

*Chamberlain*  
*Blair*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 15, 1957.

0.7.3

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 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)								
July 1955	78	71	74	97	71	75	81	76
Aug. 1955	93	91	77	107	104	86	79	93
Sept. 1955	106	114	95	111	88	101	85	107
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
Aug. 1956	98	100	82	109	105	92	84	98
Sept. 1956	108	118	99	109	85	100	85	109
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
Aug. 1957	102	105	87	110	106	95	92	101
Sept. 1957	96	115	93	111	83	103	85	104
STOCKS INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average of end-of-month stocks = 100)								
July 1955	110	113	111	109	104	109	106	101
Aug. 1955	117	128	125	107	102	111	110	108
Sept. 1955	127	140	142	113	109	119	127	119
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
Aug. 1956	126	138	135	117	108	119	119	110
Sept. 1956	135	147	152	122	113	126	136	120
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
Aug. 1957	131	145	141	120	110	124	124	111
Sept. 1957	142	158	162	125	118	132	148	125
RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES								
Sept. 1955	3.3	2.6	4.9	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.7	2.3
Sept. 1956	3.5	2.7	5.0	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.3
Sept. 1957	3.7	3.0	5.6	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.4	2.5

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100%)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	September		September	
	Sept.	Jan-Sept.	Sept.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>GRAND TOTAL-entire store</b>	- 2	+ 1	+ 6	3.5	3.3	—	—
<b>MAIN STORE TOTAL</b>	- 1	+ 1	+ 6	3.7	3.5	106	142
<b>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</b>	- 2	0	+ 4	4.3	4.1	83	118
Piece goods	- 3	- 4	+ 1	4.0	3.8	68	95
Silks, velvets, synthetics	0	- 3	+ 1	4.3	4.2	56	87
Woolen yard goods	- 3	- 2	+ 7	3.0	2.6	109	106
Cotton yard goods	- 4	- 4	- 2	4.6	4.6	61	106
Household textiles	- 2	+ 1	+ 5	4.4	4.2	94	129
Linens and towels	- 1	+ 2	+ 7	5.4	5.1	79	118
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	- 1	0	+ 2	4.2	4.1	92	150
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 2	+ 1	+ 7	3.5	3.3	123	133
<b>SMALL WARES</b>	+ 3	+ 2	+ 5	4.1	4.0	103	132
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	0	0	+ 7	4.8	4.6	80	118
Notions	- 1	0	+ 6	3.9	3.6	106	147
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 3	+ 3	+ 8	3.7	3.5	111	121
Silverware and jewelry	+ 2	- 2	+ 3	5.4	5.4	92	140
Silverware and clocks	- 3	- 1	+ 4	7.1	6.7	84	156
Costume jewelry	+ 7	- 2	0	3.4	3.6	98	133
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 1	- 2	+ 6	9.4	8.9	90	132
Art needlework	+ 4	+ 2	+ 6	4.5	4.4	91	117
Books and stationery	+ 7	+ 5	+ 6	3.5	3.6	116	141
Books and magazines	+ 9	+ 5	+ 7	2.8	2.9	111	116
Stationery	+ 6	+ 5	+ 5	3.8	3.9	118	154
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</b>	- 3	+ 2	+ 7	3.0	2.7	115	158
Women's accessories	- 3	+ 1	+ 7	3.5	3.2	110	156
Neckwear and scarfs	- 4	+ 1	+ 9	2.8	2.5	123	182
Handkerchiefs	- 1	+ 1	+ 4	4.9	4.7	46	75
Millinery	- 9	- 3	+23	0.9	0.6	138	115
Women's and children's gloves	- 8	- 3	+ 9	6.3	5.3	72	128
Corsets and brassieres	+ 2	+ 4	+10	3.4	3.2	137	174
Women's, children's hosiery	- 5	- 4	+ 3	3.1	2.8	81	137
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 4	- 1	+ 4	4.3	4.0	71	137
Knit underwear	- 1	+ 2	+ 5	4.1	3.9	95	184
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 6	- 4	+ 3	4.6	4.2	58	117
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 2	0	+ 4	3.5	3.4	75	126
Infants' wear	- 5	+ 2	+10	3.0	2.6	132	159
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 2	+ 3	+ 7	2.6	2.5	122	154
Women's and children's shoes	0	+ 3	+ 6	4.7	4.5	142	181
Children's shoes	- 5	+ 2	+11	4.4	3.8	136	181
Women's shoes	+ 2	+ 4	+ 7	4.8	4.7	145	184

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

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER

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)	September		September	
	Sept.	Jan.-Sept.	Sept.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	- 3	+ 3	+ 8	2.5	2.2	121	161
Women's, misses' coats & suits	-13	- 3	+ 7	2.9	2.3	92	157
Women's, misses' coats	-14	- 4	+ 5	2.9	2.4	91	169
Women's, misses' suits	-12	- 1	+11	2.5	2.0	90	116
Juniors' and girls' wear	- 3	+ 4	+10	2.3	2.1	137	183
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	- 2	+ 3	+ 9	1.9	1.8	120	165
Girls' wear	- 5	+ 5	+10	2.7	2.3	156	198
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 2	+ 1	+12	1.8	1.7	115	140
Inexpensive dresses	+ 5	+ 3	+15	1.4	1.3	115	130
Better dresses	- 1	0	+11	2.3	2.1	117	148
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	- 2	+ 6	+ 8	2.6	2.3	156	200
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+11	+ 4	+ 5	2.0	2.2	98	106
Furs	- 3	+ 6	0	5.1	5.0	101	133
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>	- 6	0	+ 6	5.6	5.0	93	162
Men's clothing	- 6	+ 1	+ 7	6.7	5.9	96	180
Men's furnishings and hats	- 6	- 1	+ 6	5.6	5.0	77	149
Boys' wear	- 8	+ 3	+ 6	4.1	3.6	125	159
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	0	+ 3	+ 7	6.1	5.8	118	165
<b>HOMEFURNISHINGS</b>	+ 2	0	+ 3	3.9	3.9	111	125
Furniture and bedding	+ 1	+ 1	+ 2	3.7	3.7	126	126
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 4	0	+ 3	1.6	1.7	149	141
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 2	+ 2	+ 2	4.5	4.5	117	121
Domestic floor coverings	+ 1	0	+ 2	4.1	4.0	101	114
Rugs and carpets	+ 1	+ 1	+ 3	4.0	3.9	98	112
Linoleum	+12	+ 1	- 6	3.9	4.6	60	65
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	0	- 3	+ 4	4.6	4.4	102	127
Lamps and shades	- 3	- 1	+ 3	4.1	3.9	91	121
China and glassware	+ 5	+ 3	+ 4	7.3	7.4	108	137
Major household appliances	+ 1	- 4	-10	2.2	2.4	83	87
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 4	0	+ 3	3.7	3.8	122	141
Gift shop	+ 4	+ 2	+ 7	6.6	6.4	100	165
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+ 7	+ 5	+12	2.8	2.7	134	129
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 6	+ 2	+ 7	2.2	2.1	145	123
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 7	+10	+13	4.3	4.1	88	108
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>	+ 1	+ 4	+ 9	4.4	4.1	85	148
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	0	+ 5	+10	6.9	6.3	88	192
Toys and games	- 4	+ 3	+11	7.5	6.6	76	218
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 7	+ 9	+10	5.8	6.0	110	156
Luggage	- 3	- 1	+ 5	5.3	4.9	77	132
Candy	+ 2	+ 3	+14	1.3	1.2	87	106

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

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	September		September	
	Sept.	Jan.-Sept.	Sept.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</b>	- 4	0	+ 4	2.5	2.3	104	125
Domestics and blankets	- 2	- 2	0	2.9	2.9	104	122
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 5	0	+ 6	2.0	1.8	102	124
Intimate apparel	- 3	+ 1	+ 4	2.7	2.5	95	125
Hosiery	- 9	- 4	0	2.4	2.2	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 1	+ 2	+ 7	2.8	2.6	3/	3/
Coats and suits	-12	- 3	+ 6	2.1	1.7	78	111
Dresses	+ 2	+ 1	+10	1.2	1.1	82	94
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 2	- 5	+12	1.7	1.5	153	157
Girls' wear	-10	+ 3	+10	2.0	1.7	140	164
Infants' wear	- 8	+ 1	+ 8	2.2	1.9	149	149
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 4	- 4	0	2.5	2.7	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 7	+ 2	+ 6	3.1	2.7	113	148
Men's wear	- 5	+ 2	+ 6	3.2	2.9	105	144
Men's clothing	- 5	+ 2	+ 5	3.4	3.0	118	154
Men's furnishings	- 6	+ 1	+ 7	3.1	2.8	96	135
Boys' wear	-12	+ 4	+ 5	2.6	2.2	141	159
Homefurnishings	0	- 3	- 1	3.1	3.1	97	110
Shoes	- 6	0	- 1	3.5	3.4	113	124
<b>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</b>	+ 2	+ 4	3/	3/	3/	112	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 2	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	105	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.