

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 1957

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MARCH 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)								
Jan. 1955	86	80	74	95	132	85	58	78
Feb. 1955	76	74	65	88	68	81	65	69
Mar. 1955	98	107	83	101	78	89	81	101
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
Feb. 1956	82	80	68	97	72	90	66	74
Mar. 1956	106	121	95	99	75	98	97	108
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
Feb. 1957	82	81	67	96	71	90	67	73
Mar. 1957	97	105	77	105	77	92	81	94
STOCKS INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average of end-of-month stocks = 100)								
Jan. 1955	106	110	105	103	103	107	103	98
Feb. 1955	112	121	115	106	105	109	100	107
Mar. 1955	122	131	127	116	107	117	111	116
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
Feb. 1956	122	133	125	117	111	119	109	115
Mar. 1956	130	138	134	130	114	124	115	119
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
Feb. 1957	126	134	132	122	114	123	112	112
Mar. 1957	138	148	145	133	118	132	124	122
RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES								
Mar. 1955	3.5	2.6	5.0	3.9	4.1	4.2	3.4	2.4
Mar. 1956	3.4	2.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.0	3.0	2.3
Mar. 1957	4.0	3.1	6.1	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.0	2.7

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MARCH

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)	March		Sales	Stocks
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.		1957	1956		
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.	Mar.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL—entire store	- 9	- 2	+ 6	3.7	3.2	—	—
MAIN STORE TOTAL	- 8	- 2	+ 6	4.0	3.4	97	138
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+ 3	+ 2	+ 3	4.7	4.6	77	118
Piece goods	- 4	- 6	0	3.4	3.2	80	94
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 7	- 7	+ 3	3.2	2.9	72	81
Woolen yard goods	+ 1	- 3	0	3.9	3.9	53	71
Cotton yard goods	- 3	- 5	- 2	3.2	3.2	109	128
Household textiles	+ 8	+ 6	+ 5	5.6	5.7	74	130
Linens and towels	+ 6	+ 4	+ 4	5.6	5.8	74	115
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	+11	+ 6	+ 8	5.6	5.7	71	158
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 9	+ 8	+ 4	5.6	5.7	79	130
SMALL WARES	- 6	0	+ 6	4.6	4.0	92	132
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 9	- 4	+ 8	4.7	3.8	96	143
Notions	- 2	0	+ 6	4.7	4.3	93	155
Toilet articles, drug sundries	- 6	0	+ 7	3.9	3.4	108	126
Silverware and jewelry	-13	- 2	+ 6	6.4	5.2	76	141
Silverware and clocks	- 2	+13	+ 6	8.4	7.7	73	157
Costume jewelry	-17	-10	+ 7	4.1	3.1	83	138
Fine jewelry and watches	-15	- 5	+ 3	11.4	9.0	69	131
Art needlework	+ 9	+ 5	0	4.9	5.4	80	107
Books and stationery	- 4	+ 1	+ 8	3.9	3.4	96	131
Books and magazines	+ 4	+ 4	+ 9	2.7	2.5	118	119
Stationery	- 9	0	+ 9	4.8	3.9	85	135
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	-13	- 4	+ 7	3.1	2.5	105	148
Women's accessories	-17	- 6	+ 8	3.8	2.9	100	151
Neckwear and scarfs	-11	- 2	+ 6	3.0	2.5	106	170
Handkerchiefs	-21	- 7	0	4.9	3.8	45	72
Millinery	-30	-16	+31	1.2	0.6	121	142
Women's and children's gloves	-38	-15	+18	5.0	2.6	78	110
Corsets and brassieres	- 4	+ 2	+11	3.5	3.0	135	177
Women's, children's hosiery	-15	- 7	+ 6	3.1	2.5	78	134
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 7	- 2	+ 3	4.1	3.7	72	132
Knit underwear	- 3	+ 2	+ 3	4.2	3.8	93	171
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	-12	- 5	+ 4	4.5	3.8	62	123
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 3	+ 1	+ 3	3.0	2.8	74	104
Infants' wear	-17	- 6	+11	3.3	2.5	110	145
Handbags, small leather goods	-24	-10	+12	3.2	2.1	100	158
Women's and children's shoes	-19	- 6	+ 7	5.4	4.0	125	180
Children's shoes	-38	-20	+12	5.5	3.0	108	182
Women's shoes	-13	- 3	+ 6	5.3	4.3	129	182

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

UNITED STATES - MARCH

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)	March		March	
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.	Mar.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	-9	-2	+6	2.4	2.0	110	143
Women's, misses' coats & suits	-9	-2	+4	1.9	1.6	103	116
Women's, misses' coats	-8	0	+5	1.7	1.5	97	106
Women's, misses' suits	-11	-6	+3	2.1	1.8	120	140
Juniors' and girls' wear	-20	-9	+18	2.2	1.5	128	162
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	-16	-6	+16	1.8	1.4	120	145
Girls' wear	-24	-13	+19	2.7	1.7	138	175
Women's and misses' dresses	-8	-3	+5	2.0	1.8	110	148
Inexpensive dresses	-6	-1	+5	1.6	1.4	110	141
Better dresses	-9	-5	+6	2.5	2.2	109	152
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	-2	+3	+4	3.3	3.0	106	173
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+1	-1	-1	2.3	2.3	109	133
Furs	+13	+10	+3	4.3	4.6	89	101
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	-19	-6	+9	6.1	4.6	77	145
Men's clothing	-9	-3	+10	7.0	5.7	83	162
Men's furnishings and hats	-16	-5	+5	6.0	4.7	65	133
Boys' wear	-32	-15	+16	4.8	2.8	98	140
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	-20	-5	+2	7.2	5.6	99	160
HOME FURNISHINGS	+5	+2	+3	4.4	4.5	105	133
Furniture and bedding	+10	+4	-2	4.1	4.5	124	138
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+11	+3	-4	2.1	2.4	134	157
Upholstered, other furniture	+11	+4	-1	4.6	5.1	120	133
Domestic floor coverings	+8	+4	+1	4.6	4.9	92	115
Rugs and carpets	+10	+5	+2	4.7	5.0	92	115
Linoleum	+7	+4	-1	4.1	4.4	63	70
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	0	-2	+2	4.8	4.7	103	133
Lamps and shades	+5	+3	+3	4.4	4.5	86	122
China and glassware	0	+3	+3	8.1	7.7	93	135
Major household appliances	-3	-7	+5	3.1	2.7	78	120
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+4	+1	+5	4.4	4.2	113	151
Gift shop	-3	+1	+5	7.0	6.4	88	154
Radios, phonographs, television pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+15	+11	+11	3.1	3.2	120	127
Radios, phonographs, television Records, sheet music, instr.	+18	+8	+6	2.7	3.0	111	115
	+9	+16	+18	4.0	3.6	125	128
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	-17	-5	+8	4.0	3.0	81	124
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	-12	0	+5	6.9	5.7	63	136
Toys and games	-22	-10	+5	7.3	5.3	45	124
Sporting goods and cameras	+1	+10	+5	6.4	6.1	88	136
Luggage	0	-4	+6	5.6	5.2	75	133
Candy	-52	-23	+69	2.0	0.6	89	158

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

UNITED STATES - MARCH

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)	1957				
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.	Mar.				
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	-13	-4	+3	2.7	2.3	94	122
Domestics and blankets	+7	+3	-2	3.7	4.0	84	124
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	-16	-6	+6	2.1	1.7	94	121
Intimate apparel	-8	-2	+2	2.7	2.4	95	128
Hosiery	-13	-6	0	2.3	1.9	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	-4	0	+2	2.9	2.7	3/	3/
Coats and suits	-21	-10	+7	1.4	1.0	94	92
Dresses	-14	-7	+4	1.3	1.1	86	99
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	-2	+4	-2	2.5	2.5	93	141
Girls' wear	-27	-14	+19	2.2	1.3	123	154
Infants' wear	-21	-8	+9	2.8	2.0	109	137
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-1	-3	+2	2.3	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	-16	-4	+4	3.4	2.7	97	137
Men's wear	-9	0	+2	3.5	3.1	89	133
Men's clothing	-8	0	+3	3.4	3.2	107	156
Men's furnishings	-9	0	0	3.5	3.1	77	120
Boys' wear	-31	-14	+13	2.9	1.8	124	152
Homefurnishings	+3	+3	-6	3.2	3.3	96	113
Shoes	-22	-8	+5	4.0	3.0	105	132
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	-5	0	3/	3/	3/	119	3/
Barber and beauty shop	-9	-2	3/	3/	3/	135	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.

Notes:—Based on reports from a group of large department stores located in various cities throughout the country. In 1956, 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.

March this year had one less trading day than last.