

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17.2

March 7, 1952

Retail Instalment Credit at Furniture and Household Appliance Stores

JANUARY 1952

Instalment accounts outstanding at furniture stores decreased seasonally in January. Balances at the month-end were about 5 per cent below those of the preceding month and about 6 per cent below the level of a year ago.

Household appliance store instalment accounts outstanding also showed a seasonal decline during the month, bringing the total to a level about 2 per cent below that of December. Month-end balances continued substantially below those of a year ago.

The January collection ratio for both furniture and household appliance stores was unchanged from December. It was also unchanged from a year ago for household appliance stores; however, the January ratio for furniture stores was one point above that of a year ago.

Indexes of Instalment Accounts Outstanding at End of Month

1947-1949 average = 100 1/2

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
FURNITURE:												
1950	148	146	148	150	154	156	160	164	169	167	165	169
1951	161	157	152	149	146	144	140	141	143	146	149	159
1952	152											
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE:												
1950	163	164	167	172	179	187	199	219	234	235	234	236
1951	231	226	218	212	205	200	197	197	200	202	203	204
1952	200											

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.
FURNITURE:												
1950	10	10	11	10	10	10	11	11	11	11	10	11
1951	10	10	11	11	11	11	11	12	11	12	11	11
1952	11											
HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCE:												
1950	12	11	12	11	12	10	11	11	10	11	10	10
1951	12	11	12	11	11	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
1952	12											

1/ Indexes of instalment accounts outstanding have been converted from the December 31, 1939 base previously used to a 1947-1949 base. Back figures may be obtained from the Division of Research and Statistics.

NOTE: Figures for January 1952 are preliminary and subject to revision.