

Chandler

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 1956

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JULY 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)

May 1954	93	97	82	95	84	95	83	96
June 1954	94	91	119	94	75	95	93	104
July 1954	75	70	70	86	73	74	79	74
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
July 1955	78	71	74	97	71	75	81	76
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
July 1956	81	74	72	99	80	80	83	77

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

May 1954	119	120	134	118	104	116	108	114
June 1954	110	106	118	113	99	111	103	102
July 1954	106	107	110	107	101	105	101	98
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
July 1955	110	113	111	109	104	109	106	101
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
July 1956	119	122	121	120	110	117	114	104

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

July 1954	4.0	3.3	5.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	3.2	2.7
July 1955	3.9	3.4	4.9	3.8	4.4	4.6	3.2	2.7
July 1956	4.0	3.5	5.4	4.0	4.2	4.6	3.4	2.8

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JULY 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)	July		July	
	July	Jan.-July	July	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL—entire store	+ 3	+ 4	+ 8	3.8	3.6	—	—
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 4	+ 4	+ 8	4.0	3.9	81	119
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+12	+ 3	+ 6	4.2	4.4	80	110
Piece goods	+ 5	- 2	- 1	5.1	5.4	46	85
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 9	+ 1	+ 1	6.2	6.6	35	75
woolen yard goods	+20.	+ 2	- 4	7.9	9.7	31	82
Cotton yard goods	+ 4	- 3	- 1	3.3	3.5	86	112
Household textiles	+15	+ 5	+ 9	3.8	4.0	103	123
Linens and towels	+13	+ 5	+ 8	4.4	4.5	93	112
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	+15	+ 8	+10	3.1	3.2	123	151
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+18	+ 4	+ 9	4.0	4.4	99	124
SMALL WARES	+ 7	+ 7	+ 8	4.6	4.6	80	117
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 9	+ 4	+ 3	4.8	5.0	66	102
Notions	+ 4	+ 4	+ 9	4.3	4.1	87	133
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 5	+10	+10	3.8	3.6	97	113
Silverware and jewelry	+ 7	+ 5	+ 9	6.0	5.9	69	121
Silverware and clocks	+ 6	+ 6	+13	7.8	7.4	71	148
Costume jewelry	+ 7	+ 3	+ 8	3.5	3.5	73	105
Fine jewelry and watches	+11	+11	+ 5	9.9	10.1	64	103
Art needlework	+11	+ 1	- 1	5.8	6.6	61	100
Books and stationery	+10	+ 7	+ 5	4.6	4.8	72	118
Books and magazines	+ 9	+11	+ 5	3.6	3.7	76	105
Stationery	+10	+ 5	+ 6	5.1	5.3	70	124
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 4	+ 4	+ 8	3.5	3.4	74	122
Women's accessories	+ 4	+ 3	+ 6	4.1	4.0	73	120
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 8	+ 4	+ 7	2.8	2.8	84	128
handkerchiefs	+ 6	+ 1	- 3	4.9	5.2	38	61
Millinery	+14	+ 5	+ 5	2.0	2.2	38	70
women's and children's gloves	+17	+ 6	0	8.3	9.8	34	79
Corsets and brassieres	+ 4	+ 5	+ 6	3.4	3.4	115	150
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 3	- 1	+ 5	3.7	3.6	55	116
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 4	0	+ 7	3.1	2.8	75	105
knit underwear	0	+ 1	+ 8	3.2	3.0	94	136
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 6	- 1	+ 7	3.2	2.8	69	95
negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 4	+ 2	+ 7	2.4	2.2	69	84
Infants' wear	+10	+ 3	+ 6	3.9	4.1	81	127
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 3	+ 4	+ 8	3.3	3.2	69	110
women's and children's shoes	+ 8	+ 5	+ 8	6.4	6.4	82	142
Children's shoes	+ 7	+ 3	+10	6.6	6.4	73	150
Women's shoes	+ 8	+ 6	+ 8	6.4	6.4	83	139

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

UNITED STATES - JULY 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)		July		July		
				1956	1955	Sales	Stocks	
	July, Jan.-July	July						
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)								
Women's apparel	+ 4	+ 4	+10	2.9	2.8	75	124	
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+19	+ 2	+ 6	4.6	5.2	37	103	
Women's, misses' coats	+25	+ 5	+ 9	4.8	5.6	37	113	
Women's, misses' suits	+13	- 4	- 4	4.0	4.7	36	78	
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 9	+ 6	+13	3.2	3.1	79	145	
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+10	+ 8	+14	2.4	2.3	75	127	
Girls' wear	+ 9	+ 4	+12	4.0	3.9	84	159	
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 1	+ 3	+12	1.9	1.7	75	95	
Inexpensive dresses	+ 2	+ 4	+13	1.4	1.3	81	93	
Better dresses	+ 3	+ 4	+14	2.5	2.3	73	98	
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 2	+ 5	+16	2.8	2.5	112	163	
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-12	+ 2	+ 3	1.8	1.6	99	102	
Furs	+34	+ 7	0	8.3	11.2	54	121	
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR								
Men's clothing	- 3	+ 2	+ 8	5.4	4.9	72	121	
Men's furnishings and hats	- 4	+ 3	+ 9	5.8	5.1	76	125	
Men's furnishings and hats	- 5	+ 1	+ 8	4.6	4.1	72	114	
Boys' wear	+ 7	+ 1	+ 5	6.4	6.5	63	120	
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 2	+ 6	+13	6.9	6.2	87	135	
HOME FURNISHINGS								
Furniture and bedding	+ 2	+ 6	+10	4.0	3.8	99	120	
Furniture and bedding	+13	+ 7	+10	3.4	3.6	129	124	
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+11	+ 5	+ 6	1.6	1.7	157	142	
Upholstered, other furniture	+15	+ 8	+11	4.2	4.4	119	123	
Domestic floor coverings	+14	+ 6	+ 9	5.2	5.5	72	102	
Rugs and carpets	+13	+ 5	+10	5.3	5.4	73	111	
Linoleum	+ 9	+10	+14	5.4	4.9	53	73	
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 9	+ 5	+ 5	4.9	5.1	83	113	
Lamps and shades	+13	+ 5	+ 6	4.8	5.1	70	108	
China and glassware	+13	+ 4	+ 3	8.7	9.6	78	129	
Major household appliances	-20	+ 3	+20	1.9	1.4	100	104	
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	-13	+ 6	+14	4.0	3.1	106	136	
Gift shop	+10	+ 8	+10	6.6	6.7	87	145	
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+19	+11	+20	3.3	3.3	93	114	
Radios, phonographs, television	+22	+ 8	+11	2.6	2.9	90	101	
Records, sheet music, instr.	+18	+19	+20	4.6	4.4	106	129	
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.								
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	3.4	3.2	83	114	
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 3	+ 4	+12	5.0	4.4	82	134	
Toys and games	-12	+ 1	+11	5.8	4.6	62	141	
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 9	+ 8	+14	4.2	4.0	117	128	
Luggage	+11	+ 8	+ 9	3.3	3.4	115	124	
Candy	+20	+ 8	+ 3	1.3	1.5	70	85	

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

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	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	July		July	July
	July	Jan.-July	July	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
BASINENT STORE TOTAL	+ 1	+ 1	+ 3	2.8	2.7	77	104
Domestics and blankets	+14	+ 4	+ 3	2.8	3.1	102	117
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 1	+ 1	+ 4	2.3	2.2	71	100
Intimate apparel	- 1	+ 1	+ 4	2.5	2.4	89	114
Hosiery	+ 9	0	0	2.9	3.1	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 3	+ 1	+ 4	2.4	2.3	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+17	- 2	- 6	4.1	5.0	25	77
Dresses	- 7	+ 1	+10	1.2	1.0	77	86
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 2	+ 5	+11	1.7	1.6	108	114
Girls' wear	+ 6	+ 1	+ 7	2.9	2.8	77	127
Infants' wear	+ 8	0	+ 2	3.1	3.4	81	121
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-16	0	+ 5	1.9	1.6	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 4	0	+ 5	3.1	2.8	84	113
Men's wear	- 6	+ 1	+ 9	2.7	2.6	87	114
Men's clothing	- 7	0	+10	4.0	2.9	90	124
Men's furnishings	- 5	+ 1	+ 3	2.5	2.4	86	103
Boys' wear	+ 9	- 1	- 1	3.8	4.0	80	124
Homefurnishings	+ 6	+ 2	+ 4	3.8	3.9	73	110
Shoes	+ 5	+ 2	+ 3	4.2	4.4	79	106
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	+ 9	+ 7	3/	3/	3/	104	3/
Barber and beauty shop	- 5	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	140	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 a most 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.