

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.17

October 7, 1960

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - AUGUST 1960

Instalment account receivables at reporting department stores declined 5 per cent in August but were considerably higher than a year earlier. Collections on instalment accounts were 15 per cent of outstandings at the beginning of the month.

Charge account receivables were unchanged in August and remained above a year ago. About 47 per cent of charge account receivables outstanding at the beginning of August were collected during the month.

Sales at reporting stores increased sharply in August reflecting mainly seasonal influences, and were about 5 per cent larger than in August 1959.

Changes in Department Store Sales and Accounts Receivable

Item	Percentage change from:	
	Month ago	Year ago
Sales during month: Total	+22	+ 5
Cash	+20	+ 4
Charge	+27	+ 6
Instalment	+17	+ 7
Accounts receivable, end of month: Charge	0	+ 4
Instalment	- 5	+10

Collection Ratios and Percentage Distribution of Sales

Item	Aug. 1960	July 1960	Aug. 1959
Collection ratios <u>1/</u> : Charge accounts	47	45	46
Instalment accounts	15	14	15
Percentage distribution of sales: Cash	43	44	44
Charge	42	41	41
Instalment	15	15	15

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

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT - AUGUST 1960

Sales by type
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Total sales		Cash sales		Charge-account sales		Instalment sales	
	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year	Month	Year
	ago	ago	ago	ago	ago	ago	ago	ago
Boston	+24	+ 8	+21	+ 7	+38	+10	- 2	+10
New York	+20	+10	+19	+10	+26	+12	+14	+ 6
Philadelphia	+20	+ 5	+12	+ 4	+27	+ 6	+20	+ 4
Cleveland	+24	+ 5	+18	+ 4	+29	+ 4	+24	+11
Richmond	+16	+ 3	+15	+ 2	+23	+ 5	+ 5	+ 2
Atlanta	+19	- 1	+18	- 3	+22	- 5	+17	+11
Chicago	+16	+ 4	+17	+ 2	+25	+ 6	+14	+ 7
St. Louis	+29	+ 2	+25	+ 2	+32	+ 3	+27	- 3
Minneapolis	+33	+ 7	+37	+ 4	+43	+ 5	+26	+22
Kansas City	+25	+ 4	+24	+ 3	+30	+ 7	+14	+ 3
Dallas	+20	- 1	+17	- 6	+27	+ 1	+10	+ 2
San Francisco	+27	+ 7	+33	+ 6	+24	+ 6	+20	+11

Accounts receivable, end of month
(Percentage changes)

Federal Reserve District	Charge accounts		Instalment	
	Month	Year	Month	Year
	ago	ago	ago	ago
Boston	-7	+4	- 3	+11
New York	-4	+3	- 7	+ 2
Philadelphia	-2	0	- 2	+ 1
Cleveland	0	+6	-17	+ 9
Richmond	+2	+2	- 2	+ 2
Atlanta	+3	+2	+ 1	+10
Chicago	-3	+4	- 3	+11
St. Louis	0	+4	0	+13
Minneapolis	+1	+5	0	+29
Kansas City	+4	+2	+ 6	+ 5
Dallas	+7	+5	+ 1	+13
San Francisco	+7	-1	+ 1	+ 6