

August 1, 1945
R&S - drc - 33

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

JUNE 1945

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores declined by about the usual seasonal amount in June, and continued in slightly smaller volume than a year ago. Collections on instalment accounts decreased four per cent, and the collection ratio was unchanged from the May ratio of 32 per cent. Instalment accounts continued to be collected in approximately five months, about the same length of time as in June 1944.

Charge accounts receivable increased one per cent in June, when some decline is usual, and were substantially above the year-ago level. Collections on charge accounts showed little change from the previous month, and the collection ratio remained at 64 per cent. Charge accounts were outstanding, for the second consecutive month, about 47 days, nearly one day less than the average for June 1944.

Cash and charge-account sales showed a small increase over the May volume, and were 16 per cent larger than a year earlier. Cash sales continued to account for approximately 63 per cent of the total. Instalment sales declined, as is customary in June, but were four per cent larger than in the same month last year.

Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections

| | Percentage change from: | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| | May 1945 to June 1945 | June 1944 to June 1945 | |
| Sales during month | | | |
| Cash | + 2 | +18 | |
| Instalment | - 4 | + 4 | |
| Charge account | + 1 | +18 | |
| Accounts receivable, end of month | | | |
| Instalment accounts | - 5 | - 3 | |
| Charge accounts | + 1 | +13 | |
| Collections during month | | | |
| Instalment accounts | - 4 | - 2 | |
| Charge accounts | - 1 | + 9 | |
| Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month | | | |
| | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 |
| Instalment accounts | 32 | 32 | 31 |
| Charge accounts | 64 | 64 | 63 |

DEPARTMENT STORES - JUNE 1945

Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

| Federal Reserve District | Indexes; 1941 average = 100 | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------|------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------|----------|-----------|
| | Cash sales | | | Instalment sales | | | Charge-account sales | | |
| | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 |
| Boston | 172 | 165 | 146 | 45 | 47 | 40 | 114 | 110 | 96 |
| New York | 162 | 155 | 137 | 61 | 61 | 57 | 107 | 101 | 91 |
| Philadelphia | 185 | 181 | 155 | 51 | 53 | 48 | 116 | 113 | 102 |
| Cleveland | 192 | 182 | 159 | 49 | 53 | 46 | 123 | 117 | 100 |
| Richmond | 195 | 191 | 172 | 39 | 39 | 49 | 125 | 120 | 100 |
| Atlanta | 201 | 204 | 222 | 64 | 62 | 65 | 119 | 135 | 102 |
| Chicago | 193 | 183 | 165 | 49 | 49 | 47 | 115 | 110 | 99 |
| St. Louis | 196 | 195 | 163 | 63 | r70 | 56 | 114 | 119 | 97 |
| Minneapolis | 232 | 212 | 195 | 71 | 56 | 55 | 119 | 117 | 104 |
| Kansas City | 202 | 202 | 218 | 52 | 52 | 54 | 117 | 122 | 101 |
| Dallas | 202 | 335 | 202 | 64 | 77 | 54 | 134 | 158 | 113 |
| San Francisco | 237 | 234 | 203 | 49 | 49 | 46 | 121 | 123 | 104 |
| U. S. Total | 194 | 190 | 165 | 52 | r54 | 50 | 117 | r116 | 100 |

Accounts Receivable and Collections, by Federal Reserve Districts

| Federal Reserve District | Accounts outstanding, end of month | | | | | | Collection ratios * | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|---------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| | Indexes; 1941 average = 100 | | | | | | Instalment | | | Charge accounts | | |
| | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 | June 1945 | May 1945 | June 1944 |
| Boston | 32 | 34 | 33 | 92 | 92 | 65 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 60 | 55 | 57 |
| New York | 39 | 41 | 43 | 84 | 82 | 77 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 55 | 56 | 54 |
| Philadelphia | 38 | 38 | 35 | 91 | 90 | 64 | 32 | 31 | 29 | 63 | 65 | 62 |
| Cleveland | 33 | 32 | 32 | 92 | 90 | 79 | 33 | 34 | 32 | 64 | 63 | 63 |
| Richmond | 41 | 45 | 48 | 88 | 87 | 77 | 27 | 27 | 26 | 55 | 57 | 56 |
| Atlanta | 40 | 42 | 38 | 85 | 90 | 73 | 28 | 27 | 25 | 50 | 52 | 51 |
| Chicago | 32 | 32 | 29 | 90 | 85 | 81 | 36 | 36 | 43 | 73 | 71 | 71 |
| St. Louis | 32 | 32 | 32 | 89 | 90 | 79 | 38 | 38 | 36 | 68 | 65 | 67 |
| Minneapolis | 35 | 35 | 34 | 86 | 83 | 75 | 40 | 37 | 36 | 75 | 76 | 75 |
| Kansas City | 32 | 32 | 32 | 83 | 85 | 75 | 40 | 38 | 36 | 72 | 73 | 70 |
| Dallas | 36 | 36 | 31 | 91 | 97 | 73 | 27 | 31 | 31 | 62 | 65 | 64 |
| San Francisco | 28 | 28 | 29 | 83 | 83 | 72 | 35 | 37 | 36 | 73 | 74 | 72 |
| U. S. Total | 34 | 35 | 35 | 88 | 87 | 75 | 32 | 32 | 31 | 64 | 64 | 63 |

r - Revised.

* - Collections during month as per cent of accounts receivable 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.