

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

UNITED STATES - JULY 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)

May 1955	99	101	93	104	86	98	87	104
June 1955	96	89	115	101	76	99	99	102
July 1955	78	71	74	97	71	75	81	76
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
June 1956	102	94	125	111	75	103	103	107
July 1956	81	74	72	99	80	80	83	77
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	115	89	110	99	107
June 1957	99	92	121	108	72	100	105	102
July 1957	86	78	77	104	81	84	91	79

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

May 1955	121	122	133	118	106	120	114	115
June 1955	114	113	121	115	101	115	110	107
July 1955	110	113	111	109	104	109	106	101
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
June 1956	121	119	127	124	107	122	116	108
July 1956	119	122	121	120	110	117	114	104
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
June 1957	128	127	137	129	112	129	122	110
July 1957	126	132	128	123	115	124	121	107

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

July 1955	3.9	3.4	4.9	3.8	4.4	4.6	3.2	2.7
July 1956	4.0	3.5	5.3	4.0	4.2	4.6	3.5	2.8
July 1957	4.0	3.5	5.3	4.0	4.2	4.6	3.4	2.8

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JULY 1957

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 <sup>2/</sup> )	
	Sales during period	Jan-July	Stocks (end of month)	July		Sales	Stocks
				1957	1956		
	July	Jan-July	July	1957	1956		
<b>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</b>	+ 5	+ 1	+ 5	3.8	3.8	—	—
<b>MAIN STORE TOTAL</b>	+ 6	+ 1	+ 6	4.0	4.0	86	126
<b>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</b>	+ 2	0	+ 4	4.2	4.2	81	115
Piece goods	0	- 4	+ 1	5.2	5.1	46	86
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 1	- 4	+ 3	6.2	6.1	35	78
Woolen yard goods	- 5	- 2	+ 3	8.5	7.9	29	85
Cotton yard goods	0	- 5	- 3	3.4	3.5	66	109
Household textiles	+ 3	+ 1	+ 5	3.8	3.8	106	129
Linens and towels	+ 6	+ 3	+ 6	4.4	4.4	99	119
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	+ 2	+ 1	+ 2	3.1	3.1	126	154
Blankets, comforters, spreads	0	+ 1	+ 7	4.2	4.0	98	133
<b>SMALL WARES</b>	+ 6	+ 1	+ 6	4.6	4.6	84	124
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 4	0	+ 8	5.2	4.8	68	111
Notions	+ 5	0	+ 5	4.3	4.3	91	140
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 9	+ 2	+ 6	3.8	3.9	106	120
Silverware and jewelry	0	- 3	+ 5	6.2	6.0	70	127
Silverware and clocks	- 1	+ 1	+ 5	8.1	7.8	71	155
Costume jewelry	- 1	- 5	+ 6	3.8	3.5	72	112
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 8	- 4	+ 4	9.6	9.9	69	107
Art needlework	+ 3	+ 1	+ 4	5.8	5.8	63	105
Books and stationery	+10	+ 4	+ 5	4.4	4.6	80	125
Books and magazines	+11	+ 5	+ 5	3.4	3.6	84	111
Stationery	+10	+ 4	+ 5	4.8	5.1	77	130
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</b>	+ 6	+ 2	+ 8	3.5	3.5	78	132
Women's accessories	+ 5	+ 1	+ 8	4.2	4.1	76	130
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 3	+ 2	+ 9	2.9	2.8	86	140
Handkerchiefs	+ 4	+ 1	+ 1	4.7	4.9	39	61
Millinery	- 1	- 1	+ 1	2.0	2.0	38	71
Women's and children's gloves	- 2	- 2	+13	9.6	8.3	33	90
Corsets and brassieres	+10	+ 5	+10	3.4	3.4	127	164
Women's, children's hosiery	- 3	- 4	+ 4	4.0	3.7	54	120
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 4	- 1	+ 5	3.1	3.1	78	110
Knit underwear	+ 5	+ 2	+ 6	3.2	3.2	100	144
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 1	- 3	+ 4	3.3	3.2	70	99
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 4	0	+ 6	2.5	2.4	71	89
Infants' wear	+ 5	+ 3	+10	4.1	3.9	85	140
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 8	+ 2	+11	3.3	3.3	74	122
Women's and children's shoes	+ 8	+ 3	+ 9	6.4	6.4	88	154
Children's shoes	+ 4	+ 2	+10	7.1	6.6	76	165
Women's shoes	+ 9	+ 3	+ 8	6.3	6.4	90	151

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

UNITED STATES - JULY 1957

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)	July		July	July
	July	Jan-July	July	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	+ 7	+ 3	+ 8	3.0	2.9	81	134
Women's, misses' coats & suits	- 9	- 1	+ 6	5.3	4.6	33	109
Women's, misses' coats	-13	- 2	+ 2	5.6	4.8	32	115
Women's, misses' suits	- 2	0	+16	4.6	4.0	36	91
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 6	+ 4	+13	3.3	3.2	84	163
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 5	+ 4	+10	2.4	2.3	79	139
Girls' wear	+ 7	+ 5	+14	4.3	4.0	90	182
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 9	+ 1	+ 8	1.9	1.9	81	103
Inexpensive dresses	+10	+ 2	+ 8	1.4	1.4	89	100
Better dresses	+ 7	- 1	+ 9	2.6	2.5	78	108
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+14	+ 7	+ 9	2.7	2.8	127	178
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+13	+ 3	- 1	1.6	1.8	112	101
Furs	-13	+10	+ 6	10.2	8.3	47	129
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>	+ 6	+ 1	+ 6	5.3	5.3	77	128
Men's clothing	+ 6	+ 1	+ 7	5.8	5.7	81	135
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 5	- 1	+ 5	4.5	4.5	75	120
Boys' wear	+ 8	+ 3	+ 8	6.3	6.3	68	129
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 9	+ 3	+ 6	6.7	6.9	95	142
<b>HOMEFURNISHINGS</b>	+ 4	0	+ 3	4.0	4.0	104	123
Furniture and bedding	+ 3	+ 1	+ 2	3.4	3.4	133	127
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 3	0	0	1.5	1.6	162	143
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 5	+ 2	+ 2	4.1	4.2	124	126
Domestic floor coverings	0	- 1	+ 2	5.3	5.2	72	105
Rugs and carpets	+ 3	+ 1	+ 4	5.1	5.1	76	116
Linoleum	+11	0	- 4	4.6	5.4	58	69
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	0	- 3	+ 5	5.2	4.9	83	119
Lamps and shades	+ 1	- 1	+ 4	4.9	4.8	70	113
China and glassware	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	9.0	8.7	81	135
Major household appliances	+11	- 4	- 7	1.6	1.9	111	97
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 7	0	+ 2	3.9	4.0	113	139
Gift shop	+ 8	+ 2	+ 6	6.5	6.6	94	153
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+ 4	+ 5	+10	3.4	3.3	98	124
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 1	+ 1	+ 7	2.9	2.7	91	115
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 9	+11	+11	4.6	4.5	115	143
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>	+ 9	+ 4	+ 6	3.4	3.5	91	121
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+14	+ 5	+ 5	4.6	5.0	93	141
Toys and games	+12	+ 3	+ 5	5.4	5.8	69	143
Sporting goods and cameras	+16	+ 8	+ 6	3.9	4.2	136	136
Luggage	+ 1	- 1	+ 4	3.4	3.3	117	130
Candy	+ 4	+ 3	+12	1.4	1.3	73	95

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

UNITED STATES - JULY 1957

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 $\frac{2}{3}$ )	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	July		July	July
	July	Jan-July	July	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</b>	+ 3	0	+ 3	2.8	2.8	79	107
Domestics and blankets	- 1	- 2	+ 1	2.9	2.8	101	118
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 4	0	+ 6	2.3	2.3	74	106
Intimate apparel	+ 8	0	+ 5	2.5	2.6	95	119
Hosiery	- 1	- 3	0	3.0	2.9	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 9	+ 2	+ 7	2.4	2.4	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 5	- 1.	+ 7	4.6	4.1	24	82
Dresses	+ 3	0	+ 1	1.2	1.2	80	87
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 8	+ 5	+ 8	1.8	1.7	118	123
Girls' wear	+ 3	+ 4	+10	3.1	2.9	79	139
Infants' wear	+ 2	+ 2	+12	3.5	3.1	82	135
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 1	- 5	- 5	1.9	2.0	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear.	+ 6	+ 3	+ 3	3.1	3.1	89	116
Men's wear	+ 6	+ 2	+ 1	2.9	3.0	92	115
Men's clothing	+ 5	+ 3	+ 1	3.3	4.0	95	125
Men's furnishings	+ 6	+ 2	+ 1	2.5	2.6	92	104
Boys' wear	+ 5	+ 6	+ 9	3.7	3.6	84	135
Homefurnishings	0	- 3	- 1	3.8	3.9	74	109
Shoes	+ 4	+ 1	+ 2	4.1	4.2	82	109
<b>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</b>	+10	+ 4	3/	3/	3/	115	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 6	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	118	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.

July this year had one more trading day than last.