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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17

August 2, 1957

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - JUNE 1957

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores at the end of June were down slightly from the level of the preceding month. Compared with a year ago, however, amounts outstanding were up 7 per cent. The ratio of instalment collections to first-of-month balances was 14 per cent, 1 point less than both a month ago and a year ago.

Charge accounts receivable also declined from May to June, when some decrease is usual, but continued 2 per cent above the corresponding month last year. Collections on charge accounts amounted to 46 per cent of balances outstanding on the first of the month, the same ratio as was reported in the preceding month and in June last year.

At reporting department stores, both cash and credit sales declined moderately from May to June. Cash and charge-account sales were also less than in the same month of 1956; instalment sales, however, were up 1 per cent.

Changes in Department Store Sales and Accounts Receivable

Item	Percentage change from:	
	May 1957 to June 1957	June 1956 to June 1957
Sales during month: Total	-7	-4
Cash	-6	-5
Charge	-9	-5
Instalment	-5	+1
Accounts receivable, end of month: Charge	-2	+2
Instalment	-1	+7

Collection Ratios and Percentage Distribution of Sales

Item	June 1957	May 1957	June 1956
Collection ratios ^{1/} : Charge accounts	46	45	46
Instalment accounts	14	15	15
Percentage distribution of sales: Cash	45	44	45
Charge	42	43	42
Instalment	13	13	13

^{1/} Collections during month as a percentage of accounts receivable at beginning of month.

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - JUNE 1957

Sales by type
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Total sales		Cash sales		Charge-account sales		Instalment sales	
	May '57 to June '57	June '56 to June '57	May '57 to June '57	June '56 to June '57	May '57 to June '57	June '56 to June '57	May '57 to June '57	June '56 to June '57
Boston	- 7	- 6	- 5	- 6	- 9	- 9	- 9	- 9
New York	- 3	- 6	- 5	- 7	- 3	- 7	+ 4	+ 1
Philadelphia	- 7	- 2	- 5	- 1	- 9	- 4	- 6	+ 2
Cleveland	- 6	- 5	- 6	- 6	- 7	- 8	- 5	+ 5
Richmond	- 11	- 3	- 10	- 6	- 16	- 4	- 4	+ 6
Atlanta	- 20	- 3	- 17	- 5	- 26	- 2	- 16	0
Chicago	- 7	- 5	- 7	- 6	- 5	- 8	- 9	0
St. Louis	- 12	- 4	- 11	- 7	- 15	- 3	- 8	+ 2
Minneapolis	- 16	+ 2	- 8	+ 2	- 20	+ 2	- 26	+ 8
Kansas City	- 8	- 3	- 4	- 4	- 11	- 2	- 13	- 10
Dallas	- 18	+ 4	- 13	+ 4	- 24	+ 2	- 6	+ 8
San Francisco	+ 1	- 1	+ 3	- 2	0	- 1	- 2	- 1
U. S. Total	- 7	- 4	- 6	- 5	- 9	- 5	- 5	+ 1

Accounts receivable, end of month
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Charge accounts		Instalment	
	May '57 to June '57	June '56 to June '57	May '57 to June '57	June '56 to June '57
Boston	- 1	- 3	- 3	- 2
New York	+ 1	+ 6	+ 1	+ 20
Philadelphia	- 3	+ 1	0	- 1
Cleveland	- 2	0	- 2	+ 3
Richmond	- 4	+ 4	0	+ 13
Atlanta	- 6	+ 1	0	+ 2
Chicago	- 2	+ 3	- 4	+ 5
St. Louis	- 2	- 4	+ 3	+ 9
Minneapolis	- 7	- 2	- 2	+ 19
Kansas City	- 2	+ 5	- 2	- 14
Dallas	- 6	+ 4	- 1	- 5
San Francisco	- 2	+ 1	- 2	+ 15
U. S. Total	- 2	+ 2	- 1	+ 7