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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JULY 18, 1957.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MAY 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)								
Mar. 1955	98	107	83	101	78	89	81	101
Apr. 1955	100	110	95	97	75	93	89	107
May 1955	99	101	93	104	86	98	87	104
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
Apr. 1956	94	98	79	105	79	93	77	94
May 1956	107	109	97	115	89	108	94	108
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
May 1957	108	111	98	116	89	110	99	107
STOCKS INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average of end-of-month stocks = 100)								
Mar. 1955	122	131	127	116	107	117	111	116
Apr. 1955	122	128	130	119	109	122	110	116
May 1955	121	122	133	118	106	120	114	115
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
May 1956	130	131	143	129	112	128	121	118
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
May 1957	136	139	152	135	116	134	126	121
RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES								
May 1955	3.3	2.6	4.6	3.9	3.7	3.9	3.3	2.2
May 1956	3.3	2.6	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.2	2.2
May 1957	3.5	2.7	5.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.3	2.3

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MAY

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)				
	May	Jan.-May	May	May 1957	1956	May Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL—entire store	+ 1	+ 1	+ 5	3.3	3.1	—	—
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 1	+ 1	+ 5	3.5	3.3	108	136
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	0	0	+ 3	3.9	3.8	89	116
Piece goods	- 3	- 4	0	3.6	3.5	66	86
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 1	- 4	0	3.8	3.8	55	74
Woolen yard goods	- 5	- 1	- 2	12.0	13.4	14	66
Cotton yard goods	- 4	- 5	+ 1	2.6	2.5	119	119
Household textiles	+ 1	+ 2	+ 4	4.0	3.9	104	132
Lipens and towels	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	4.5	4.5	94	118
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	0	+ 1	+ 3	3.5	3.4	110	157
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 2	+ 3	+ 6	3.9	3.7	111	132
SMALL WARES	+ 1	+ 1	+ 5	3.9	3.7	110	134
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 2	+ 1	+ 7	3.9	3.5	110	135
Notions	+ 3	+ 1	+ 4	3.2	3.1	136	155
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 2	+ 2	+ 5	3.4	3.3	126	130
Silverware and jewelry	- 3	- 2	+ 4	4.6	4.4	104	140
Silverware and clocks	- 1	+ 2	+ 4	6.5	6.3	92	159
Costume jewelry	- 3	- 4	+ 6	2.8	2.5	114	129
Fine jewelry and watches	- 8	- 7	0	7.3	7.2	123	160
Art needlework	0	+ 2	+ 2	6.1	5.9	65	108
Books and stationery	+ 5	+ 4	+ 6	3.9	3.9	96	134
Books and magazines	+ 1	+ 4	+ 8	3.5	3.3	92	120
Stationery	+ 5	+ 4	+ 5	4.2	4.2	96	137
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 1	+ 2	+ 6	2.7	2.6	111	139
Women's accessories	0	+ 2	+ 6	3.3	3.1	106	143
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 3	+ 4	+ 7	2.3	2.2	128	161
Handkerchiefs	- 2	+ 1	- 1	3.6	3.6	56	66
Millinery	- 9	0	+ 16	1.2	0.9	72	83
Women's and children's gloves	- 8	- 1	+ 9	4.6	3.9	71	92
Orssets and brassieres	+ 4	+ 5	+ 10	3.0	2.9	155	179
Women's, children's hosiery	- 5	- 4	+ 3	2.8	2.6	84	131
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 2	- 1	+ 4	2.7	2.6	106	131
Knit underwear	+ 2	+ 3	+ 5	3.0	2.9	132	168
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 4	- 3	+ 3	2.8	2.6	96	118
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 3	- 1	+ 5	2.1	1.9	107	109
Infants' wear	+ 1	+ 4	+ 7	3.6	3.4	94	138
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 3	+ 3	+ 9	2.3	2.2	124	144
Women's and children's shoes	+ 1	+ 3	+ 6	5.0	4.8	126	172
Children's shoes	- 6	+ 3	+ 7	6.3	5.5	89	174
Women's shoes	+ 3	+ 4	+ 6	4.8	4.6	132	172

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

UNITED STATES - MAY

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 2/ av.=100)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	May		May	May
	May	Jan.-May	May	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 3	+ 3	+ 6	2.1	2.0	115	133
Women's, misses' coats & suits	- 7	0	+ 5	2.5	2.3	49	78
Women's, misses' coats	-11	0	+ 9	2.5	2.0	45	73
Women's, misses' suits	+ 1	+ 1	+ 1	2.5	2.5	58	82
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 2	+ 5	+ 9	2.2	2.1	112	145
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 3	+ 4	+ 8	1.6	1.5	117	132
Girls' wear	+ 1	+ 6	+10	3.1	2.8	105	155
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 1	+ 1	+ 5	1.5	1.4	143	141
Inexpensive dresses	+ 1	+ 2	+ 5	1.1	1.1	149	143
Better dresses	+ 1	- 2	+ 6	1.9	1.8	130	137
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 9	+ 6	+ 7	2.4	2.5	151	188
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 4	+ 2	+ 1	1.4	1.4	175	132
Furs	+16	+14	+ 8	7.9	8.6	45	95
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	0	+ 1	+ 7	5.0	4.7	98	152
Men's clothing	+ 3	+ 1	+ 8	5.0	4.7	117	167
Men's furnishings and hats	- 1	- 1	+ 4	4.8	4.6	87	148
Boys' wear	- 2	+ 3	+ 8	4.8	4.4	89	129
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 2	+ 3	+ 6	6.3	6.1	114	163
HOME FURNISHINGS	+ 1	- 1	+ 4	4.0	3.8	115	135
Furniture and bedding	+ 3	+ 1	+ 1	3.8	3.9	132	138
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 1	0	- 4	2.0	2.1	137	150
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 5	+ 2	+ 1	4.2	4.4	126	132
Domestic floor coverings	- 1	0	+ 4	4.8	4.5	90	119
Rugs and carpets	0	+ 1	+ 5	4.8	4.7	92	126
Linoleum	+ 4	0	+ 7	3.3	3.2	78	77
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 3	- 3	+ 5	4.1	3.8	119	132
Lamps and shades	0	0	+ 4	4.5	4.3	87	129
China and glassware	+ 8	+ 3	+ 3	7.1	7.3	108	139
Major household appliances	- 7	- 9	+ 5	2.4	2.1	93	118
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 1	- 1	+ 7	3.5	3.2	142	155
Gift shop	+ 4	+ 1	+ 5	5.7	5.6	111	159
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+ 8	+ 6	+12	4.0	3.6	97	130
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 6	+ 2	+ 9	3.3	3.3	100	136
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 8	+13	+16	4.9	4.6	112	137
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 6	+ 3	+ 4	3.3	3.3	99	126
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 2	+ 4	+ 3	5.4	5.3	85	145
Toys and games	- 1	0	+ 4	6.4	6.0	57	140
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 6	+ 7	+ 4	4.6	4.7	130	147
Luggage	+ 6	- 1	+ 2	3.4	3.5	127	139
Candy	0	+ 3	+ 8	1.3	1.2	89	107

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

UNITED STATES - MAY

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)				
	May	Jan.-May	May	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	- 1	+ 1	+ 3	2.3	2.2	107	121
Domestics and blankets	- 1	- 1	- 1	3.1	3.0	100	124
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 1	+ 1	+ 5	1.8	1.7	106	116
Intimate apparel	- 2	0	+ 5	2.2	2.1	117	133
Hosiery	- 5	- 3	+ 2	2.3	2.0	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	0	+ 2	+ 6	2.2	2.1	3/	3/
Coats and suits	-16	0	+ 3	1.9	1.5	45	59
Dresses	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	0.9	0.9	138	117
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 8	+ 6	+ 5	1.7	1.7	146	123
Girls' wear	+ 1	+ 6	+ 8	2.2	1.9	114	141
Infants' wear	- 2	+ 3	+ 7	2.8	2.6	97	131
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 2	- 4	- 3	1.4	1.4	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 3	+ 4	+ 3	2.7	2.7	120	142
Men's wear	+ 4	+ 4	+ 3	2.7	2.7	126	146
Men's clothing	+ 4	+ 5	+ 3	2.6	2.6	148	154
Men's furnishings	+ 3	+ 3	+ 3	2.7	2.7	113	141
Boys' wear	0	+ 7	+ 4	3.0	2.9	102	134
Homefurnishings	- 4	- 3	- 2	2.9	2.7	106	117
Shoes	- 2	+ 2	+ 1	3.6	3.5	112	128
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	+ 6	+ 4	3/	3/	3/	117	3/
Barber and beauty shop	0	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	153	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.