

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
 BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 JANUARY 17, 1958.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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- laneus		

SALES INDEXES (Unadjusted, 1947-49 average monthly sales = 100)

Sept. 1955	106	114	95	111	88	101	85	107
Oct. 1955	116	119	116	124	92	111	102	116
Nov. 1955	134	126	157	131	96	146	184	132
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
Oct. 1956	118	122	114	126	93	113	102	117
Nov. 1956	140	133	163	135	99	150	190	135
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
Oct. 1957	115	120	115	120	89	113	102	113
Nov. 1957	135	129	114	133	95	148	183	127

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

Sept. 1955	127	140	142	113	109	119	127	119
Oct. 1955	138	149	156	120	115	137	163	128
Nov. 1955	143	153	160	122	117	155	172	132
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
Oct. 1956	150	162	172	131	121	147	178	133
Nov. 1956	154	164	174	131	121	165	185	136
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
Oct. 1957	156	168	178	135	123	154	189	133
Nov. 1957	159	170	181	135	122	172	192	137

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Nov. 1955	2.9	2.6	3.3	3.2	3.7	3.3	2.3	2.1
Nov. 1956	3.1	2.7	3.5	3.3	3.7	3.5	2.5	2.1
Nov. 1957	3.2	2.8	3.9	3.4	3.9	3.6	2.6	2.2

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER

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)	November		November	
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.		1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>GRAND TOTAL-entire store</b>	-3	0	+3	3.0	2.9	--	--
<b>MAIN STORE TOTAL</b>	-3	0	+3	3.2	3.1	135	159
<b>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</b>	-3	-1	+1	3.9	3.7	95	122
Piece goods	-6	-4	-1	3.5	3.4	68	85
Silks, velvets, synthetics	-5	-4	-1	3.4	3.2	64	79
Woolen yard goods	0	-2	+6	2.6	2.4	99	86
Cotton yard goods	-9	-5	-2	4.6	4.3	58	100
Household textiles	-2	0	+1	3.9	3.8	114	142
Linens and towels	-4	+1	+3	3.9	3.6	124	134
Domestic--muslins, sheetings	-2	0	-3	4.7	4.8	82	157
Blankets, comforters, spreads	0	+1	+6	3.3	3.2	141	146
<b>SMALL WARES</b>	-1	+1	+4	3.6	3.5	148	172
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	-8	-1	+6	4.4	3.9	96	134
Notions	-1	0	+5	3.9	3.7	118	165
Toilet articles, drug sundries	0	+2	+5	4.2	4.0	139	176
Silverware and jewelry	-1	-2	+1	4.2	4.1	143	173
Silverware and clocks	-5	-3	+1	5.4	5.1	127	180
Costume jewelry	+2	-1	-4	2.8	3.1	149	170
Fine jewelry and watches	-1	-3	+10	6.5	5.9	165	175
Art needlework	-1	+1	+1	3.5	3.6	119	120
Books and stationery	-2	+3	+6	2.6	2.4	212	200
Books and magazines	-3	+4	+4	2.7	2.5	172	174
Stationery	-1	+3	+6	2.5	2.4	229	205
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</b>	-3	+1	+3	2.8	2.7	129	170
Women's accessories	-5	0	+4	3.3	3.0	130	171
Neckwear and scarfs	-11	-1	+6	2.6	2.2	157	222
Handkerchiefs	-10	-2	+1	3.6	3.3	92	112
Millinery	-12	-5	+8	1.1	0.9	93	93
Women's and children's gloves	-11	-4	+4	3.3	2.9	153	127
Corsets and brassieres	+5	+4	+6	3.5	3.4	135	178
Women's, children's hosiery	-5	-4	0	2.9	2.8	96	159
Underwear, slips, and negligees	-7	-2	+1	3.1	2.9	126	178
Knit underwear	-5	0	+6	3.4	3.1	156	235
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	-9	-4	0	3.3	3.0	102	150
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	-8	-2	+2	2.5	2.3	147	182
Infants' wear	-5	+1	+4	2.6	2.4	163	171
Handbags, small leather goods	-2	+2	+4	2.7	2.6	150	201
Women's and children's shoes	0	+3	+5	5.3	5.1	122	174
Children's shoes	-4	+1	+9	5.2	4.7	116	164
Women's shoes	+1	+3	+5	5.3	5.2	123	169

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER

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)		November		November	
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	November	November	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>								
Women's apparel	- 1	+ 2	+ 3	2.3	2.3	129	167	
Women's, misses' coats & suits	- 2	- 3	+ 1	1.9	1.9	113	135	
Women's, misses' coats	+ 1	- 3	+ 1	1.7	1.7	135	157	
Women's, misses' suits	-10	- 3	- 1	2.9	2.6	51	86	
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 1	+ 3	+ 4	2.1	2.0	157	192	
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 4	+ 3	+ 3	1.9	2.0	123	166	
Girls' wear	- 2	+ 4	+ 4	2.2	2.1	198	214	
Women's and misses' dresses	0	+ 1	+ 3	2.1	2.1	99	143	
Inexpensive dresses	+ 1	+ 2	+ 3	1.7	1.6	101	144	
Better dresses	0	- 1	+ 4	2.7	2.6	99	147	
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	- 3	+ 4	+ 2	2.7	2.6	159	223	
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 1	+ 3	+ 6	2.5	2.4	100	137	
Furs	- 1	+ 5	+ 1	3.6	3.5	152	140	
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>	- 8	- 1	+ 4	3.9	3.5	114	181	
Men's clothing	- 5	0	+ 4	4.6	4.3	137	183	
Men's furnishings and hats	- 9	- 3	+ 2	3.4	3.1	157	185	
Boys' wear	- 9	+ 1	+ 6	3.4	3.0	160	168	
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	- 4	+ 3	+ 6	5.7	5.2	113	181	
<b>HOMEFURNISHINGS</b>	- 1	- 1	+ 2	3.4	3.3	133	135	
Furniture and bedding	0	0	+ 2	3.4	3.3	140	130	
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 4	0	- 4	2.0	2.1	130	139	
Upholstered, other furniture	0	+ 1	+ 4	3.6	3.5	116	126	
Domestic floor coverings	- 1	- 1	+ 1	3.3	3.2	125	113	
Rugs and carpets	0	0	- 1	3.0	3.1	131	115	
Linoleum	- 3	0	- 8	4.5	4.8	56	70	
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 1	- 3	+ 3	3.3	3.2	141	131	
Lamps and shades	- 4	- 2	+ 1	2.9	2.8	142	139	
China and glassware	- 5	+ 1	+ 4	5.5	5.1	155	152	
Major household appliances	- 6	- 4	- 5	2.6	2.6	72	94	
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 3	0	0	3.8	3.7	131	157	
Gift shop	- 5	+ 1	+ 3	4.1	3.8	210	211	
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+ 7	+ 5	+14	2.4	2.3	185	151	
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 8	+ 3	+12	2.0	2.0	204	178	
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 3	+ 8	+17	3.2	2.8	209	177	
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>	- 4	+ 2	+ 4	2.6	2.5	183	192	
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 6	+ 1	+ 4	2.8	2.6	269	244	
Toys and games	- 9	- 3	+ 3	2.5	2.2	306	287	
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 4	+ 8	+ 8	4.0	3.9	196	192	
Luggage	- 3	- 1	0	4.5	4.4	114	171	
Candy	- 3	+ 2	+14	1.6	1.3	142	194	

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER

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)	November		November	
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	Nov.	1957	1956	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	- 5	- 1	+ 1	2.2	2.1	127	137
Domestics and blankets	- 4	- 2	- 2	2.8	2.8	118	136
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 5	- 1	+ 1	1.9	1.8	119	137
Intimate apparel	- 5	- 1	- 1	2.4	2.3	122	144
Hosiery	- 8	- 4	- 1	2.2	2.1	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 5	0	0	2.5	2.4	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 1	- 3	+ 2	1.4	1.4	95	97
Dresses	- 3	- 1	+ 3	1.5	1.4	78	109
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 4	+ 2	+ 2	2.0	1.9	156	180
Girls' wear	- 5	+ 1	+ 3	1.8	1.7	175	174
Infants' wear	- 9	- 1	+ 4	2.1	1.8	171	165
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 3	- 4	- 3	2.3	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 8	0	+ 5	2.4	2.1	168	170
Men's wear	- 7	0	+ 5	2.4	2.1	166	170
Men's clothing	- 4	+ 1	+ 7	2.5	2.3	160	167
Men's furnishings	- 9	- 1	+ 5	2.3	2.0	168	172
Boys' wear	-11	+ 1	+ 3	2.3	2.0	173	166
Homefurnishings	- 2	- 3	- 4	2.3	2.3	129	112
Shoes	- 7	- 1	0	3.6	3.4	114	129
<u>NON-MERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	- 3	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	149	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 1	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	111	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.