# BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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June 12, 1952

### SALES FINANCE COMPANIES

APRIL 1952

Retail financing—Sales finance company purchases of retail automotive paper in April increased 15 per cent over the preceding month, reflecting gains in all items. Purchases of new passenger car paper increased for the first time since last August, while used-car financing increased for the fourth successive month. Purchases of commercial-car paper also increased substantially. At the end of April, outstanding balances of retail automotive paper were 2 per cent above those of the preceding month-end and slightly above the level of a year age.

Purchases of ether retail instalment paper by sales finance companies expanded 10 per cent in April. The volume of household appliance paper and repair paper acquired increased 12 per cent and 24 per cent, respectively. In contrast, purchases of furniture and television paper declined 13 per cent. Despite the overall menthly expansion in acquisitions, outstanding balances of other retail instalment paper at the end of April were 3 per cent below those of the preceding month-end.

## Retail Financing by Sales Finance Companies

Class of retail paper		volume of paper	1952 to April 1952 Outstanding balances	
	of cars	acquired during month	end of month	
Automotive: Total retail	+15	+15	+ 2	
Passenger cars: New Used	+16 +15	+16 +16	·	
Commercial cars: New Used	+17 +16	+14 +17		
Other consumer goods: Total		<u>+10</u>	<u>- 3</u>	
Furniture, radios, television sets, musical ins Refrigerators and other household appliances Residential building repair and modernisation Miscellaneous retail	truments	-13 +12 +24 +12		

Wholesale financing -- Wholesale automotive paper acquired during April increased about 13 per cent over the preceding month. Outstanding balances at the month-end were up about 4 per cent, bringing these balances to about the year-age level.

Acquisitions of wholesale paper on other comsumer goods, however, declined substantially during the month. Outstanding balances at the end of the month were virtually unchanged from the March level, but were down sharply from April 1951.

NOTE.—April data, based on returns from 108 sales finance companies, are compiled in the same manner as those shown in earlier reports. Aggregates represent only the totals for the reporting companies and, since the reporting sample is not identical from month to month, they are not comparable with totals of preceding months.

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Table 1.--Automotive and Diversified Financing by Sales Finance Companies
Indexes of Outstanding Balances: 1947-1949 average = 100 a/

End of month and year	Total all sales financing	Retail automotive	Wholesale automotive	Wholesale other than automotive	Retail other consumers' goods	Industrial, commercial, and farm equipment
.939	68	76	55	24	49	100
.9ં40• · · · ·	92	101	92	34	64	131
.9[41	103	114	96	61	73	147
.942	36	28	61	10	38	61
.943	14	10	22	2 3	15	27
.944	12	11	13	3	13	23
.945	15	14	15	9	19	23
.946	70	32	49	9 55	52	59
.947	81	67	89	97	112	89
.948	118	115	138	ıíi	114	116
949	155	190	118	81	92	107
.950	198	248	162	126	87	130
.951	202	248	197	120	75	151
.951-April	200	238	209	231	77	136
Мау	202	241	219	220	76	138
June	205	245	221	202	74	140
July	202	248	203	181	72	143
August	203	253	185	156	73	146
September	203	256	178	147	74	149
October	203	254	186	139	74	149
November	203	251	196	130	74	150
December	202	248	197	120	75	151
LOCO Tommore	196	243	181	116	73	156
.952-January	196	245 2h0	189	136	72	160
February				150	71	163
March	196	238	199		69	168
April	200	241	208	152	09	100

Indexes as of December 31 for the years of 1939, 1940, and 1941 are based on figures reported by sales finance companies on a supplementary report form which accompanied the regular monthly report form for January 1942. Succeeding indexes are derived by calculating the percentage changes of the outstanding balances reported by sales finance companies for each month from those reported by the same companies for the preceding month, and by linking these percentages to the indexes for the preceding month.

Table 2.--Relative Importance of Loans Made by Sales Finance Companies
During April 1952 and Outstanding Balances at End of Month

Class of paper	Paper acq during		Outstanding balances, end of month	
	Amount	Percentage of total	Amount	Percentage of total
Total, all classes of paper a/	\$1,020,710,148	100	\$3,696,238,016	100
Total loans  Small (personal) loans  Business loans	87,579,779	9 3 6	275,114,244 154,545,720 120,568,524	7 14 3
Total sales financing a/	933 <b>,</b> 130 <b>,</b> 369	91	3,421,123,772	93

Included in this classification are only those firms which, in addition to their sales financing operations, reported loan activities.

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Table 3.--Automotive and Diversified Financing by Sales Finance Companies
Paper Acquired During April 1952 and Balances Outstanding at End of Month

	Volume of pa during Apr		Outstanding balances April 30, 1952 a/	Ratio paper sequired to outstanding balances b
Class of paper	By all companies reporting	By companies reporting outstanding balances a		
Total retail automotive	13,671,090 28,548,668	\$354,634,778 531,897,778 13,239,197 26,495,252 13,372,127 \$939,639,132	\$2,498,741,564 597,325,502 46,164,322 208,934,600 125,607,857 \$3,476,773,845	114 89 29 13 11 27

Data are based on figures from sales finance companies able to report both their paper acquired and their outstanding balances.

Table 4.--Number of Cars Financed and Volume of Paper Acquired by Sales Finance Companies During April 1952

Class of paper	Number	of cars	Paper acquired		
	Number	Percentage of total	Dollar volume	Percentage of total	
Total retail automotive	283,719	100	\$305,738,243 <u>a/</u>	100	
New passenger cars	74,912	26	117,029,750	38	
New commercial cars	12,269	14	19,657,028	7	
Used passenger cars	180,480	614	156,357,815	51	
Used commercial cars	16,058	•	12,693,650	7	
Total wholesale automotive	<b>3</b> 00 <b>,</b> 973	100	\$527,991,739 a/	100	
New cars (passenger and commercial)	240,702	80	467,545,318	90	
Used cars (passenger and commercial).	60,271	20	60,446,421	89 11	

a/ Data are based on reports from sales finance companies providing a breakdown of their retail and wholesale automotive financing. These amounts are less than those reported in table 3 due to the exclusion of some data for which breakdowns were not available.

Table 5.--Volume of Diversified Sales Financing During April 1952

Class of paper	Dollar volume of paper acquired	Percentage of total
Retail - other consumers' goods:		
Furniture, radios, pianos, and other musical instruments.	\$ 5,651,370	10
Refrigerators and other household appliances	\$ 5,651,370 9,022,565 3,746,051	16
Residential building repairs and modernization	3,746,051	7
Miscellaneous retail	8,613,378	16
Total retail - other consumers' goods	\$27.033.36h.a/	1,0
Total wholesale - other than automotive	\$27,033,364 <u>a</u> / 13,671,090	25
Industrial, commercial, and farm equipment	13,985,483	49 25 26
Total diversified financing	\$54,689,937	100

Data are based on reports from sales finance companies providing a breakdown of their retail financing of other consumers' goods. This amount is less than that reported in table 3 due to the exclusion of some data for which breakdowns were not available.

b/ Ratios obtained by dividing paper acquired (column 2) by outstanding balances (column 3).