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August 8, 1956

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - JUNE 1956

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores continued unchanged during June, and at the month-end were 20 per cent above a year earlier. The instalment collection ratio, estimated at 15 per cent, was the same as both a month ago and a year ago.

Charge accounts declined two per cent from May to June, about the usual seasonal decrease for this time of year. Compared with a year ago, balances were up 7 per cent. Collections on charge accounts amounted to about 46 per cent of first-of-month balances, the same ratio as the preceding month and June of last year.

Sales of all types decreased in June from the preceding month, but continued above a year ago. Compared with June of last year, cash sales were up 4 per cent, charge-account sales 5 per cent, and instalment sales 19 per cent.

## Changes in Department Store Sales and Accounts Receivable

Item	Percentage change from:	
	May 1955 to June 1956	June 1955 to June 1956
Sales during month: Total	- 6	+ 6
Cash	- 4	+ 4
Charge	- 8	+ 5
Instalment	- 3	+ 19
Accounts receivable, end of month: Charge	- 2	+ 7
Instalment	0	+ 20

## Collection Ratios and Percentage Distribution of Sales

Item	June 1956	May 1956	June 1955
Collection ratios $\frac{1}{2}$ : Charge accounts	46	46	46
Instalment accounts	15	15	15
Percentage distribution of sales: Cash	45	44	46
Charge	42	44	43
Instalment	13	12	11

$\frac{1}{2}$  Collections during month as a percentage of accounts receivable at beginning of month.

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - JUNE 1956

Sales by type  
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Total sales		Cash sales		Charge-account sales		Instalment sales	
	May '55 to June '56	June '55 to June '56	May '56 to June '56	June '56 to June '56	May '56 to June '56	June '56 to June '56	May '56 to June '56	June '56 to June '56
	June '56	June '56	June '56	June '56	June '56	June '56	June '56	June '56
Boston	+ 2	+ 6	+ 3	+ 5	+ 1	+ 6	0	+13
New York	+ 2	+ 8	0	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	+ 7	+24
Philadelphia	- 5	+ 8	- 1	+ 9	- 8	+ 5	- 5	+15
Cleveland	- 3	+ 6	- 2	+ 5	- 4	+ 3	- 2	+20
Richmond	- 8	+ 8	- 5	+ 5	- 13	+ 7	- 1	+18
Atlanta	-16	+ 6	-12	+ 5	- 23	+ 2	-14	+14
Chicago	- 2	+ 6	- 2	+ 2	- 3	+ 8	- 1	+21
St. Louis	-11	+11	- 6	+ 7	- 13	+ 12	-11	+20
Minneapolis	- 7	+10	+ 2	+ 9	- 12	+ 11	-20	+16
Kansas City	- 7	+ 2	- 4	+ 2	- 12	+ 3	- 1	+ 2
Dallas	-19	+ 3	-11	+ 3	- 24	+ 2	-11	+ 7
San Francisco	0	+ 1	+ 2	+ 1	- 4	- 4	+ 1	+16
U. S. Total	- 6	+ 6	- 4	+ 4	- 8	+ 5	- 3	+19

Accounts receivable, end of month  
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Charge accounts		Instalment	
	May '56 to June '56	June '55 to June '56	May '56 to June '56	June '55 to June '56
	June '56	June '56	June '56	June '56
Boston	+ 2	0	- 2	+ 10
New York	- 3	+12	+ 2	+ 20
Philadelphia	0	+ 4	- 1	+ 18
Cleveland	- 3	+ 4	- 2	+ 24
Richmond	0	+ 7	- 2	+ 19
Atlanta	- 7	+ 2	- 1	+ 14
Chicago	+ 1	+ 9	+ 2	+ 19
St. Louis	0	+ 6	+ 3	+ 27
Minneapolis	- 5	+14	- 1	+ 13
Kansas City	- 3	+ 3	- 2	0
Dallas	- 8	+ 6	- 1	+ 10
San Francisco	- 1	+ 1	+ 1	+ 33
U. S. Total	- 2	+ 7	0	+ 20