

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

FEBRUARY 1946

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores declined by less than the usual seasonal amount, and were eight per cent larger than a year earlier. Collections on instalment accounts were reduced 11 per cent, and the collection ratio declined two points to 30 per cent. The average period instalment accounts were outstanding was approximately five and one-half months, about the same length of time as in February last year.

Charge accounts receivable declined less than seasonally in February and were nearly one-fifth higher than on the corresponding date of 1945. Collections on charge accounts decreased sharply, as is usual in February, resulting in a collection ratio of 60 per cent, one point less than in January. Charge accounts were collected in about 50 days, about the same average as for February 1945.

Both types of credit sales increased substantially during February, and were approximately one-fourth greater than in the corresponding month last year. Cash sales, accounting for 61 per cent of the total, showed a slight increase over the January volume, but were 18 per cent larger than a year ago.

## Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:		
	January 1945	February 1945	
	to	to	
	February 1946	February 1946	
Sales during month			
Cash	+ 3	+18	
Instalment	+12	+26	
Charge account	+15	+25	
Accounts receivable, end of month			
Instalment accounts	- 3	+ 8	
Charge accounts	- 7	+16	
Collections during month			
Instalment accounts	-11	+ 4	
Charge accounts	-26	+10	
Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month			
	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
	1945	1945	1945
Instalment accounts	30	32	30
Charge accounts	60	61	61

Note: Figures for February 1946 are preliminary and subject to revision.

DEPARTMENT STORES - FEBRUARY 1946

Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Indexes, 1941 average = 100								
	Cash sales			Instalment sales			Charge-account sales		
	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945
Boston	156	150	124	77	85	53	105	99	83
New York	163	165	123	77	72	62	100	93	80
Philadelphia	176	182	160	59	61	53	111	104	95
Cleveland	177	177	159	81	63	56	119	105	96
Richmond	183	173	161	63	59	51	131	105	105
Atlanta	206	236	255	111	44	35	143	119	117
Chicago	191	182	163	59	53	46	121	105	98
St. Louis	208	192	179	78	62	37	135	107	104
Minneapolis	224	215	173	37	38	22	122	108	96
Kansas City	274	248	231	112	61	25	135	108	113
Dallas	317	305	273	91	95	71	193	147	144
San Francisco	331	226	210	58	59	52	129	117	108
U. S. Total	192	166	163	73	65	57	122	100	98

Accounts Receivable and Collections, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Accounts outstanding, end of month Indexes, 1941 average = 100						Collection ratios*					
	Instalment			Charge accounts			Instalment		Charge accounts			
	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945	Feb. 1945p	Jan. 1946	Feb. 1945
Boston	52	53	43	38	115	90	21	24	25	56	55	54
New York	49	50	47	34	104	78	26	29	26	53	55	53
Philadelphia	42	45	41	37	113	84	21	23	23	61	62	63
Cleveland	43	42	38	102	110	85	34	34	32	53	50	60
Richmond	47	52	46	38	103	86	25	27	25	53	50	54
Atlanta	47	48	48	106	102	93	30	32	26	50	51	50
Chicago	35	37	34	102	106	84	37	39	33	67	66	69
St. Louis	40	41	37	103	107	87	36	37	35	64	66	64
Minneapolis	54	52	47	91	96	75	40	42	36	75	72	74
Kansas City	45	48	42	96	96	82	35	37	39	69	72	67
Dallas	48	46	37	110	116	90	31	31	32	63	63	65
San Francisco	35	36	34	99	110	82	36	37	34	68	65	68
U. S. Total	43	45	40	100	102	84	30	32	30	60	61	61

p - Preliminary.

\* - Collections during month as percentage 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.