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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MAY 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)

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
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
Apr. 1957	104	120	98	96	73	97	94	111
May 1957	108	111	98	115	89	110	99	107
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
Apr. 1958	99	108	88	98	73	97	91	100
May 1958	106	109	97	112	84	111	102	103

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

Mar. 1956	130	138	134	130	114	124	115	118
Apr. 1956	133	138	142	131	115	130	118	122
May 1956	130	131	143	129	112	128	121	118
Jan. 1957	121	125	121	120	111	123	118	104
Feb. 1957	126	134	132	122	114	123	112	112
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
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
Apr. 1958	135	141	147	132	114	138	124	120
May 1958	132	134	147	130	112	135	127	117

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

May 1956	3.3	2.6	4.7	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.2	2.2
May 1957	3.4	2.6	4.9	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.3	2.3
May 1958	3.4	2.6	4.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.2	2.3

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

**MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS**  
**UNITED STATES - MAY**

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago		Stocks (end of month)	Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	Sales during period	May 1958		May 1957	May		
			1958		1957	Sales	Stocks
<b>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</b>	- 2	- 2	- 3	3.2	3.2	--	--
<b>MAIN STORE TOTAL</b>	- 2	- 2	- 3	3.4	3.4	106	132
<b>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</b>	- 5	- 4	- 3	4.0	3.9	84	112
Piece goods	- 5	- 5	- 6	3.6	3.6	63	80
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 1	- 3	- 7	3.5	3.7	54	69
Woolen yard goods	- 16	- 8	- 3	15.2	13.2	12	64
Cotton yard goods	- 6	- 3	- 5	2.7	2.6	112	113
Household textiles	- 6	- 4	- 3	4.1	4.0	98	128
Linens and towels	- 5	- 5	0	4.7	4.5	90	118
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	- 6	- 2	- 4	3.6	3.5	104	150
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 7	- 3	- 6	3.9	3.8	104	125
<b>SMALL WARES</b>	+ 1	+ 2	+ 1	3.8	3.8	111	135
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	-10	- 8	- 2	4.2	3.9	99	132
Notions	- 7	- 1	+ 2	3.4	3.2	127	157
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 5	+ 6	0	3.3	3.4	132	130
Silverware and jewelry	+ 1	0	0	4.6	4.6	105	141
Silverware and clocks	- 4	- 7	- 2	6.6	6.5	88	156
Costume jewelry	+ 5	+ 5	- 4	2.5	2.8	120	123
Fine jewelry and watches	- 1	- 1	+13	8.3	7.3	121	180
Art needlework	- 1	+ 1	- 4	5.9	6.0	64	105
Books and stationery	+ 1	+ 2	+ 2	3.9	3.9	97	137
Books and magazines	- 1	0	+ 4	3.6	3.5	91	124
Stationery	+ 3	+ 3	+ 2	4.1	4.1	99	140
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</b>	- 2	- 3	- 4	2.6	2.6	109	134
Women's accessories	- 2	- 3	- 2	3.3	3.3	105	140
Neckwear and scarfs	- 8	- 9	- 6	2.3	2.3	118	151
Handkerchiefs	- 6	- 7	- 6	3.6	3.6	52	62
Millinery	0	- 7	-10	1.1	1.2	72	74
Women's and children's gloves	0	- 6	- 7	4.2	4.6	71	86
Corsets and brassieres	+ 1	0	- 1	2.9	3.0	156	176
Women's, children's hosiery	- 2	- 1	- 1	2.8	2.8	83	130
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 7	- 6	- 5	2.8	2.7	99	124
Knit underwear	- 3	- 5	- 3	3.0	3.0	128	163
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 9	- 8	- 5	2.8	2.7	88	111
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 6	- 5	- 9	1.9	2.0	101	99
Infants' wear	- 1	- 3	- 4	3.5	3.6	93	132
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 2	- 1	- 4	2.1	2.3	126	138
Women's and children's shoes	+ 2	0	0	4.9	5.0	128	173
Children's shoes	+ 8	0	+ 1	5.8	6.2	96	175
Women's shoes	+ 1	0	0	4.7	4.7	133	172

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

## UNITED STATES - MAY

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)	May		May	
	May	Jan.-May		1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
	May	Jan.-May	May	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	-2	-3	-5	2.0	2.1	112	125
Women's, misses' coats & suits	-3	-5	-8	2.4	2.5	48	71
Women's, misses' coats	+1	-2	-4	2.3	2.4	46	70
Women's, misses' suits	-12	-12	-17	2.4	2.5	51	68
Juniors' and girls' wear	-3	-3	-4	2.2	2.2	109	140
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	-8	-6	-3	1.7	1.6	108	128
Girls' wear	+4	0	-4	2.8	3.1	109	148
Women's and misses' dresses	-3	-5	-4	1.5	1.5	138	135
Inexpensive dresses	-3	-5	-4	1.1	1.1	145	137
Better dresses	-4	-5	-4	1.9	1.9	124	131
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	0	-1	-8	2.2	2.4	151	173
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-3	-2	-4	1.3	1.3	170	126
Furs	+12	+3	-2	6.9	7.9	50	93
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>	0	-2	-3	4.8	4.9	97	147
Men's clothing	-2	-4	-3	4.8	4.9	115	161
Men's furnishings and hats	-1	-2	-4	4.6	4.8	86	142
Boys' wear	+2	-2	-3	4.5	4.7	91	126
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+4	+3	-1	6.1	6.3	118	162
<b>HOMEFURNISHINGS</b>	-3	-3	-3	3.9	3.9	112	130
Furniture and bedding	-6	-6	-5	3.8	3.8	124	131
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	-3	-7	1.8	2.0	137	139
Upholstered, other furniture	-7	-6	-3	4.4	4.3	117	128
Domestic floor coverings	-2	-3	-6	4.7	4.8	88	112
Rugs and carpets	-3	-4	-7	4.7	4.8	89	117
Linoleum	-3	-8	-13	3.0	3.3	75	67
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	-4	-4	-4	4.1	4.0	114	127
Lamps and shades	-3	-5	-2	4.5	4.4	85	126
China and glassware	-5	-4	-2	7.4	7.1	102	136
Major household appliances	-4	-4	-9	2.3	2.4	89	107
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+1	+3	-4	3.3	3.4	142	149
Gift shop	+3	+4	+2	5.6	5.6	114	162
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+1	+3	+9	3.9	3.6	98	143
Radios, phonographs, television	+6	+3	+10	3.4	3.3	106	149
Records, sheet music, instr.	0	+1	+8	5.3	4.9	113	148
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>	+3	+5	+1	3.2	3.3	102	127
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+5	+6	+2	5.2	5.3	89	149
Toys and games	-1	-1	+2	6.5	6.2	56	143
Sporting goods and cameras	+10	+12	+2	4.3	4.6	143	151
Luggage	-7	-9	-2	3.5	3.4	118	136
Candy	+9	+5	+2	1.2	1.3	97	108

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

## UNITED STATES - MAY

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales $\frac{1}{2}$		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 $\frac{2}{3}$ )	
	Sales during period	Jan.-May	Stocks (end of month)	Ratio of stocks to sales $\frac{1}{2}$		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 $\frac{2}{3}$ )	
				May	1957	May	1957
	May	Jan.-May	May	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	- 4	- 5	- 3	2.3	2.3	103	117
Domestics and blankets	- 4	- 4	- 3	3.1	3.0	95	120
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 6	- 6	- 5	1.8	1.8	100	109
Intimate apparel	- 4	- 4	- 6	2.2	2.2	112	125
Hosiery	- 2	- 3	- 7	2.2	2.3	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 5	- 5	- 5	2.2	2.2	3/	3/
Coats and suits	0	- 9	-13	1.6	1.9	45	52
Dresses	-13	-13	- 5	1.0	0.9	120	111
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 1	- 2	- 3	1.6	1.7	144	119
Girls' wear	- 4	- 4	- 2	2.2	2.2	110	138
Infants' wear	- 3	- 4	- 5	2.8	2.8	94	125
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 8	- 6	- 4	1.4	1.4	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 1	- 1	+ 1	2.8	2.7	119	144
Men's wear	- 1	0	+ 2	2.7	2.6	124	149
Men's clothing	+ 3	+ 2	+ 3	2.6	2.6	152	159
Men's furnishings	- 5	- 1	+ 1	2.9	2.7	107	143
Boys' wear	0	- 4	- 1	3.0	3.0	102	133
Homefurnishings	- 5	- 6	- 4	2.9	2.9	100	112
Shoes	0	- 1	- 3	3.5	3.6	112	125
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	0	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	117	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 4	0	3/	3/	3/	158	3/

<sup>1/</sup> 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.

<sup>2/</sup> 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.

<sup>3/</sup> Data not available.

Notes:--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.