

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 20, 1958.

G.7.3

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1958  
(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)

Nov. 1955	134	126	157	131	96	146	184	132
Dec. 1955	203	189	285	148	118	269	350	180
Jan. 1956	87	80	73	100	134	90	61	76
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
Dec. 1956	202	188	278	149	117	271	346	177
Jan. 1957	91	84	78	101	139	95	65	81
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
Dec. 1957	206	191	282	149	116	282	362	179
Jan. 1958	91	84	76	99	137	98	71	78

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

Nov. 1955	143	153	160	122	117	155	172	132
Dec. 1955	115	117	116	114	116	118	100	102
Jan. 1956	116	121	114	114	109	116	111	104
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
Dec. 1956	122	124	128	120	120	125	104	103
Jan. 1957	121	125	121	120	111	123	118	104
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
Dec. 1957	124	125	131	122	118	128	111	103
Jan. 1958	122	126	124	121	110	124	123	104

## RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Jan. 1956	3.7	3.3	5.1	3.9	2.4	4.1	4.5	2.8
Jan. 1957	3.7	3.2	5.1	4.1	2.4	4.1	4.5	2.7
Jan. 1958	3.7	3.2	5.3	4.1	2.4	4.0	4.2	2.8

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

## UNITED STATES - JANUARY

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)	January 1958	1957	January Sales	January Stock
	January	Jan.	1958	1957	Sales	Stock
GRAND TOTAL-entire store	0	+ 1	3.5	3.5	—	—
MAIN STORE TOTAL	0	+ 1	3.7	3.7	91	122
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	- 2	- 1	2.4	2.4	137	110
Piece goods	- 2	- 4	4.2	4.3	58	88
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 1	- 4	4.2	4.4	51	77
Woolen yard goods	- 3	- 4	3.5	3.6	61	76
Cotton yard goods	- 1	- 1	4.3	4.4	72	120
Household textiles	- 2	- 1	2.0	2.0	192	120
Linens and towels	- 2	0	2.5	2.5	155	108
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	- 1	- 4	1.3	1.4	255	135
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 2	+ 2	2.6	2.5	168	131
SMALL WARES	+ 3	+ 1	4.0	4.1	98	124
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 5	+ 2	5.6	5.3	61	106
Notions	+ 1	0	3.9	4.0	94	132
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 7	+ 3	3.4	3.5	122	125
Silverware and jewelry	0	- 3	5.8	6.0	72	124
Silverware and clocks	-11	- 1	7.3	6.6	73	110
Costume jewelry	+11	- 6	3.4	4.1	72	100
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 3	- 2	11.3	11.5	65	128
Art needlework	+ 2	0	3.3	3.5	108	101
Books and stationery	+ 4	+ 3	3.5	3.5	110	132
Books and magazines	+ 3	+ 3	2.7	2.7	119	119
Stationery	+ 5	+ 4	3.9	3.9	104	137
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 1	+ 1	3.2	3.2	84	126
Women's accessories	0	+ 2	4.0	3.9	78	126
Neckwear and scarfs	- 6	- 1	3.3	3.2	73	133
Handkerchiefs	- 3	- 3	4.5	4.5	43	65
Millinery	- 6	- 7	1.5	1.5	54	73
Women's and children's gloves	- 9	- 6	4.7	4.3	65	82
Corsets and brassieres	+ 4	+ 4	3.2	3.2	135	162
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 4	+ 2	3.1	3.1	70	122
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 2	- 2	3.8	3.8	62	106
Knit underwear	0	+ 4	3.9	3.7	90	154
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 3	- 4	4.0	4.1	51	91
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 4	- 4	2.8	2.8	57	78
Infants' wear	- 1	+ 1	3.5	3.5	84	120
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 2	- 2	3.5	3.6	68	119
Women's and children's shoes	+ 4	+ 5	6.2	6.0	96	157
Children's shoes	+ 6	+ 7	7.4	7.4	69	165
Women's shoes	+ 3	+ 5	5.9	5.8	97	148

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

## UNITED STATES - JANUARY

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)	January		January	
			Jan.	1958/1957	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)						
Women's apparel	+ 1	- 1	2.6	2.6	90	126
Women's, misses' coats & suits	0	- 1	1.8	1.8	97	107
Women's, misses' coats	+ 2	+ 1	1.4	1.4	113	102
Women's, misses' suits	-10	- 5	3.6	3.4	57	111
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 2	0	3.1	3.2	72	129
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 1	- 3	2.3	2.4	73	117
Girls' wear	+ 4	+ 2	4.1	4.2	70	139
Women's and misses' dresses	- 1	- 1	2.5	2.5	82	136
Inexpensive dresses	- 1	- 2	1.9	1.9	81	130
Better dresses	- 1	0	3.0	3.0	81	135
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	0	- 3	3.0	3.1	94	144
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 2	- 1	2.2	2.3	95	116
Furs	+ 6	+ 3	2.9	3.1	125	95
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	- 2	+ 2	5.3	5.1	76	124
Men's clothing	- 3	+ 3	5.0	4.8	97	138
Men's furnishings and hats	- 2	+ 1	5.2	5.1	65	116
Boys' wear	- 1	+ 4	5.7	5.5	64	112
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 4	+ 2	6.4	6.7	97	139
HOMEFURNISHINGS	- 2	0	4.1	4.1	99	121
Furniture and bedding	- 3	1	3.5	3.4	134	127
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	- 1	- 3	1.6	1.7	159	147
Upholstered, other furniture	- 2	0	4.3	4.2	120	121
Domestic floor coverings	- 2	- 2	4.1	4.1	95	110
Rugs and carpets	- 1	- 3	3.9	4.0	92	107
Linoleum	-17	- 9	5.0	4.5	61	66
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	0	+ 1	5.4	5.3	79	120
Lamps and shades	- 1	0	3.9	3.9	87	111
China and glassware	- 1	+ 2	7.7	7.5	94	130
Major household appliances	-10	- 1	2.5	2.5	72	91
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 1	0	4.6	4.7	88	129
Gift shop	+ 7	+ 2	7.2	7.4	79	142
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+ 2	+15	3.0	2.7	124	132
Radios, phonographs, television	- 1	+14	2.8	2.5	132	128
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 2	+14	3.7	3.3	92	125
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 9	+ 5	4.2	4.5	71	123
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+11	+ 7	8.7	9.1	51	132
Toys and games	+ 4	+10	14.1	13.8	27	143
Sporting goods and cameras	+14	+ 5	6.2	6.7	89	122
Luggage	- 8	+ 2	5.9	5.3	69	135
Candy	+ 6	+ 6	1.8	1.8	80	136

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

## UNITED STATES - JANUARY

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)	January		January	
			1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
	January	Jan.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<b>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</b>	- 4	- 1	2.8	2.7	78	104
Domestics and blankets	- 5	- 3	2.0	1.9	148	113
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 4	- 2	2.3	2.3	69	96
Intimate apparel	0	- 2	2.7	2.8	82	108
Hosiery	0	- 2	2.5	2.6	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 1	- 1	2.8	2.8	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 9	- 4	1.6	1.5	61	70
Dresses	-10	- 3	1.7	1.6	58	91
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	0	+ 2	2.2	2.1	85	106
Girls' wear	- 3	+ 1	3.0	2.9	62	105
Infants' wear	- 1	+ 3	2.9	2.8	84	111
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 5	- 3	2.5	2.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 3	+ 4	3.4	3.2	81	115
Men's wear	- 2	+ 3	3.3	3.1	84	115
Men's clothing	- 3	+ 3	3.2	3.1	104	126
Men's furnishings	- 1	+ 4	3.4	3.3	73	107
Boys' wear	- 5	+ 7	3.8	3.2	71	111
Homefurnishings	0	- 1	3.6	3.7	81	106
Shoes	- 3	- 1	4.5	4.4	76	106
<b>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</b>	+ 6	3/	3/	3/	116	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 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.

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.