

G.17.3

August 1, 1950

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

JUNE 1950

Instalment accounts receivable of department stores rose slightly in June and at the month-end were 43 percent larger than on the corresponding date last year. Collections on instalment accounts declined somewhat during the month and amounted to 17 percent of accounts outstanding on the first of the month, a ratio 1 point less than in May. At this rate of repayment instalment accounts would be outstanding about ten and one-half months, more than two months longer than a year earlier.

Charge-accounts outstanding at the end of June were unchanged from the month-ago level, but were 4 percent above the amount outstanding a year ago. Collections on charge accounts increased slightly during the month, and the ratio of collections to accounts receivable on the first of the month declined 1 point to 51 percent. At the prevailing rate of repayments, charge accounts would be outstanding about 58 days, about the same as in the corresponding month of 1949.

Both cash and credit sales of department stores showed the customary seasonal declines in June. Instalment and charge account sales registered declines of 9 and 4 percent, respectively, while cash sales were 4 percent below last month. Instalment sales were 21 percent above those of a year earlier while charge account sales were up 4 percent. Cash sales continued somewhat below the level of the previous year.

Department Store Sales, Accounts Receivable, and Collections

Item	Percentage change from:	
	May 1950 to June 1950	June 1949 to June 1950
Sales during month		
Cash	- 3	- 3
Instalment	- 8	+21
Charge account	- 4	+ 4
Accounts receivable, end of month		
Instalment accounts	+ 1	+43
Charge accounts	0	+ 4
Collections during month		
Instalment accounts	- 1	+19
Charge accounts	+ 2	+ 2
Ratio of collections during month to accounts receivable at beginning of month:		
	June 1950p	May 1950
Instalment accounts	17	18
Charge accounts	51	52
		June 1949
		21
		53

NOTE.—Figures for June 1950 are preliminary and subject to revision.

DEPARTMENT STORES - JUNE 1950

Cash and Credit Sales, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Indexes: 1941 average = 100								
	Cash sales			Installment sales			Charge-account sales		
	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949
Boston	202	200	212	204	219	163	204	201	207
New York	189	180	199	218	227	195	177	177	172
Philadelphia	198	204	200	174	197	165	223	228	210
Cleveland	186	196	194	223	251	173	211	223	206
Richmond	202	213	208	123	205	113	218	214	207
Atlanta	232	273	228	332	316	268	210	269	203
Chicago	202	215	206	198	201	150	215	212	206
St. Louis	186	204	194	217	267	204	184	218	179
Minneapolis	233	249	234	196	234	197	243	273	221
Kansas City	250	259	262	276	254	213	220	237	210
Dallas	227	269	219	126	191	290	224	279	200
San Francisco	197	199	206	165	169	115	210	215	205
U. S. Total	199	205	206	206	226	172	208	217	200

Accounts Receivable and Collections, by Federal Reserve Districts

Federal Reserve District	Accounts outstanding, end of month									Collection ratios*					
	Indexes: 1941 average = 100									Installment			Charge-account		
	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949	June 1950p	May 1950	June 1949
Boston	208	212	135	185	162	180	15	15	19	49	47	51			
New York	172	175	129	164	159	177	16	18	18	49	42	51			
Philadelphia	207	210	157	223	222	214	16	17	19	52	52	52			
Cleveland	239	238	184	201	202	195	17	17	19	52	51	52			
Richmond	165	165	130	183	183	175	16	17	19	43	44	44			
Atlanta	376	362	232	206	232	186	13	14	17	38	47	43			
Chicago	179	175	113	196	193	184	20	20	27	59	61	61			
St. Louis	260	257	171	226	229	219	17	18	22	47	54	52			
Minneapolis	169	191	144	195	159	185	18	19	23	53	56	56			
Kansas City	256	246	175	211	210	186	18	19	23	52	54	56			
Dallas	165	143	238	192	205	182	12	13	18	50	53	50			
San Francisco	219	217	151	194	191	183	16	18	23	51	53	54			
U. S. Total	218	217	152	194	194	187	17	18	21	51	52	53			

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.