
| <b>HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE:</b> |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |
| 1949                        | 134  | 129  | 128  | 129  | 134 | 140  | 148  | 153  | 160   | 167  | 170  | 183  |
| 1950                        | 180  | 180  | 181  | 190  | 197 | 206  | 219  | 241  | 258   | 258  | 258  | 260  |
| 1951                        | 255  | 248  | 240  | 234  | 226 | 219  |      |      |       |      |      |      |

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   | 11   | 11    | 11   | 11   | 10   |
| 1950                        | 10   | 10   | 11   | 10   | 10  | 10   | 11   | 11   | 11    | 11   | 10   | 11   |
| 1951                        | 10   | 10   | 11   | 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   | 11  | 12   |      |      |       |      |      |      |

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