

*Chambers* 49

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 15, 1957

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1957  
(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)

Nov. 1954	127	120	148	123	94	137	172	128
Dec. 1954	195	181	277	139	114	258	335	177
Jan. 1955	86	80	74	95	132	85	58	78
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
Dec. 1955	203	189	285	148	118	269	350	180
Jan. 1956	87	80	73	100	134	90	61	76
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
Dec. 1956	202	188	278	149	117	271	346	177
Jan. 1957	91	84	78	101	139	95	65	81

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

Nov. 1954	135	142	152	115	111	146	165	126
Dec. 1954	108	109	110	106	111	110	94	100
Jan. 1955	106	110	105	103	103	107	103	98
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
Dec. 1955	115	117	116	114	116	118	100	102
Jan. 1956	116	121	114	114	109	116	111	104
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
Dec. 1956	122	124	128	120	120	125	104	103
Jan. 1957	121	125	121	120	111	123	118	104

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Jan. 1955	3.5	3.0	4.6	3.8	2.4	4.0	4.5	2.6
Jan. 1956	3.7	3.3	5.1	3.9	2.4	4.1	4.5	2.8
Jan. 1957	3.7	3.2	5.1	4.1	2.4	4.1	4.5	2.7

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JANUARY

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)	January		January	January
			1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
	January	January	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<u>GRAND TOTAL-entire store</u>	+ 4	+ 4	3.5	3.5	--	--
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 4	+ 5	3.7	3.7	91	121
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	+ 4	+ 3	2.4	2.4	139	111
Piece goods	- 5	0	4.3	4.1	60	91
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 5	+ 1	4.4	4.1	51	80
Woolen yard goods	0	- 3	3.6	3.8	63	79
Cotton yard goods	- 7	+ 1	4.4	4.0	73	122
Household textiles	+ 6	+ 4	2.0	2.0	196	121
Linens and towels	+ 3	+ 3	2.5	2.5	159	108
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 5	+ 6	1.3	1.3	258	140
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+11	+ 2	2.5	2.7	171	129
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	+ 5	+ 5	4.1	4.1	95	123
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 1	+ 6	5.3	4.8	64	103
Notions	+ 4	+ 6	4.0	3.9	94	133
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 6	+ 6	3.5	3.5	115	122
Silverware and jewelry	+ 3	+ 4	6.0	6.0	72	128
Silverware and clocks	+17	+ 6	6.6	7.3	83	141
Costume jewelry	- 7	+ 4	4.1	3.6	65	107
Fine jewelry and watches	- 1	0	11.5	11.3	63	130
Art needlework	+ 7	- 1	3.5	3.7	106	101
Books and stationery	+ 7	+ 7	3.5	3.5	106	128
Books and magazines	+10	+ 8	2.7	2.7	116	116
Stationery	+ 7	+ 7	3.9	3.9	99	132
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	+ 4	+ 4	3.2	3.3	84	125
Women's accessories	+ 5	+ 4	3.9	4.0	78	124
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 7	+ 3	3.2	3.3	78	134
Handkerchiefs	+ 1	- 2	4.6	4.8	44	67
Millinery	+ 8	+ 2	1.4	1.5	57	78
Women's and children's gloves	+15	+ 7	4.3	4.6	71	87
Corsets and brassieres	+ 6	+ 7	3.2	3.2	130	156
Women's, children's hosiery	- 3	+ 4	3.1	2.9	67	119
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 5	+ 2	3.8	3.9	64	107
Knit underwear	+ 6	+ 5	3.7	3.7	89	148
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 4	+ 1	4.1	4.3	53	95
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+10	0	2.8	3.1	59	80
Infants' wear	+ 6	+ 1	3.5	3.7	85	119
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 4	+ 5	3.6	3.6	66	121
Women's and children's shoes	+ 8	+ 4	6.0	6.3	92	149
Children's shoes	+10	+ 7	7.5	7.7	65	154
Women's shoes	+ 7	+ 3	5.8	6.0	94	141

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

## UNITED STATES - JANUARY

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago		Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 2/	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)	Jan.		Jan.	
			1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)						
Women's apparel	+ 4	+ 4	2.6	2.6	89	127
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 5	+ 2	1.8	1.9	98	109
Women's, misses' coats	+ 5	+ 3	1.4	1.5	111	101
Women's, misses' suits	+ 2	+ 2	3.4	3.4	63	117
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 7	+ 4	3.2	3.4	70	130
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 6	+ 4	2.4	2.5	73	121
Girls' wear	+ 8	+ 4	4.2	4.5	68	137
Women's and misses' dresses	0	+ 6	2.4	2.3	83	137
Inexpensive dresses	- 1	+ 5	1.9	1.8	81	132
Better dresses	- 1	+ 8	3.0	2.8	82	135
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 7	+ 6	3.1	3.1	93	148
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 6	0	2.3	2.2	93	117
Furs	+ 8	- 3	3.1	3.3	118	93
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+ 6	+ 7	5.1	5.1	78	121
Men's clothing	+ 3	+ 7	4.8	4.6	100	134
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 7	+ 7	5.1	5.1	67	115
Boys' wear	+12	+ 3	5.5	6.0	65	107
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+10	+11	6.7	6.5	93	136
HOME FURNISHINGS	+ 1	+ 6	4.1	3.9	101	120
Furniture and bedding	+ 1	+ 5	3.5	3.3	138	128
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	- 1	+ 6	1.7	1.5	161	151
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 1	+ 5	4.2	4.0	122	121
Domestic floor coverings	+ 5	+ 3	4.2	4.2	97	112
Rugs and carpets	+ 4	+ 5	4.0	4.0	94	110
Linoleum	+11	- 2	4.5	5.3	73	73
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 2	+ 4	5.3	5.0	79	118
Lamps and shades	+ 1	+ 4	4.0	3.8	88	111
China and glassware	+ 4	+ 4	7.5	7.4	94	127
Major household appliances	- 6	+ 4	2.5	2.2	80	102
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 2	+ 8	4.7	4.4	88	129
Gift shop	+ 4	+ 9	7.4	7.2	75	138
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+12	+12	2.7	2.6	122	115
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 5	+ 9	2.5	2.4	133	112
Records, sheet music, instr.	+29	+19	3.3	3.5	90	110
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 7	+ 6	4.5	4.5	65	118
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+23	+ 6	9.1	10.4	46	123
Toys and games	+ 9	+ 1	13.8	14.0	26	130
Sporting goods and cameras	+29	+ 9	6.7	7.7	78	116
Luggage	-12	+ 9	5.3	4.4	76	132
Candy	+ 8	+ 9	1.9	1.8	75	128

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

UNITED STATES - JANUARY

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago		Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 avr. = 100 2/)	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)				
			Jan.	1957	1956	Sales
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 6	0	2.7	2.8	81	104
Domestics and blankets	+ 4	- 2	1.9	2.0	155	115
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 5	0	2.3	2.4	72	98
Intimate apparel	+ 4	+ 1	2.7	2.8	83	110
Hosiery	+ 2	+ 2	2.6	2.5	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 5	0	2.8	2.9	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+ 9	- 4	1.5	1.7	67	72
Dresses	- 2	- 1	1.6	1.6	64	94
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+11	- 2	2.1	2.5	85	104
Girls' wear	+10	+ 2	3.0	3.2	64	104
Infants' wear	+ 7	0	2.8	3.0	85	109
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 1	+ 1	2.5	2.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+12	+ 2	3.2	3.5	83	111
Men's wear	+10	+ 3	3.1	3.4	86	111
Men's clothing	+10	+ 3	3.1	3.2	108	123
Men's furnishings	+12	+ 4	3.3	3.4	73	103
Boys' wear	+19	- 2	3.2	4.0	74	103
Homefurnishings	+ 5	- 4	3.7	3.8	81	107
Shoes	+ 9	+ 3	4.4	4.6	79	107
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 6	3/	3/	3/	110	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 5	3/	3/	3/	117	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 1146-59 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.

January this year had one more trading day than last.