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July 9, 1947

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

MAY 1947

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores showed a small increase during May, although some decline is customary. Collections on instalment accounts were up slightly from the preceding month, and the ratio of collections to instalment accounts outstanding on May 1 was 29 per cent, the same as in April. The average collection period for instalment accounts outstanding in May continued to be about six months.

Charge accounts receivable, which usually show little change in May, increased slightly, and at the end of the month were 30 per cent above the year-ago level. Collections on charge accounts were 6 per cent higher than in April, resulting in a collection ratio of 56 per cent as compared with 54 per cent for the preceding month. The average repayment period for charge accounts outstanding in May was 54 days as compared with 48 days a year earlier.

Both cash and charge-account sales increased 5 per cent in May, while instalment sales were reduced slightly. Cash sales, which accounted for 55 per cent of the total for the third consecutive month, were up only 4 per cent from the May 1946 volume. The year-to-year increase on charge-account sales was 20 per cent, but for instalment sales the gain was 63 per cent.

## Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:		
	April 1947 to May 1947	May 1946 to May 1947	
Sales during month			
Cash	+ 5	+ 4	
Instalment	- 2	+63	
Charge account	+ 5	+20	
Accounts receivable, end of month			
Instalment accounts	+ 3	+82	
Charge accounts	+ 2	+30	
Collections during month			
Instalment accounts	+ 3	+46	
Charge accounts	+ 6	+18	
Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month			
	May 1947	Apr. 1947	May 1946
Instalment accounts	29	29	35
Charge accounts	56	54	62

Note: Figures for May 1947 are preliminary and subject to revision.

DEPARTMENT STORES - MAY 1947

Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Indexes; 1941 average = 100								
	Cash sales			Instalment sales			Charge-account sales		
	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946
Boston	226	204	206	155	161	72	193	173	160
New York	224	212	215	130	150	95	176	168	152
Philadelphia	228	221	227	125	139	75	208	198	163
Cleveland	226	214	222	153	152	84	207	194	172
Richmond	250	213	229	128	101	92	211	191	172
Atlanta	321	360	328	159	180	93	223	259	189
Chicago	247	232	227	131	130	77	197	186	162
St. Louis	243	228	238	161	164	100	206	193	169
Minneapolis	274	289	275	125	162	131	203	210	177
Kansas City	290	295	316	150	109	92	199	198	172
Dallas	339	336	356	183	187	114	256	244	234
San Francisco	243	242	252	129	119	72	203	196	175
U. S. Total	241	230	233	138	141	85	202	192	169

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		
	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946	May 1947p	Apr. 1947	May 1946
Boston	33	86	50	176	182	136	23	20	24	46	44	54
New York	82	81	51	155	152	122	23	24	31	47	45	52
Philadelphia	86	80	41	177	170	127	28	29	34	57	56	64
Cleveland	99	95	46	174	159	132	27	23	36	56	54	62
Richmond	73	71	51	167	160	124	24	25	29	49	45	55
Atlanta	91	89	47	161	157	126	28	27	34	45	43	50
Chicago	66	64	36	169	163	133	38	39	50	64	63	69
St. Louis	78	77	44	131	175	130	36	37	42	59	56	71
Minneapolis	90	95	54	172	170	125	32	36	44	61	62	73
Kansas City	79	80	51	156	150	120	37	37	40	61	59	72
Dallas	92	88	53	168	164	139	30	29	31	63	61	65
San Francisco	76	74	36	161	160	129	33	36	40	64	60	68
U. S. Total	82	80	45	167	164	129	29	29	35	56	54	62

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.