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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF RICHMOND

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 15, 1956

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JUNE 1956
(Based on retail dollar amounts)

Summary By Selected Department Groups

	Main Store							Base- ment store total
	Main store total	women's apparel and acces- sories	Men's and boys' wear	Home furnish- ings	Piece goods and house- hold textiles	Small wares	Miscel- laneous	
SALES INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average monthly sales = 100)								
Apr. 1954	99	114	95	87	74	92	86	110
May 1954	93	97	82	95	64	95	83	96
June 1954	94	91	119	94	75	95	93	104
Feb. 1955	76	74	65	88	68	81	65	69
Mar. 1955	98	107	83	101	78	89	81	101
Apr. 1955	100	110	95	97	75	93	89	107
May 1955	99	101	93	104	86	98	87	104
June 1955	96	89	115	101	76	99	99	102
Feb. 1956	82	80	68	97	72	90	66	74
Mar. 1956	106	121	95	99	75	98	97	108
Apr. 1956	94	98	79	105	79	93	77	94
May 1956	107	109	97	115	89	108	94	108
June 1956	102	94	125	111	75	103	103	107

STOCKS INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average of end-of-month stocks = 100)

Apr. 1954	121	125	131	120	107	118	106	115
May 1954	119	120	134	118	104	116	108	114
June 1954	110	106	118	113	99	111	103	102
Feb. 1955	112	121	115	106	105	109	100	107
Mar. 1955	122	131	127	116	107	117	111	116
Apr. 1955	122	128	130	119	109	122	110	116
May 1955	121	122	133	118	106	120	114	115
June 1955	114	113	121	115	101	115	110	107
Feb. 1956	122	133	125	117	111	119	109	115
Mar. 1956	130	138	134	130	114	124	115	119
Apr. 1956	133	138	142	131	115	130	118	122
May 1956	130	131	143	129	112	128	121	118
June 1956	121	119	127	124	107	122	116	108

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

June 1954	3.3	2.6	3.3	4.2	4.1	3.7	2.8	2.0
June 1955	3.3	2.7	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.6	2.8	2.1
June 1956	3.3	2.7	3.2	3.8	4.4	3.8	2.9	2.1

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JUNE 1956

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av. = 100%)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	June		June	
	June	Jan.-June		1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
<u>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</u>	+ 6	+ 4	+ 6	3.0	3.0	—	—
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 6	+ 4	+ 6	3.3	3.3	102	121
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	- 1	+ 2	+ 7	4.4	4.0	75	107
Piece goods	- 7	- 3	- 1	4.3	4.0	52	79
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 6	0	- 5	5.1	4.9	38	69
Woolen yard goods	-10	0	- 7	18.1	17.8	13	69
Cotton yard goods	- 6	- 4	+ 1	2.8	2.6	104	107
Household textiles	+ 1	+ 4	+10	4.3	4.0	91	122
Linen and towels	0	+ 3	+ 8	4.7	4.3	87	111
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	+ 8	+ 6	+14	3.9	3.7	94	148
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 3	+ 2	+ 9	4.2	3.7	95	120
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	+ 4	+ 7	+ 7	3.8	3.6	103	122
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 6	+ 3	+ 3	3.6	3.7	97	115
Motions	+ 5	+ 4	+ 7	3.2	3.1	124	140
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 9	+11	+ 9	3.3	3.3	118	118
Silverware and jewelry	- 1	+ 4	+ 8	4.5	4.1	100	129
Silverware and clocks	0	+ 6	+12	5.7	5.0	104	155
Costume jewelry	+ 1	+ 3	+ 7	2.7	2.6	98	110
Fine jewelry and watches	- 1	+11	+ 6	7.4	6.7	107	130
Art needlework	- 8	0	+ 1	6.3	5.8	59	103
Books and stationery	+ 2	+ 6	+ 5	3.8	3.7	90	122
Books and magazines	+ 4	+12	+ 5	3.4	3.3	85	109
Stationery	+ 1	+ 4	+ 4	4.0	3.9	92	127
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	+ 5	+ 3	+ 6	2.7	2.7	94	119
women's accessories	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	3.2	3.2	93	123
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 7	+ 4	+ 7	2.2	2.2	116	134
Handkerchiefs	- 3	+ 1	- 1	4.0	3.8	48	64
Millinery	+ 2	+ 4	+ 1	1.3	1.3	53	64
Women's and children's gloves	+ 3	+ 5	- 1	5.5	5.7	51	80
Corsets and brassieres	+ 5	+ 5	+ 4	2.7	2.7	152	156
Women's, children's hosiery	- 4	- 1	+ 3	3.1	2.8	69	120
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 2	+ 1	+ 4	2.7	2.7	93	115
Knit underwear	+ 1	+ 1	+ 7	3.1	3.0	109	153
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 3	0	+ 3	2.6	2.6	91	105
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 2	+ 3	+ 4	2.2	2.2	82	92
Infants' wear	+ 3	+ 2	+ 4	3.4	3.4	87	120
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 5	+ 4	+ 6	2.3	2.3	102	117
Women's and children's shoes	+ 9	+ 5	+ 8	4.7	4.8	111	143
Children's shoes	+10	+ 2	+ 9	5.1	5.2	98	147
Women's shoes	+ 8	+ 5	+ 8	4.6	4.7	116	145

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS (Continued)

UNITED STATES - JUNE 1956

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	June		June	June
	June	Jan.-June	June	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
women's apparel	+ 7	+ 4	+ 6	2.1	2.1	95	113
women's, misses' coats & suits	-14	0	+ 5	4.5	3.8	27	75
women's, misses' coats	-14	+ 4	+ 9	5.1	4.1	22	77
women's, misses' suits	-13	- 6	- 4	3.6	3.2	33	65
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 8	+ 6	+ 8	2.2	2.2	94	119
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 9	+ 8	+ 9	1.6	1.6	93	106
Girls' wear	+ 7	+ 4	+ 8	2.8	2.8	96	130
women's and misses' dresses	+ 5	+ 4	+ 4	1.4	1.4	113	110
Inexpensive dresses	+ 8	+ 5	+ 3	1.1	1.1	128	114
Better dresses	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	1.9	1.8	101	107
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+12	+ 5	+12	2.0	2.0	147	156
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+10	+ 4	- 6	1.4	1.7	150	119
Furs	+ 8	+ 4	+ 5	15.0	15.2	23	94
Men's AND BOYS' WEAR							
men's clothing	+11	+ 4	+ 7	3.7	3.9	128	136
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 8	+ 3	+ 4	2.6	2.7	135	124
Boys' wear	+ 8	0	+ 1	4.1	4.4	88	109
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 8	+ 6	+12	4.6	4.5	142	144
HOME FURNISHINGS							
Furniture and bedding	+ 3	+ 6	+11	4.0	3.8	119	131
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	+ 4	+ 9	2.0	1.9	136	150
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 5	+ 7	+12	4.7	4.5	113	132
Domestic floor coverings	- 3	+ 4	+10	5.5	4.9	71	106
Rugs and carpets	- 5	+ 4	+11	5.7	4.9	74	115
Linoleum	+ 3	+10	+13	4.3	4.0	57	69
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 4	+ 5	+ 5	4.2	4.2	105	121
Lamps and shades	- 4	+ 4	+ 6	4.9	4.4	74	116
China and glassware	+ 1	+ 3	+ 2	7.3	7.2	99	133
Major household appliances	+24	+10	- 1	1.7	2.2	115	103
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+22	+10	+ 7	3.1	3.5	145	140
Gift shop	+ 2	+ 7	+ 9	5.6	5.3	104	152
radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+19	+10	+19	3.1	3.1	105	117
radios, phonographs, television	+20	+ 6	+18	2.7	2.8	92	105
Records, sheet music, instr.	+22	+19	+16	4.3	4.4	107	112
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.							
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 7	+ 6	+ 9	4.0	4.0	106	134
Toys and games	+10	+ 4	+ 6	4.7	4.9	81	148
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 5	+ 7	+13	3.4	3.2	150	123
Luggage	0	+ 8	+ 9	2.8	2.6	146	130
Candy	- 2	+ 6	+ 7	1.4	1.2	75	94

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS (Continued)

UNITED STATES - JUNE 1956

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	June		June	
	June	Jan.-June	June	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
BASEM&M STORE TOTAL	+ 5	+ 1	+ 1	2.1	2.1	107	108
Domestics and blankets	0	+ 2	+ 7	3.2	3.0	95	122
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 5	+ 1	- 1	1.6	1.7	100	100
Intimate apparel	+ 2	+ 1	+ 1	2.1	2.1	112	117
Hosiery	- 3	- 1	+ 2	2.3	2.2	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 4	+ 1	- 1	2.0	2.1	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 7	- 3	- 8	3.2	3.2	26	58
Dresses	+ 3	+ 2	- 5	0.8	0.9	124	99
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+17	+ 5	+ 4	1.3	1.4	157	121
Girls' wear	+ 6	0	+ 2	1.8	1.9	106	114
Infants' wear	+ 3	- 1	0	2.5	2.6	95	112
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+10	+ 3	-11	1.2	1.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 7	+ 1	0	1.9	2.0	146	119
Men's wear	+ 7	+ 2	+ 1	1.7	1.9	157	121
Men's clothing	+ 5	+ 1	+ 5	2.0	2.0	159	134
Men's furnishings	+ 9	+ 2	- 3	1.5	1.7	161	114
Boys' wear	+ 7	- 2	- 2	2.6	2.9	104	114
Homefurnishings	+ 1	+ 2	+ 4	3.2	3.1	89	113
Shoes	+ 6	+ 2	+ 1	3.1	3.2	115	111
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	+ 9	+ 7	3/	3/	3/	116	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 7	+ 4	3/	3/	3/	152	3/

1/ The ratio of stocks to sales is obtained by dividing stocks at the end of the month by sales during the month and hence indicates the number of months' supply on hand at the end of the month in terms of sales for that month.

2/ The 1947-49 average of monthly sales and end-of-month stocks for each department is used as the base in computing sales and stocks indexes, respectively, for that department. For description of series, see pages 1146-49 of the November 1953 Federal Reserve Bulletin. A brochure containing back data for the departmental series for the period 1940-1952, inclusive, may be obtained from the Division of Administrative Services, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Washington 25, D. C.

3/ Data not available.

Note:--Based on reports from a group of large department stores located in various cities throughout the country. In 1955, sales and stocks at these stores accounted for almost 50 per cent of estimated total department store sales and stocks. Not all stores report data for all of the departments shown; consequently, the sample for the individual departments is not so comprehensive as that for the total.

c--Corrected.