

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MARCH 1958
(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)

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
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
Feb. 1957	82	81	67	96	71	90	67	73
Mar. 1957	97	105	77	105	77	92	81	94
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
Feb. 1958	76	72	64	87	63	88	68	65
Mar. 1958	101	112	82	104	74	98	92	98

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

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	118
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
Feb. 1957	126	134	132	122	114	123	112	112
Mar. 1957	138	143	145	133	118	132	124	122
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
Feb. 1958	128	138	133	122	112	126	117	113
Mar. 1958	135	143	141	132	115	132	123	118

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Mar. 1956	3.4	2.5	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.0	3.0	2.3
Mar. 1957	4.0	3.1	6.1	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.0	2.7
Mar. 1958	3.7	2.7	5.6	4.3	4.7	4.3	3.4	2.5

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MARCH 1958

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)	March		March	
					1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.	Mar.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks	
GRAND TOTAL-entire store	+ 5	- 1	- 2	3.5	3.7	--	--	
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 5	- 1	- 2	3.7	4.0	101	135	
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	- 3	- 4	- 3	4.7	4.7	74	115	
Piece goods	0	- 4	- 6	3.2	3.4	80	89	
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 3	- 2	- 7	2.9	3.2	74	75	
Woolen yard goods	- 2	- 4	- 9	3.7	3.9	52	64	
Cotton yard goods	- 1	- 4	- 2	3.1	3.2	108	125	
Household textiles	- 6	- 4	- 2	5.8	5.6	70	127	
Linens and towels	- 6	- 6	+ 1	6.0	5.6	69	117	
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	- 6	- 3	- 6	5.6	5.6	66	149	
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 4	- 3	- 1	5.7	5.6	76	129	
SMALL WARES	+ 7	+ 3	0	4.3	4.6	98	132	
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 1	- 6	- 1	4.6	4.6	95	142	
Notions	+ 7	+ 2	0	4.3	4.7	100	154	
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+10	+ 7	+ 2	3.6	3.9	119	128	
Silverware and jewelry	+ 6	- 1	- 1	5.9	6.4	81	139	
Silverware and clocks	- 1	-10	- 1	8.2	8.3	72	155	
Costume jewelry	+11	+ 7	- 6	3.4	4.1	93	130	
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 3	- 2	+ 8	12.0	11.4	71	142	
Art needlework	+ 2	+ 1	- 2	4.7	4.9	81	105	
Books and stationery	+ 7	+ 4	+ 1	3.7	3.9	103	132	
Books and magazines	0	+ 1	+ 2	2.7	2.7	118	121	
Stationery	+11	+ 5	0	4.2	4.8	95	136	
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 7	0	- 4	2.7	3.1	112	143	
Women's accessories	+ 9	0	- 2	3.4	3.8	108	148	
Neckwear and scarfs	- 7	- 9	- 3	3.1	3.0	98	164	
Handkerchiefs	+ 4	- 4	- 5	4.4	4.9	47	69	
Millinery	+22	+ 3	-24	0.8	1.2	147	108	
Women's and children's gloves	+17	+ 1	-10	3.8	5.0	91	99	
Corsets and brassieres	+ 6	0	0	3.3	3.5	143	177	
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 2	0	- 1	3.0	3.1	80	133	
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 4	- 6	- 4	4.1	4.1	69	126	
Knit underwear	- 4	- 5	- 3	4.2	4.2	89	165	
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 5	- 7	- 6	4.4	4.5	59	116	
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 5	- 7	- 4	3.0	3.0	70	100	
Infants' wear	+13	+ 2	- 5	2.8	3.3	124	138	
Handbags, small leather goods	+14	+ 3	- 5	2.6	3.2	114	151	
Women's and children's shoes	+16	+ 5	+ 2	4.7	5.4	144	184	
Children's shoes	+36	+17	0	3.9	5.5	147	182	
Women's shoes	+11	+ 3	+ 3	4.9	5.3	144	187	

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

UNITED STATES - MARCH 1958

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)	March		March	
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.	Mar.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 5	- 1	- 6	2.1	2.4	116	135
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 6	- 2	-10	1.6	1.9	110	104
Women's, misses' coats	+ 8	+ 1	- 6	1.5	1.7	105	99
Women's, misses' suits	+ 3	- 8	-17	1.7	2.1	123	117
Juniors' and girls' wear	+18	+ 6	-10	1.7	2.2	151	146
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+10	+ 2	-12	1.4	1.8	132	127
Girls' wear	+27	+12	- 8	1.9	2.7	174	162
Women's and misses' dresses	0	- 5	- 7	1.9	2.0	110	138
Inexpensive dresses	+ 1	- 5	- 6	1.5	1.6	111	133
Better dresses	- 1	- 5	- 6	2.4	2.5	108	142
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	- 3	- 4	- 2	3.2	3.2	102	169
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 3	- 5	- 1	2.3	2.3	106	132
Furs	+ 6	+ 5	- 3	3.9	4.3	94	98
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+ 6	0	- 3	5.6	6.1	82	141
Men's clothing	- 2	- 4	- 2	6.9	7.0	81	158
Men's furnishings and hats	- 1	- 2	- 3	5.8	6.0	64	129
Boys' wear	+24	+ 9	- 4	3.6	4.8	121	134
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+19	+ 9	- 1	6.2	7.2	118	159
HOME FURNISHINGS	- 1	- 4	- 1	4.3	4.4	104	132
Furniture and bedding	- 4	- 7	- 1	4.2	4.1	119	137
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	- 3	- 5	- 3	2.1	2.1	130	151
Upholstered, other furniture	- 3	- 6	+ 1	4.8	4.6	116	133
Domestic floor coverings	- 5	- 5	- 3	4.7	4.6	88	112
Rugs and carpets	- 4	- 6	- 3	4.6	4.5	88	112
Linoleum	+ 5	- 9	-11	3.5	4.1	67	63
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 5	- 5	- 2	4.9	4.8	97	131
Lamps and shades	- 4	- 6	0	4.5	4.4	83	122
China and glassware	- 1	- 4	+ 1	8.2	8.1	92	136
Major household appliances	- 2	- 7	-13	2.7	3.1	77	104
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 7	+ 1	- 2	3.9	4.4	121	145
Gift shop	+ 7	+ 4	+ 3	6.6	7.0	94	159
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+ 9	+ 4	+13	3.1	3.0	132	143
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 7	+ 3	+10	2.7	2.6	118	127
Records, sheet music, instr.	+10	+ 2	+15	4.1	4.0	138	147
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+14	+ 9	- 1	3.4	4.0	92	123
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+10	+ 8	+ 2	6.3	6.9	69	135
Toys and games	+12	+ 5	+ 2	6.4	7.3	51	126
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 8	+11	+ 3	6.2	6.4	95	140
Luggage	- 7	-10	- 3	5.8	5.6	69	129
Candy	+58	+20	-17	1.0	2.0	141	131

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

UNITED STATES - MARCH 1958

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)	March		March	
	Mar.	Jan.-Mar.	Mar.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 5	- 3	- 4	2.5	2.7	98	118
Domestics and blankets	- 6	- 6	- 2	3.8	3.7	80	121
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 5	- 3	- 6	1.9	2.1	99	113
Intimate apparel	+ 1	- 3	- 3	2.6	2.7	95	125
Hosiery	+ 3	- 1	- 3	2.1	2.3	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 1	- 4	- 2	2.8	2.9	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+ 8	- 3	-15	1.1	1.4	102	78
Dresses	- 3	-10	-13	1.2	1.3	83	86
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 4	- 3	+ 1	2.6	2.5	89	143
Girls' wear	+23	+ 8	- 9	1.6	2.2	152	140
Infants' wear	+11	+ 2	- 4	2.3	2.8	121	131
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 8	- 9	- 6	2.3	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+10	+ 2	0	3.0	3.4	107	137
Men's wear	+ 6	+ 1	+ 1	3.3	3.5	95	135
Men's clothing	+10	+ 1	+ 1	3.1	3.4	118	157
Men's furnishings	+ 2	+ 1	+ 2	3.5	3.5	79	123
Boys' wear	+22	+ 8	- 4	2.2	2.9	151	146
Homefurnishings	- 5	- 7	- 1	3.3	3.2	92	112
Shoes	+15	+ 4	- 2	3.4	4.0	120	130
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 4	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	123	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 2	- 1	3/	3/	3/	138	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 1957, sales and stocks at these stores accounted for about 45 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.