

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

April 15, 1943  
R&S dsc - 5

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

February 1943

At department stores instalment accounts outstanding at the end of February showed about the usual seasonal decline and remained substantially below the year-ago level. Collections on instalment accounts declined 3 per cent in February but the ratio of collections to receivables at the beginning of the month remained unchanged at 23, as compared with 19 in the corresponding month last year.

Charge accounts receivable at the end of February decreased by somewhat less than the usual seasonal amount but were 25 per cent below the corresponding date of 1942. Collections on charge accounts declined sharply as is usual at this time of the year. The collection ratio was 61 in February, the same as in January, and 16 points above a year ago.

Cash and charge account sales at department stores increased contraseasonally in February and were considerably above the year-ago levels. Cash sales accounted for 58 per cent of the total during the month this year as compared with 49 per cent in the corresponding month of 1942. Instalment sales rose 12 per cent but were 15 per cent below the year-ago volume.

Sales by type of transaction, accounts receivable, and collection ratios by Federal Reserve Districts are shown on page 2.

## Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:	
	January 1943 to February 1943	February 1942 to February 1943
Sales during month		
Cash	+14	+61
Instalment	+12	-15
Other credit	+21	+20
Accounts receivable, end of month		
Instalment accounts	- 6	-44
Charge accounts	- 5	-25
Collections during month		
Instalment accounts	- 8	-16
Charge accounts	-24	- 6
Ratio of collections during month to receivables at beginning of month		
	February 1943	January 1943
Instalment accounts	26	28
Charge accounts	61	61
		February 1942
Instalment accounts		19
Charge accounts		45

- 2 -  
Department Store Cash and Credit Sales,  
by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Cash sales		Inst. Cash sales		Other credit sales	
	Percentage change from:		Percentage change from:		Percentage change from:	
	Jan. 1943 to Feb. 1943	Feb. 1942 to Feb. 1943	Jan. 1943 to Feb. 1943	Feb. 1942 to Feb. 1943	Jan. 1943 to Feb. 1943	Feb. 1942 to Feb. 1943
Boston	+8	+48	-3	-22	+11	+17
New York	+3	-61	-1	-18	+9	+6
Philadelphia	+17	+2	-20	-18	+21	+10
Cleveland	+11	+60	+18	-29	+17	+19
Richmond	+67	+69	+31	-17	+38	+14
Atlanta	+18	+73	+10	-5	+31	+33
Chicago	+23	+61	+20	-18	+25	+13
St. Louis	+19	+27	+26	-23	+21	+31
Minneapolis	+10	+50	+30	-3	+20	+31
Kansas City	+18	+123	+0	+2	+25	+30
Dallas	+14	150	+1	-3	+31	+37
San Francisco	+17	+90	+7	+18	+22	+23
U. S. Total	+14	+31	+12	-11	+21	+20

Department Store Accounts Receivable and Collections,  
by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Accounts outstanding, end of month											
	Index: Dec. 31, 1936 = 100											
	Instalment Accounts						Charge Accounts					
	Feb. 1943	Jan. 1943	Feb. 1942	Jan. 1942	Feb. 1941	Jan. 1941	Feb. 1942	Jan. 1942	Feb. 1941	Jan. 1941	Feb. 1940	Jan. 1940
Boston	82	74	100	72	140	83	25	18	17	47	47	48
New York	84	88	124	83	83	57	24	24	15	61	52	40
Philadelphia	80	74	130	60	60	30	18	28	18	62	61	48
Cleveland	79	61	112	61	63	37	30	36	21	63	61	46
Richmond	83	64	123	66	70	100	14	23	17	66	63	33
Atlanta	77	68	111	72	66	93	23	26	15	67	63	37
Chicago	77	77	97	68	68	92	36	37	23	70	72	38
St. Louis	83	70	100	28	71	58	31	27	22	63	66	50
Minneapolis	83	60	66	58	53	77	34	34	20	77	73	32
Kansas City	87	71	105	68	72	68	30	30	21	62	65	47
Dallas	81	67	124	71	68	87	27	27	14	64	61	41
San Francisco	81	61	102	67	72	92	30	29	19	64	66	48
U. S. Total	81	68	103	65	70	87	23	26	19	61	61	41

r - Revised.

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

Note: These data are based on reports of about 475 large department stores reporting sales by type of transaction, more than 400 having charge accounts and about 300 having instalment accounts. Back figures may be obtained on request from the Division of Research and Statistics.