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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

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

Summary By Selected Department Groups

	Main Store							Base- ment store total
	Main store total	Women's apparel and access- ories	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)								
Sept. 1954	100	109	91	101	84	96	78	104
Oct. 1954	109	112	109	113	89	105	95	110
Nov. 1954	127	120	148	123	94	137	172	128
July 1955	78	71	74	97	71	75	81	76
Aug. 1955	93	91	77	107	104	86	79	93
Sept. 1955	106	114	95	111	88	101	85	107
Oct. 1955	116	119	116	124	92	111	102	116
Nov. 1955	134	126	157	131	96	146	184	132
July 1956	81	74	72	99	80	80	83	77
Aug. 1956	98	100	82	109	105	92	84	98
Sept. 1956	108	118	99	109	85	100	85	109
Oct. 1956	118	122	114	126	93	113	102	117
Nov. 1956	140	133	163	135	99	150	190	135

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

Sept. 1954	123	134	138	110	106	114	126	118
Oct. 1954	132	140	149	115	110	131	158	124
Nov. 1954	135	142	152	115	111	146	165	126
July 1955	110	113	111	109	104	109	106	101
Aug. 1955	117	128	125	107	102	111	110	108
Sept. 1955	127	140	142	113	109	119	127	119
Oct. 1955	138	149	156	120	115	137	163	128
Nov. 1955	143	153	160	122	117	155	172	132
July 1956	119	122	121	120	110	117	114	104
Aug. 1956	126	138	135	117	108	119	119	110
Sept. 1956	135	147	152	122	113	126	136	120
Oct. 1956	150	162	172	131	121	147	178	133
Nov. 1956	154	164	174	131	121	165	185	136

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Nov. 1954	3.0	2.6	3.4	3.3	3.6	3.4	2.4	2.0
Nov. 1955	2.9	2.6	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.3	2.3	2.1
Nov. 1956	3.1	2.7	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.5	2.5	2.1

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)	November 1956	November 1955	Sales	Stocks
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	Nov.				
GRAND TOTAL—entire store	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	2.9	2.8	--	--
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	3.1	2.9	140	154
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+ 3	+ 2	+ 4	3.7	3.7	99	121
Piece goods	0	- 1	0	3.4	3.4	72	86
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 1	+ 1	+ 2	3.2	3.2	68	81
Woolen yard goods	+ 3	+ 3	- 5	2.4	2.6	99	82
Cotton yard goods	- 3	- 3	- 1	4.3	4.2	64	103
Household textiles	+ 4	+ 4	+ 5	3.8	3.7	117	141
Linen and towels	+ 3	+ 3	+ 3	3.6	3.6	129	130
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	4.8	4.8	84	163
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 3	+ 3	+ 6	3.2	3.1	141	137
SMALL WARES	+ 3	+ 5	+ 7	3.5	3.3	150	165
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 5	+ 4	+ 6	3.9	3.6	104	126
Notions	+ 4	+ 4	+ 6	3.7	3.7	119	157
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 5	+ 8	+ 9	4.0	3.8	139	167
Silverware and jewelry	- 3	+ 3	+ 5	4.1	3.8	144	172
Silverware and clocks	- 2	+ 5	+ 5	5.1	4.8	134	178
Costume jewelry	- 4	+ 1	+ 4	3.1	2.8	146	177
Fine jewelry and watches	- 2	+ 5	+ 2	5.9	5.4	167	160
Art needlework	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	3.6	3.6	121	118
Books and stationery	+ 6	+ 6	+ 8	2.4	2.4	216	189
Books and magazines	+ 7	+ 8	+ 8	2.5	2.5	176	167
Stationery	+ 6	+ 4	+ 7	2.4	2.3	232	193
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 5	+ 4	+ 7	2.7	2.6	133	164
Women's accessories	+ 5	+ 4	+ 6	3.0	3.0	136	165
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 4	+ 5	+ 7	2.2	2.1	176	210
Handkerchiefs	+ 1	+ 1	- 2	3.3	3.4	102	111
Millinery	+ 3	+ 7	- 1	0.9	0.9	105	86
Women's and children's gloves	+ 2	+ 5	+ 8	2.9	2.7	173	122
Corsets and brassieres	+ 6	+ 5	+ 5	3.5	3.5	129	167
Women's, children's hosiery	0	0	+ 5	2.8	2.6	101	158
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 4	+ 1	+ 4	2.9	2.9	135	176
Knit underwear	+ 5	+ 2	+ 3	3.1	3.2	164	222
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 3	0	+ 5	3.0	3.0	111	150
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 4	+ 2	+ 5	2.3	2.2	160	179
Infants' wear	+ 8	+ 4	+ 6	2.4	2.5	172	165
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 6	+ 4	+ 8	2.6	2.5	153	194
Women's and children's shoes	+ 6	+ 5	+ 7	5.1	5.0	122	165
Children's shoes	+ 6	+ 3	+ 7	4.7	4.6	121	169
Women's shoes	+ 6	+ 6	+ 7	5.2	5.1	122	162

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 1956

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of Stocks to sales $\frac{1}{2}$		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 $\frac{2}{3}$)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	November		November	
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	Nov.	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 5	+ 5	+10	2.3	2.2	129	163
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 3	+ 3	+ 9	1.9	1.8	115	134
Women's, misses' coats	+ 1	+ 5	+11	1.8	1.6	134	156
Women's, misses' suits	+ 9	0	+ 7	2.6	2.7	57	86
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 7	+ 6	+11	2.1	2.0	155	186
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 6	8	+ 8	2.0	1.9	118	161
Girls' wear	+ 8	+ 5	+12	2.2	2.1	201	205
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	2.1	2.0	98	139
Inexpensive dresses	+ 7	+ 6	+ 8	1.6	1.6	100	140
Better dresses	0	+ 4	+ 7	2.6	2.4	99	141
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 9	+ 6	+16	2.6	2.5	164	219
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2	2.4	2.5	99	129
Furs	+ 2	+ 6	+ 5	3.5	3.3	154	139
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+ 4	+ 2	+ 9	3.5	3.3	163	174
Men's clothing	+ 2	+ 2	+10	4.3	4.0	144	175
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 5	+ 2	+ 8	3.1	2.9	173	181
Boys' wear	+ 5	+ 3	+ 7	3.0	2.9	176	158
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 6	+ 5	+11	5.2	4.9	149	170
HOMEFURNISHINGS	+ 3	+ 4	+ 8	3.4	3.2	135	131
Furniture and bedding	+ 5	+ 5	+ 7	3.3	3.3	140	127
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	+ 3	+ 1	2.1	2.1	125	145
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 6	+ 7	+ 7	3.5	3.4	146	121
Domestic floor coverings	+ 3	+ 5	+ 5	3.2	3.1	127	112
Rugs and carpets	+ 6	+ 5	+ 7	3.1	3.0	131	115
Linoleum	- 7	+ 6	+10	4.8	4.2	58	77
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 3	+ 2	+ 7	3.2	2.9	142	127
Lamps and shades	+ 2	+ 4	+ 7	2.8	2.7	147	138
China and glassware	+ 7	+ 5	+ 4	5.1	5.2	162	146
Major household appliances	- 1	0	+ 8	2.6	2.4	77	99
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	0	+ 3	+10	3.8	3.3	135	157
Gift shop	+ 6	+ 6	+10	3.8	3.6	220	205
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+10	+ 8	+12	2.3	2.2	172	133
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 3	+ 4	+ 9	2.0	1.9	189	159
Records, sheet music, instr.	+22	+18	+21	2.8	2.8	203	151
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 3	+ 3	+ 7	2.5	2.3	190	185
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 3	+ 3	+ 9	2.6	2.4	285	234
Toys and games	+ 1	+ 1	+ 9	2.2	2.0	335	279
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 9	+ 7	+10	3.9	3.8	189	177
Luggage	+ 2	+ 7	+ 8	4.4	4.2	118	170
Candy	+11	+ 8	+ 5	1.3	1.4	146	170

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, B. DEPARTMENTS (Continued)

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)	November		November	November
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	Nov.	1956	1955	Sales	Stocks
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	+ 2	+ 2	+ 3	2.1	2.1	135	136
Domestics and blankets	+ 2	+ 3	+ 2	2.8	2.8	123	139
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 3	+ 2	+ 2	1.8	1.8	125	136
Intimate apparel	+ 1	+ 1	+ 2	2.3	2.2	128	145
Hosiery	0	+ 1	- 3	2.1	2.1	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 2	+ 1	+ 2	2.4	2.3	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 1	+ 1	- 2	1.4	1.4	96	95
Dresses	+ 1	+ 2	- 2	1.4	1.4	81	106
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+10	+ 6	+10	1.9	1.9	163	176
Girls' wear	+ 2	+ 2	+ 8	1.7	1.5	185	169
Infants' wear	+ 5	+ 1	0	1.8	1.9	187	159
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 2	- 1	- 1	2.4	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 5	+ 2	+ 4	2.1	2.1	183	162
Men's wear	+ 5	+ 2	+ 4	2.1	2.1	179	162
Men's clothing	+ 6	+ 1	+ 4	2.3	2.3	168	157
Men's furnishings	+ 5	+ 2	+ 4	2.0	1.9	185	164
Boys' wear	+ 4	+ 2	+ 6	2.0	1.9	193	161
Homefurnishings	- 7	0	+ 1	2.3	2.1	132	116
Shoes	+ 3	+ 2	+ 4	3.4	3.3	124	129
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	+ 3	+ 6	3/	3/	3/	154	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 3	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	110	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.