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October 3, 1946

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

AUGUST 1946

Instalment accounts receivable at department stores increased 6 per cent in August, when little change is usual, and were about one-half larger than on the corresponding date last year. Collections on instalment accounts rose 7 per cent, resulting in a collection ratio of 35 per cent, a gain of three points over the previous month. The average collection period was about five months, approximately the same as for August 1945.

Charge accounts outstanding showed a larger increase than is customary in August, and at the end of the month were 68 per cent above the amount outstanding a year earlier. Collections on charge accounts declined somewhat, but the August collection ratio increased two points to 59 per cent. Charge accounts were repaid in about 51 days as compared with approximately 47 days a year ago.

Cash and credit sales showed about the usual seasonal expansion from July to August. Cash sales, which comprised three-fifths of the total, were 29 per cent above last year's volume. Sales on both charge and instalment account were considerably larger than in August last year.

Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:		
	July 1946 to August 1946	August 1945 to August 1946	
Sales during month			
Cash	+22	+29	
Instalment	+33	+71	
Charge account	+26	+67	
Accounts receivable, end of month			
Instalment accounts	+ 6	+51	
Charge accounts	+ 7	+68	
Collections during month			
Instalment accounts	+ 7	+14	
Charge accounts	- 8	+47	
Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month			
	Aug. 1946	July. 1946	Aug. 1945
Instalment accounts	35	32	34
Charge accounts	59	57	63

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

DEPARTMENT STORES - AUGUST 1946

Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Indexes; 1941 average = 100								
	Cash sales			Installment sales			Charge-account sales		
	Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945	Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945	Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945
Boston	177	148	134	89	82	73	138	104	80
New York	187	157	132	95	65	61	129	107	73
Philadelphia	199	172	164	66	65	59	130	115	85
Cleveland	237	191	186	110	75	56	177	137	103
Richmond	208	177	177	89	77	61	143	126	104
Atlanta	325	256	277	101	53	79	204	145	120
Chicago	245	195	151	90	70	48	165	127	96
St. Louis	260	207	205	126	80	67	182	158	109
Minneapolis	283	244	222	124	86	67	187	151	105
Kansas City	328	278	208	147	85	64	173	142	112
Dallas	365	311	329	135	116	77	204	181	153
San Francisco	280	244	243	65	79	53	163	159	110
U. S. Total	234	192	151	89	74	58	164	130	88

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		
Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945	Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945	Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945	Aug. 1946p	July 1946	Aug. 1945	
Boston	48	42	33	123	124	74	44	21	22	51	48	54
New York	50	45	36	113	114	88	27	26	28	47	47	53
Philadelphia	33	38	30	111	106	74	35	32	33	60	61	63
Cleveland	50	48	31	134	122	50	38	34	35	59	58	62
Richmond	51	40	38	117	113	74	29	27	26	54	50	50
Atlanta	54	51	41	134	118	83	38	33	27	40	38	52
Chicago	43	39	24	138	120	76	41	36	47	66	65	72
St. Louis	44	45	29	134	119	61	42	39	42	66	65	66
Minneapolis	55	58	35	119	109	75	44	39	41	70	70	70
Kansas City	65	62	34	118	108	78	36	35	30	73	71	73
Dallas	53	52	30	134	127	67	31	30	31	61	59	64
San Francisco	41	38	27	138	133	77	43	41	40	65	61	73
U. S. Total	48	45	32	127	116	76	35	32	34	59	57	63

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.