

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

January 9, 1943

R&S dsc - 2

DEPARTMENT STORE CREDIT

November 1942

At department stores both instalment and charge accounts outstanding showed little change in November and continued substantially below the year ago levels. Collections on instalment accounts declined 3 per cent in November, but the ratio of collections to receivables at the beginning of the month remained unchanged at 29 as compared with 19 in the corresponding month last year. Collections on charge accounts rose 6 per cent in November, resulting in a collection ratio of 63, 14 points above that for a year ago.

Collection ratios and indexes of accounts receivable by Federal Reserve Districts are shown on page 2.

Department Store Accounts Receivable and Collections

	Percentage change from:	
	October 1942 to November 1942	November 1941 to November 1942
Accounts receivable, end of month		
Instalment accounts	+ 2	-40
Charge accounts	+ 1	-24
Collections during month		
Instalment accounts	- 3	-11
Charge accounts	+ 6	- 1
Ratio of collections during month to receivables at beginning of month		
	November 1942	October 1942    November 1942                1941
Instalment accounts	29	29                19
Charge accounts	63	65                49

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		
	Nov. 1942	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1941	Nov. 1942	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1941	Nov. 1942	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1941	Nov. 1942	Oct. 1942	Nov. 1941
Boston	58	59	102	71	71	88	26	27	17	59	62	49
New York	71	69	112	69	67	90	25	26	19	54	53	45
Philadelphia	55	54	100	71	68	92	28	29	20	63	66	48
Cleveland	68	69	121	71	69	92	29	29	20	65	66	50
Richmond	70	69	106	74	70	102	25	25	17	59	59	40
Atlanta	71	72	123	71	70	98	23	23	15	53	55	37
Chicago	56	r56	99	67	65	88	38	37	23	75	75	57
St. Louis	70	68	121	72	74	98	30	30	20	68	68	53
Minneapolis	81	81	103	57	61	89	29	29	20	79	83	53
Kansas City	71	67	114	69	69	84	31	30	19	67	69	51
Dallas	68	70	137	70	r70	96	26	25	14	61	61	43
San Francisco	77	71	112	69	74	95	29	30	18	62	71	50
U. S. Total	66	65	110	70	69	92	29	29	19	63	65	49

\* Collections during month as per cent of accounts at beginning of month.  
r-Revised.

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.