

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

February 8, 1943
R&S dsc - 3

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

December 1942

At department stores instalment and charge accounts outstanding at the end of December showed about the usual seasonal rise from the low levels of recent months. Charge accounts receivable were 22 per cent below those at the close of 1941, and collections during December were 5 per cent larger than for the corresponding month a year ago. The ratio of collections to charge accounts outstanding at the beginning of the month was 65 for December as compared with 63 for the preceding month and 46 for the corresponding month of 1941. Instalment accounts outstanding were 41 per cent below those for the corresponding period of last year. Collections on instalment accounts increased 7 per cent in December, resulting in a collection ratio of 31, 11 points above that for a year ago.

Collection ratios and indexes of accounts receivable by Federal Reserve Districts are shown on page 2.

Department Store Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:	
	December 1942 to December 1942	December 1941 to December 1942
Accounts receivable, end of month		
Instalment accounts	+ 4	-41
Charge accounts	+29	-22
Collections during month		
Instalment accounts	+ 7	- 9
Charge Accounts	+ 3	+ 5
Ratio of collections during month to receivables at beginning of month		
	December 1942	November 1942
Instalment accounts	31	29
Charge accounts	65	63
		December 1941
Instalment accounts		20
Charge accounts		46

Department Store Accounts Receivable and Collections,
By Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve Districts	Accounts outstanding, end of month									Collection ratios*											
	Indexes; Dec. 31, 1932 = 100									Instalment			Charge accounts			Instalment			Charge accounts		
	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1941	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1941	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1941	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1941	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1941	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1942	Dec. 1941			
Puerto Rico	89	91	100	82	71	111	23	23	13	69	69	48									
New York	74	71	116	79	66	113	24	26	19	64	64	48									
Philadelphia	81	83	111	83	71	113	21	23	19	62	63	49									
Cleveland	75	76	103	81	71	113	21	23	21	63	66	47									
Richmond	74	73	116	81	74	103	24	26	20	63	63	49									
Atlanta	73	71	103	83	71	113	23	23	18	67	63	33									
Chicago	87	83	101	83	87	111	42	33	23	73	73	37									
St. Louis	73	70	103	83	73	116	33	30	20	71	63	33									
Minneapolis	85	73	101	81	81	103	55	134	20	79	173	33									
Kansas City	73	71	114	83	69	111	33	31	21	63	67	32									
Dallas	71	73	103	83	70	113	30	23	17	63	61	44									
San Francisco	83	73	103	83	69	117	34	23	13	72	62	43									
U. S. Total	83	74	113	80	70	113	31	23	20	63	63	43									

* Collections during month as per cent of accounts at beginning of month.
revised.

Note: These data are based on reports of more than 400 large department stores having charge accounts and about 300 having instalment accounts. Each figure may be obtained on request from the Division of Research and Statistics.