

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17.3

September 4, 1946

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

JULY 1946

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores showed slightly less than the usual seasonal decline in July, and were about two-fifths higher than a year ago. Collections on instalment accounts decreased 3 per cent, resulting in a collection ratio of 32 per cent, one point less than in June. Instalment accounts were collected in about five months, approximately the same average as for July 1945.

Charge accounts receivable declined less than is usual in July, but continued more than one-half above the year-ago level. Collections on charge accounts were down slightly during the month, and the collection ratio declined three points to 57 per cent. Charge accounts were outstanding, on the average, approximately 63 days, as compared with about 48 days in July a year earlier.

Cash and charge-account sales declined substantially, as is customary in July, but continued well above the volume in the corresponding month last year. Instalment sales declined seasonally, but exceeded the year-ago level by 56 per cent.

## Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:		
	June 1946 to July 1946	July 1945 to July 1946	
Sales during month			
Cash	-18 - 21	+17 + 11.8	
Instalment	- 9 + 52.8	+56 + 77.1	
Charge account	-23 - 51.5	+48 + 11.2	
Accounts receivable, end of month			
Instalment accounts	- 2 - 5	+41 + 55.2	
Charge accounts	-11 - 1	+57 + 57.7	
Collections during month			
Instalment accounts	- 3 - 3	+36 + 31	
Charge accounts	- 2 - 2	+39 - 1	
Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month			
	July 1946	June 1946	July 1945
Instalment accounts	32	33	32
Charge accounts	57	60	62

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

## DEPARTMENT STORES - JULY 1946

## Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Indexes; 1941 average = 100								
	Cash sales			Installment sales			Charge-account sales		
	July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945	July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945	July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945
Boston	149	202	126	62	68	42	104	154	74
New York	182	218	180	65	67	48	100	186	69
Philadelphia	172	223	150	65	75	47	116	180	61
Cleveland	181	222	169	75	65	44	137	180	92
Richmond	177	224	169	77	58	45	128	171	69
Atlanta	236	236	242	93	66	62	146	163	102
Chicago	197	237	161	73	77	43	127	167	84
St. Louis	206	237	179	97	105	58	138	167	93
Minneapolis	244	225	192	98	104	57	131	173	86
Kansas City	277	303	235	98	91	32	138	184	102
Dallas	311	341	286	116	100	62	161	196	121
San Francisco	244	304	219	79	61	52	169	191	105
U. S. Total	192	232	153	74	61	47	120	169	86

## 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			Installment			Charge accounts		
July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945	July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945	July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945	July 1946p	June 1946	July 1945	
Boston	46	51	33	123	144	80	21	21	24	46	49	55
New York	46	51	37	114	127	71	23	23	27	47	55	52
Philadelphia	37	49	31	108	117	76	32	32	31	30	32	32
Cleveland	48	47	31	122	137	80	34	35	32	54	61	61
Richmond	60	51	39	114	128	75	27	27	28	50	51	54
Atlanta	51	47	32	119	127	77	35	31	28	46	47	52
Chicago	36	39	15	121	140	74	36	41	45	65	66	71
St. Louis	47	45	23	119	135	78	39	39	38	65	65	67
Minneapolis	57	52	33	106	123	72	39	41	37	70	70	73
Kansas City	50	52	33	109	121	72	36	36	40	71	71	71
Dallas	62	53	35	129	135	60	30	29	28	59	61	60
San Francisco	38	37	29	122	127	75	41	41	40	61	65	72
U. S. Total	45	46	32	119	133	72	32	36	32	57	60	62

p - Preliminary.

\* - Collections during month as percentage of accounts receivable at beginning of month.

Note: These data are based on reports of about 175 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.