

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 16, 1956

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)

June 1954	94	91	119	94	75	95	93	104
July 1954	75	70	70	86	73	74	79	74
Aug. 1954	86	87	71	94	97	81	75	87
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
Aug. 1955	93	91	77	107	104	86	79	93
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
Aug. 1956	98	100	82	109	105	92	84	98

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

June 1954	110	106	118	113	99	111	103	102
July 1954	106	107	110	107	101	105	101	98
Aug. 1954	111	120	120	103	98	106	105	104
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	121	109	104	109	106	101
Aug. 1955	117	128	125	107	102	111	110	108
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
Aug. 1956	126	138	135	117	108	119	119	110

## RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Aug. 1954	3.6	3.0	5.5	3.8	3.1	4.2	3.5	2.4
Aug. 1955	3.5	3.1	5.2	3.4	2.9	4.1	3.4	2.4
Aug. 1956	3.6	3.0	5.4	3.7	3.2	4.1	3.6	2.4

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)	August		August	
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
<b>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</b>	+ 6	+ 4	+ 7	3.4	3.3	--	--
<b>MAIN STORE TOTAL</b>	+ 6	+ 5	+ 8	3.6	3.5	98	126
<b>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</b>	+ 1	+ 3	+ 6	3.2	2.9	105	108
Piece goods	+ 2	- 2	0	4.4	4.5	60	91
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 6	+ 1	- 1	5.1	5.3	47	83
Woolen yard goods	+ 9	+ 3	- 2	3.8	4.2	80	105
Cotton yard goods	- 4	- 3	0	3.8	3.6	73	105
Household textiles	+ 1	+ 5	+10	2.7	2.4	138	117
Linens and towels	+ 3	+ 4	+ 8	3.2	3.0	120	105
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	- 4	+ 5	+16	2.1	1.7	168	137
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 7	+ 5	+ 7	3.1	3.1	130	121
<b>SMALL WARES</b>	+ 7	+ 7	+ 7	4.1	4.1	92	119
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 8	+ 4	+ 4	5.0	4.9	71	107
Notions	+ 2	+ 4	+ 7	4.3	4.1	87	132
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 6	+10	+ 8	3.5	3.4	105	110
Silverware and jewelry	+13	+ 6	+ 7	5.1	5.3	87	124
Silverware and clocks	+26	+ 8	+ 8	5.1	5.9	107	144
Costume jewelry	+ 7	+ 4	+10	3.8	3.7	79	122
Fine jewelry and watches	- 1	+ 9	+ 2	8.9	8.1	82	110
Art needlework	+ 8	+ 2	- 2	4.9	5.3	76	103
Books and stationery	+ 7	+ 7	+ 7	3.8	3.8	95	125
Books and magazines	+ 6	+11	+ 6	3.0	3.0	92	104
Stationery	+ 7	+ 5	+ 7	4.2	4.1	95	133
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</b>	+10	+ 4	+ 8	3.0	3.1	100	138
Women's accessories	+ 9	+ 4	+ 6	3.8	3.9	90	136
Neckwear and scarfs	+13	+ 5	+10	3.0	3.1	96	156
Handkerchiefs	+ 3	+ 1	- 1	4.3	4.4	44	63
Millinery	+29	+ 7	+ 5	1.4	1.7	82	106
Women's and children's gloves	+19	+ 7	0	8.0	9.5	43	97
Corsets and brassieres	+ 9	+ 5	+ 5	3.3	3.4	122	150
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 9	0	+ 3	3.4	3.5	66	124
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 1	0	+ 7	3.4	3.2	74	111
Knit underwear	0	+ 1	+ 7	3.3	3.1	97	145
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	0	- 1	+ 7	3.6	3.3	65	101
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 2	+ 2	+ 7	2.9	2.8	71	99
Infants' wear	+10	+ 4	+ 4	3.1	3.2	120	144
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 8	+ 5	+ 8	3.3	3.3	83	131
Women's and children's shoes	+12	+ 6	+ 7	5.7	5.9	109	165
Children's shoes	+16	+ 5	+ 5	3.8	4.1	151	171
Women's shoes	+10	+ 6	+ 7	6.4	6.5	100	165

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

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)	August		August	
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	+10	+ 5	+10	2.4	2.4	109	141
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+10	+ 3	+ 5	3.1	3.2	74	135
Women's, misses' coats	+10	+ 6	+ 9	2.9	2.9	84	151
Women's, misses' suits	+ 7	- 3	- 4	3.4	3.8	61	110
Juniors' and girls' wear	+13	+ 7	+11	1.9	2.0	150	158
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+14	+ 9	+13?	1.9	1.9	118	143
Girls' wear	+12	+ 6	+10	2.0	2.1	188	171
Women's and misses' dresses	+11	+ 4	+11	1.9	1.9	89	113
Inexpensive dresses	+11	+ 5	+11	1.5	1.5	88	108
Better dresses	+10	+ 5	+11	2.4	2.4	96	122
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+11	+ 6	+15	2.7	2.5	139	180
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 3	+ 1	+ 8	2.0	1.8	91	98
Furs	+ 6	+ 6	+ 5	4.1	4.1	115	122
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>	+ 5	+ 2	+ 9	5.4	5.2	82	135
Men's clothing	- 1	+ 3	+11	7.6	6.8	69	149
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 2	+ 2	+ 7	5.2	4.9	68	122
Boys' wear	+15	+ 3	+ 5	3.5	3.8	136	138
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 8	+ 6	+11	7.0	6.7	98	146
<b>HOME FURNISHINGS</b>	+ 3	+ 6	+ 9	3.7	3.4	109	117
Furniture and bedding	+ 3	+ 6	+ 9	2.9	2.8	147	119
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	+ 4	+ 4	1.2	1.2	179	128
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 5	+ 8	+10	3.5	3.4	136	117
Domestic floor coverings	+ 8	+ 6	+ 5	4.3	4.4	88	102
Rugs and carpets	+ 8	+ 6	+ 6	4.1	4.3	95	107
Linoleum	+ 3	+ 9	+11	4.8	4.6	58	71
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 2	+ 5	+ 5	4.9	4.7	87	116
Lamps and shades	+ 3	+ 5	+ 4	4.2	4.1	80	109
China and glassware	+ 8	+ 5	+ 3	7.2	7.3	102	130
Major household appliances	- 6	+ 2	+19	2.0	1.5	99	96
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 3	+ 5	+11	4.0	3.5	106	133
Gift shop	+ 8	+ 8	+10	5.6	5.5	103	147
Radios, phonographs, television, planes, records, sheet music, instr.	+13	+11	+19	2.7	2.6	112	110
Radios, phonographs, television	+10	+ 8	+19	2.3	2.1	117	111
Records, sheet music, instr.	+24	+19	+22	3.9	4.0	104	124
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>	+ 7	+ 4	+ 9	3.6	3.4	84	119
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 7	+ 5	+13	5.5	5.1	82	143
Toys and games	+ 5	+ 2	+13	6.0	5.4	66	151
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 9	+ 8	+14	4.9	4.5	108	128
Luggage	+ 7	+ 8	+10	3.4	3.2	112	120
Candy	+20	+ 9	+ 8	1.1	1.2	78	87

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

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 1956

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales $\frac{1}{2}$		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 $\frac{2}{2}$ )	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	August		August	August
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	Aug.	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
<b>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</b>	+ 5	+ 2	+ 2	2.4	2.4	98	110
Domestics and blankets	+ 1	+ 4	+ 7	2.3	2.1	128	115
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 7	+ 2	+ 4	2.0	2.0	94	109
Intimate apparel	+ 3	+ 1	+ 3	2.5	2.5	92	112
Hosiery	+ 9	+ 1	- 1	2.6	2.9	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 1	+ 1	+ 3	2.4	2.3	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+ 5	- 1	- 2	2.4	2.6	59	102
Dresses	+ 5	+ 1	+ 7	1.1	1.1	79	81
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+13	+ 6	+11	1.7	1.7	133	132
Girls' wear	+14	+ 3	+ 6	1.4	1.5	177	138
Infants' wear	+10	+ 1	+ 2	2.2	2.3	131	132
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-11	- 1	+ 9	2.4	1.9	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 7	+ 1	+ 4	2.7	2.8	107	125
Men's wear	+ 2	+ 1	+ 5	3.2	3.0	89	120
Men's clothing	+ 2	0	+10	3.7	3.4	94	140
Men's furnishings	+ 2	+ 1	- 1	2.8	2.9	88	110
Boys' wear	+19	+ 3	+ 2	1.9	2.2	184	138
Homefurnishings	0	+ 2	+ 2	3.2	3.0	87	104
Shoes	+ 6	+ 3	0	3.7	3.8	103	117
<b>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</b>	+ 8	+ 7	3/	3/	3/	115	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 4	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	123	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.