

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

October 1942 - December 1954

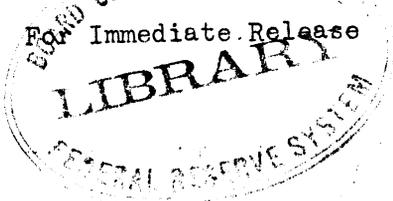


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DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT
October 1942

Instalment accounts receivable of department stores declined further in October but at a less rapid rate than in any earlier month of 1942. Collections continued to improve. The ratio of collections on instalment accounts in October to receivables on the first of the month was 29 per cent as compared with 25 in the preceding month and 19 in October 1941.

Charge accounts outstanding showed somewhat more than the usual seasonal rise from the low levels of recent months and at the end of October were 69 per cent of the amount at the close of 1939. There was a further increase in collections.

These data were compiled by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System from statistics reported to the Federal Reserve Banks. Prior to August 1942, similar series by geographical regions were released by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Those series have been converted to a Federal Reserve District basis and certain revisions have been made in the underlying data. The new series by Districts for recent months are shown on page 2.

Department Store Accounts Receivable and Collections

| | Percentage change from: | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | September 1942 to October 1942 | October 1941 to October 1942 |
| Accounts receivable, end of month | | |
| Instalment accounts | - 3 | -41 |
| Charge accounts | +10 | -24 |
| Collections during month | | |
| Instalment accounts | +10 | - 9 |
| Charge accounts | +28 | - 1 |

Department Store Accounts Receivable and Collections,
by Federal Reserve Districts

| Federal Reserve District | Accounts outstanding; end of month Indexes; Dec. 31, 1939 = 100 | | | | | | Collection ratios* | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------|--------------------|------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| | Instalment | | | Charge accounts | | | Instalment | | | Charge accounts | | |
| | Oct. 1942 | Sept. 1942 | Oct. 1941 | Oct. 1942 | Sept. 1942 | Oct. 1941 | Oct. 1942 | Sept. 1942 | Oct. 1941 | Oct. 1942 | Sept. 1942 | Oct. 1941 |
| Boston | 59 | 60 | 104 | 71 | 61 | 88 | 27 | 21 | 18 | 62 | 57 | 49 |
| New York | 69 | 70 | 111 | 67 | 61 | 87 | 26 | 25 | 20 | 53 | 49 | 43 |
| Philadelphia | 54 | 56 | 97 | 68 | 58 | 84 | 29 | 24 | 19 | 66 | 60 | 46 |
| Cleveland | 69 | 71 | 124 | 69 | 64 | 93 | 29 | 25 | 20 | 66 | 60 | 45 |
| Richmond | 69 | 71 | 1103 | 70 | 63 | 99 | 25 | 22 | 17 | 59 | 55 | 41 |
| Atlanta | 72 | 74 | 120 | 70 | 66 | 95 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 55 | 48 | 36 |
| Chicago | 57 | 60 | 101 | 65 | 64 | 88 | 37 | 32 | 24 | 75 | 70 | 55 |
| St. Louis | 68 | 71 | 117 | 74 | 67 | 93 | 30 | 24 | 18 | 68 | 66 | 51 |
| Minneapolis | 81 | 80 | 106 | 61 | 56 | 94 | 29 | 25 | 21 | 83 | 80 | 53 |
| Kansas City | 67 | 68 | 117 | 69 | 66 | 92 | 30 | 25 | 19 | 69 | 63 | 49 |
| Dallas | 70 | 73 | 139 | 71 | 69 | 96 | 25 | 22 | 14 | 61 | 57 | 40 |
| San Francisco | 71 | 73 | 113 | 74 | 62 | 91 | 30 | 26 | 18 | 71 | 69 | 51 |
| U. S. Total | 65 | 67 | 110 | 69 | 63 | 91 | 29 | 25 | 19 | 65 | 60 | 47 |

* Collections during month as per cent of accounts at beginning of month.

Note: These data are based on reports of more than 400 large department stores having charge accounts and about 300 having instalment accounts. Back figures may be obtained on request from the Division of Research and Statistics.