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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 12, 1957.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - APRIL 1957
(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)								
Feb. 1955	76	74	65	88	68	81	65	69
Mar. 1955	98	107	83	101	78	89	81	101
Apr. 1955	100	110	95	97	75	93	89	107
Dec. 1955	203	189	285	148	118	269	350	180
Jan. 1955	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
Apr. 1956	94	98	79	105	79	93	77	94
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
Apr. 1957	104	120	98	96	73	97	94	111
STOCKS INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average of end-of-month stocks = 100)								
Feb. 1955	112	121	115	106	105	109	100	107
Mar. 1955	122	131	127	116	107	117	111	116
Apr. 1955	122	128	130	119	109	122	110	116
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
Apr. 1956	133	138	142	131	115	130	118	122
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
Apr. 1957	139	144	149	136	119	138	123	122
RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES								
Apr. 1955	3.4	2.5	4.4	4.2	4.4	4.1	3.1	2.2
Apr. 1956	3.9	3.0	5.7	4.3	4.4	4.4	3.8	2.6
Apr. 1957	3.7	2.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.4	2.3

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - APRIL

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)	April		April	
	Apr.	Jan.-Apr.	Apr.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL-entire store	+12	+ 1	+ 4	3.4	3.6	—	—
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+11	+ 1	+ 5	3.7	3.9	104	139
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	- 8	0	+ 3	5.0	4.4	73	119
Piece goods	- 2	- 5	- 1	3.8	3.7	68	89
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 3	- 5	+ 1	3.7	3.7	63	81
Woolen yard goods	+13	- 1	- 5	6.6	8.7	23	63
Cotton yard goods	- 7	- 6	- 1	3.2	3.0	109	125
Household textiles	-12	+ 2	+ 5	5.7	4.8	76	136
Linens and towels	- 4	+ 3	+ 5	5.9	5.4	76	122
Domestics-muslins, sheetings	-16	+ 2	+ 5	5.6	4.4	73	160
Blankets, comforters, spreads	-14	+ 3	+ 7	5.5	4.4	85	138
SMALL WARES	+ 4	+ 1	+ 6	4.5	4.4	97	138
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+11	0	+ 8	4.2	4.3	108	143
Notions	0	0	+ 4	4.0	3.8	113	158
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 6	+ 2	+ 7	3.9	3.8	113	130
Silverware and jewelry	- 2	- 2	+ 5	5.9	5.6	84	147
Silverware and clocks	-21	+ 3	+ 6	9.1	6.9	71	166
Costume jewelry	+12	- 4	+ 4	3.6	3.8	98	141
Fine jewelry and watches	- 8	- 6	+ 1	10.3	9.5	94	159
Art needlework	-10	+ 2	+ 4	6.6	5.8	62	113
Books and stationery	+13	+ 4	+ 8	4.3	4.5	91	138
Books and magazines	+ 6	+ 4	+ 8	3.3	3.3	97	123
Stationery	+17	+ 3	+ 7	4.7	5.1	89	146
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+22	+ 3	+ 4	2.6	3.0	120	144
Women's accessories	+27	+ 2	+ 5	3.2	3.8	117	149
Neckwear and scarfs	+20	+ 4	+ 6	2.5	2.9	125	169
Handkerchiefs	+33	+ 2	- 2	4.0	5.4	54	70
Millinery	+63	+ 2	+19	0.7	0.9	154	96
Women's and children's gloves	+55	+ 1	+10	3.0	4.3	116	101
Corsets and brassieres	+12	+ 5	+ 9	3.2	3.3	148	179
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 7	- 4	+ 3	3.0	3.1	81	138
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 2	- 1	+ 3	3.9	3.8	81	138
Knit underwear	+ 4	+ 3	+ 4	4.0	4.0	98	175
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 2	- 3	+ 4	4.0	3.9	74	127
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 2	0	+ 6	3.0	2.8	81	118
Infants' wear	+44	+ 5	+ 5	2.7	3.7	128	143
Handbags, small leather goods	+40	+ 2	+ 6	2.3	3.1	132	153
Women's and children's shoes	+36	+ 4	+ 3	4.3	5.7	150	175
Children's shoes	+116	+ 6	+ 3	3.6	7.3	164	174
Women's shoes	+23	+ 4	+ 4	4.5	5.4	150	179

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

UNITED STATES - APRIL

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)	April		April	
	Apr.	Jan.-Apr.	Apr.	1957	1956	Sales	Stock
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+18	+ 3	+ 4	2.0	2.3	122	137
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+12	+ 1	+ 9	1.6	1.7	94	93
Women's, misses' coats	+ 6	+ 1	+13	1.5	1.4	93	90
Women's, misses' suits	+22	+ 1	+ 4	1.7	2.1	110	136
Juniors' and girls' wear	+51	+ 5	+ 3	1.7	2.5	146	146
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+31	+ 4	+ 2	1.4	1.7	136	129
Girls' wear	+81	+ 7	+ 4	2.1	3.6	159	160
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 8	+ 1	+ 2	1.6	1.7	130	143
Inexpensive dresses	+13	+ 3	0	1.2	1.4	138	142
Better dresses	+ 4	- 2	+ 5	2.1	2.0	126	148
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+12	+ 5	+ 4	3.0	3.2	124	188
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 6	+ 1	- 2	1.9	2.0	136	140
Furs	+32	+14	+ 8	4.7	5.7	80	100
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+23	+ 1	+ 5	4.9	5.7	98	149
Men's clothing	+11	+ 1	+ 8	5.6	5.8	103	166
Men's furnishings and hats	+11	- 1	+ 3	5.3	5.6	77	139
Boys' wear	+74	+ 5	+ 4	3.2	5.3	139	133
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+32	+ 4	+ 6	6.1	7.5	126	167
HOMEFURNISHINGS	- 9	- 1	+ 4	5.0	4.3	96	136
Furniture and bedding	-10	+ 1	+ 2	4.9	4.3	107	141
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	-14	- 1	+ 1	2.7	2.4	115	167
Upholstered, other furniture	- 7	+ 1	+ 2	5.6	5.1	104	138
Domestic floor coverings	-13	0	+ 3	5.7	4.7	73	112
Rugs and carpets	-15	+ 1	+ 5	6.1	4.9	75	124
Linoleum	-12	- 1	+ 5	4.7	3.8	64	78
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 7	- 3	+ 3	4.9	4.4	104	135
Lamps and shades	- 9	0	+ 4	5.1	4.5	81	132
China and glassware	- 4	+ 1	+ 4	8.8	7.9	90	139
Major household appliances	-15	- 9	+ 4	3.3	2.6	74	124
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 8	- 2	+ 6	4.5	3.9	114	158
Gift shop	- 1	0	+ 4	6.9	6.5	93	161
Radios, phonographs, television pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	-11	+ 6	+18	4.1	3.1	89	131
Radios, phonographs, television	-19	+ 1	+18	3.7	2.6	79	127
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 9	+14	+18	5.0	4.2	109	129
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+23	+ 2	+ 5	3.4	3.8	94	123
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+14	+ 4	+ 3	5.8	6.4	76	139
Toys and games	+29	+ 1	+ 3	5.7	7.1	61	130
Sporting goods and cameras	0	+ 7	+ 4	6.1	5.7	102	148
Luggage	- 1	- 3	+ 7	5.3	4.9	82	141
Candy	+104	+ 3	+ 3	0.8	1.6	143	110

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

UNITED STATES - APRIL

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)	Apr.	April		Sales	Stocks
				1957	1956		
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+18	+ 2	0	2.3	2.6	111	122
Domestics and blankets	-17	- 1	+ 1	4.0	3.2	112	179
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+24	+ 2	+ 1	1.7	2.0	116	117
Intimate apparel	+ 8	+ 1	+ 1	2.6	2.7	108	135
Hosiery	+10	- 2	- 4	2.2	2.4	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 8	+ 2	+ 2	2.7	2.8	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+40	+ 2	+ 3	0.9	1.2	107	73
Dresses	+20	+ 1	- 6	1.0	1.2	117	109
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+10	+ 6	+ 1	2.1	2.3	118	149
Girls' wear	+77	+ 8	+ 4	1.5	2.5	165	140
Infants' wear	+43	+ 4	+ 1	2.1	2.8	135	130
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-10	- 5	- 3	2.1	1.9	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+28	+ 5	- 1	2.6	3.3	121	136
Men's wear	+13	+ 4	- 1	3.0	3.3	109	139
Men's clothing	+18	+ 5	0	2.8	3.2	135	154
Men's furnishings	+ 9	+ 3	- 2	3.1	3.3	94	130
Boys' wear	+87	+ 9	- 1	1.8	3.3	168	134
Homefurnishings	-15	- 3	- 3	3.5	2.9	93	122
Shoes	+36	+ 4	0	3.2	4.3	133	134
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+11	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	120	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+13	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	161	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 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.

April this year had one more trading day than last.