

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17

March 8, 1957

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - JANUARY 1957

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores declined 4 per cent in January, when some decrease is usual, but continued above the year-ago level. January collections on instalment accounts amounted to 15 per cent, 1 point above both a month ago and a year ago.

Charge accounts receivable declined seasonally in January, but at the end of the month were slightly larger than in the same month last year. The collection ratio for charge accounts increased 1 point in January to 46 per cent, which compared with 43 per cent in January 1956.

Both cash and credit transactions at reporting department stores were down sharply from the December levels. Each type of sale, however, was in larger volume than in the corresponding month a year ago.

## Changes in Department Store Sales and Accounts Receivable

Item	Percentage change from:	
	Dec. 1956 to Jan. 1957	Jan. 1956 to Jan. 1957
Sales during month: Total	-56	+3
Cash	-58	+2
Charge	-57	+3
Instalment	-44	+7
Accounts receivable, end of month: Charge	-19	+3
Instalment	-4	+9

## Collection Ratios and Percentage Distribution of Sales

Item	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1956	Jan. 1956
Collection ratios $\frac{1}{2}$ : Charge accounts	46	45	43
Instalment accounts	15	14	14
Percentage distribution of sales: Cash	44	46	45
Charge	42	43	42
Instalment	14	11	13

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

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - JANUARY 1957

Sales by type  
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Total sales		Cash sales		Charge-account sales		Instalment sales	
	Dec. '56	Jan. '56	Dec. '56	Jan. '56	Dec. '56	Jan. '56	Dec. '56	Jan. '56
	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57
Boston	-58	+1	-62	+2	-58	+2	-40	- 4
New York	-53	+6	-54	+4	-55	+4	-46	+16
Philadelphia	-58	+4	-62	+5	-58	+4	-51	- 1
Cleveland	-55	+3	-57	+3	-56	+2	-47	+ 5
Richmond	-61	+3	-63	0	-65	-1	-41	+17
Atlanta	-57	+3	-60	+4	-56	+4	-51	+ 1*
Chicago	-56	+1	-57	-1	-57	+5	-42	+ 3
St. Louis	-56	+1	-57	-2	-57	+4	-40	+ 2
Minneapolis	-55	+5	-59	+6	-54	+3	-42	+ 8
Kansas City	-57	0	-60	-1	-57	+2	-37	- 3
Dallas	-55	+2	-58	+3	-57	-2	-35	+11
San Francisco	-56	+7	-59	+6	-60	+6	-42	+14
U. S. Total	-56	+3	-58	+2	-57	+3	-44	+ 7

Accounts receivable, end of month  
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Charge accounts		Instalment	
	Dec. '56	Jan. '56	Dec. '56	Jan. '56
	to	to	to	to
	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57	Jan. '57
Boston	-24	-8	-4	- 2
New York	-19	+3	-5	+17
Philadelphia	-19	-2	-8	- 2
Cleveland	-22	+1	-4	+ 8
Richmond	-20	+5	-1	+15
Atlanta	-14	-1	-8	+ 7
Chicago	-17	+8	-6	+12
St. Louis	-17	+3	+7	+22
Minneapolis	-25	0	-2	+14
Kansas City	-17	+2	-6	-10
Dallas	-23	0	-1	0
San Francisco	-16	+5	-1	+15
U. S. Total	-19	+3	-4	+ 9