

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17.3

July 3, 1946

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

May 1946

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores, which customarily decline somewhat during May, remained at the April level and on May 31 were 28 per cent higher than a year earlier. Collections on instalment accounts rose slightly, resulting in a collection ratio of 34 per cent as compared with 35 per cent in April and 32 per cent in May 1945. Instalment accounts are now outstanding, on the average, approximately five months.

Charge accounts receivable showed little change during May, but at the end of the month were about one and one-half times the amount outstanding a year earlier. Collections on charge accounts were more rapid in May than in the preceding month but the ratio of collections during the month to accounts outstanding on the first of the month dropped one point to 62 per cent.

Both cash and credit sales declined during May but continued in substantially larger volume than a year ago. Instalment transactions showed the largest decrease but were 56 per cent above the year-ago level.

## Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections.

	Percentage change from:		
	April 1946 to May 1946	May 1945 to May 1946	
Sales during month			
Cash	- 6	+24	
Instalment	-13	+56	
Charge account	- 4	+45	
Accounts receivable, end of month			
Instalment accounts	0	+28	
Charge accounts	+ 2	+47	
Collections during month			
Instalment accounts	+ 1	+30	
Charge accounts	+ 9	+37	
Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month			
	May 1946	April 1946	May 1945
Instalment accounts	34	35	32
Charge accounts	62	63	64

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

## DEPARTMENT STORES - MAY 1946

## Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Indexes; 1941 average = 100								
	Cash sales			Installment sales			Charge-account sales		
	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945
Boston	206	223	165	72	84	47	160	164	110
New York	215	221	155	95	120	61	152	155	101
Philadelphia	227	234	181	75	105	52	163	167	116
Cleveland	222	239	182	84	87	53	172	180	117
Richmond	229	233	191	92	85	56	172	172	120
Atlanta	328	407	284	93	117	62	189	228	135
Chicago	229	242	193	74	90	49	162	168	110
St. Louis	238	251	195	100	110	70	169	178	119
Minneapolis	280	301	212	116	129	57	176	184	117
Kansas City	311	329	260	96	90	54	170	177	123
Dallas	349	385	329	113	118	77	234	230	158
San Francisco	254	281	237	70	71	45	174	183	123
U. S. Total	234	249	189	85	97	55	169	175	116

## Accounts Receivable and Collections, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Accounts outstanding, end of month						Collection ratios*					
	Indexes; 1941 average = 100						Installment			Charge accounts		
	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945	May 1946p	Apr. 1946	May 1945
Boston	52	54	38	136	130	95	22	23	25	54	55	57
New York	51	50	41	122	119	82	31	29	27	52	53	56
Philadelphia	41	44	36	127	124	90	34	37	31	64	65	66
Cleveland	46	45	34	132	129	90	36	37	34	62	62	63
Richmond	51	51	43	124	120	87	29	30	26	55	55	57
Atlanta	47	47	42	127	126	90	34	34	27	50	52	52
Chicago	38	38	29	136	133	88	40	43	40	68	69	72
St. Louis	44	43	31	130	128	90	42	43	43	71	69	68
Minneapolis	54	55	38	124	122	83	44	45	37	73	77	76
Kansas City	50	50	34	120	115	84	40	41	40	72	74	72
Dallas	53	51	36	139	135	97	31	30	31	65	65	65
San Francisco	36	35	28	126	122	83	40	42	37	68	69	74
U. S. Total	45	45	35	129	126	88	34	35	32	62	63	64

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 installment accounts. Back figures may be obtained on request from the Division of Research and Statistics.