

G.17

June 4, 1958

## DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - APRIL 1958

Instalment accounts outstanding at department stores declined 4 per cent during April but were 1 per cent above the year ago level. The instalment collection ratio at 14 per cent was down 1 point from the previous month.

Charge accounts receivable increased 1 per cent during April, somewhat less than seasonally, and were 2 per cent below the year ago level. Collections on charge accounts amounted to 46 per cent of first-of-month balances as compared with 49 per cent a month ago and 45 per cent a year ago.

The total of cash and credit sales at reporting department stores was 1 per cent above the previous month and 8 per cent below a year ago.

## Changes in Department Store Sales and Accounts Receivable

Item	Percentage change from:	
	Month ago	Year ago
Sales during month: Total	+1	-8
Cash	-1	-9
Charge	+2	-7
Instalment	+4	-4
Accounts receivable, end of month: Charge	+1	-2
Instalment	-4	+1

## Collection Ratios and Percentage Distribution of Sales

Item	April 1958	March 1958	April 1957
Collection ratios $\frac{1}{2}$ : Charge accounts	46	49	45
Instalment accounts	14	15	15
Percentage distribution of sales: Cash	43	43	44
Charge	44	43	43
Instalment	13	14	13

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

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Sales by type  
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Total sales		Cash sales		Charge-account sales		Instalment sales	
	Month ago	Year ago	Month ago	Year ago	Month ago	Year ago	Month ago	Year ago
Boston	+4	- 6	+4	- 7	+3	- 4	+ 8	- 7
New York	-3	- 7	-5	- 9	+4	- 5	- 8	- 6
Philadelphia	+1	- 4	-1	- 5	+2	- 3	+ 5	- 4
Cleveland	+1	- 9	-1	-12	+1	- 9	+ 4	- 5
Richmond	+5	-10	+3	-12	+2	-10	+20	- 5
Atlanta	0	- 7	-2	-10	+1	- 7	+ 2	+ 2
Chicago	0	- 8	-3	- 7	0	- 8	+13	-10
St. Louis	+1	- 9	+1	-12	+1	- 6	- 3	-12
Minneapolis	-2	- 7	+1	- 8	-2	- 7	-10	- 5
Kansas City	+1	- 5	-1	- 7	+3	- 5	0	+ 1
Dallas	-4	- 4	-6	- 7	-2	- 3	- 5	- 2
San Francisco	+9	- 7	+7	- 8	+9	-13	+16	+10
U. S. Total	+1	- 8	-1	- 9	+2	- 7	+ 4	- 4

Accounts receivable, end of month  
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Charge accounts		Instalment	
	Month ago	Year ago	Month ago	Year ago
Boston	+1	- 2	- 3	-7
New York	0	- 1	- 8	+4
Philadelphia	+1	- 5	- 1	-1
Cleveland	+4	- 3	-11	-1
Richmond	0	- 2	- 1	+7
Atlanta	-4	- 5	- 4	-2
Chicago	0	- 3	- 2	-1
St. Louis	-1	- 3	- 1	+2
Minneapolis	+3	+ 2	- 4	-6
Kansas City	+2	- 1	- 2	-3
Dallas	0	- 1	- 3	-3
San Francisco	+7	-11	- 2	+9
U. S. Total	+1	- 2	- 4	+1