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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 1958.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)

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
Apr. 1957	104	120	98	96	73	97	94	111
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
Apr. 1958	99	108	88	98	73	97	91	100
May 1958	106	109	97	112	84	111	102	103
June 1958	97	90	114	103	72	103	105	96
July 1958	87	79	80	104	84	87	95	79
Aug. 1958	100	100	87	108	105	94	92	97

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

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
Apr. 1957	139	144	149	136	119	138	123	122
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
Apr. 1958	135	141	147	132	114	138	124	120
May 1958	132	134	147	130	112	135	127	117
June 1958	126	125	133	127	108	130	124	108
July 1958	123	129	125	119	110	124	123	105
Aug. 1958	128	142	136	116	106	124	125	110

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Aug. 1956	3.6	3.0	5.4	3.7	3.2	4.1	3.6	2.4
Aug. 1957	3.5	3.0	5.2	3.7	3.2	4.2	3.4	2.3
Aug. 1958	3.5	3.1	5.0	3.7	3.1	4.2	3.4	2.4

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)	August	August		Sales	Stocks
				1958	1957		
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	August				
GRAND TOTAL—entire store	- 3	- 2	- 2	3.3	3.3	--	--
MAIN STORE TOTAL	- 2	- 2	- 2	3.5	3.5	100	128
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	- 1	- 2	- 3	3.1	3.1	105	106
Piece goods	- 6	- 4	- 5	4.3	4.3	57	86
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 7	- 3	- 6	5.0	5.0	43	79
Woolen yard goods	- 1	- 5	- 9	3.5	3.8	79	97
Cotton yard goods	- 3	- 3	- 2	3.7	3.7	71	99
Household textiles	0	- 1	- 3	2.6	2.7	139	115
Linens and towels	- 3	- 3	- 1	3.3	3.2	119	108
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	+ 4	+ 1	- 6	1.8	2.0	172	126
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 4	- 1	- 5	3.1	3.1	128	120
SMALL WARES	- 1	+ 2	0	4.2	4.2	94	124
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 6	- 8	- 2	5.4	5.2	67	112
Notions	- 1	0	- 2	4.5	4.5	86	138
Toilet articles, drug sundries	- 4	+ 4	+ 2	3.7	3.5	106	118
Silverware and jewelry	+ 1	+ 1	- 2	5.1	5.3	86	126
Silverware and clocks	+ 2	- 3	- 7	5.5	6.0	95	140
Costume jewelry	+ 2	+ 5	+ 1	3.6	3.6	84	123
Fine jewelry and watches	- 2	0	+ 6	9.3	8.7	86	122
Art needlework	- 5	+ 1	- 2	4.8	4.6	76	105
Books and stationery	+ 1	+ 2	+ 1	3.5	3.5	105	133
Books and magazines	- 2	- 1	+ 4	3.0	2.8	98	113
Stationery	+ 2	+ 3	0	3.8	3.9	106	140
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	- 4	- 3	- 2	3.1	3.0	100	142
Women's accessories	- 4	- 3	0	3.9	3.8	90	143
Neckwear and scarfs	-12	- 9	- 6	3.2	3.0	88	154
Handkerchiefs	-13	- 7	- 6	4.5	4.2	40	61
Millinery	- 9	- 6	+ 3	1.7	1.5	69	109
Women's and children's gloves	- 3	- 4	- 2	9.0	8.9	41	103
Corsets and brassieres	0	+ 1	+ 1	3.3	3.3	130	163
Women's, children's hosiery	- 4	- 1	+ 2	3.6	3.4	64	129
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 6	- 6	- 5	3.5	3.5	69	110
Knit underwear	- 6	- 5	- 4	3.5	3.4	94	146
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 7	- 8	- 5	3.7	3.6	58	98
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 3	- 5	- 6	2.9	3.0	69	98
Infants' wear	- 5	- 3	0	3.1	3.0	121	153
Handbags, small leather goods	- 5	- 1	+ 1	3.4	3.2	84	139
Women's and children's shoes	- 1	0	- 3	5.6	5.4	117	179
Children's shoes	- 1	+ 1	+ 2	3.6	3.5	163	184
Women's shoes	0	+ 1	+ 3	6.3	6.1	106	179

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

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)	August		August	August
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	August	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	-5	-3	-4	2.4	2.4	110	142
Women's, misses' coats & suits	-8	-4	-3	3.4	3.2	67	136
Women's, misses' coats	-7	-1	+1	3.3	3.0	74	154
Women's, misses' suits	-10	-10	-15	3.4	3.6	57	104
Juniors' and girls' wear	-3	-3	0	1.9	1.8	159	167
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	-9	-6	0	1.9	1.7	115	147
Girls' wear	+1	0	0	1.9	1.9	213	183
Women's and misses' dresses	-5	-5	-4	2.1	2.1	88	119
Inexpensive dresses	-2	-4	+1	1.6	1.6	91	122
Better dresses	-7	-5	-7	2.7	2.6	90	124
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	-7	-3	-9	2.5	2.5	142	173
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+3	-2	-2	1.8	1.9	99	95
Furs	0	+6	0	4.1	4.1	116	123
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	0	-2	-4	5.0	5.2	87	136
Men's clothing	+1	-3	-5	6.9	7.3	74	149
Men's furnishings and hats	-1	-2	-5	5.0	5.3	68	121
Boys' wear	+1	-1	-1	3.0	3.1	154	139
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	0	+1	0	6.4	6.3	110	153
HOMEFURNISHINGS	-2	-2	-3	3.7	3.7	108	116
Furniture and bedding	-5	-5	-6	2.9	2.9	141	113
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	-1	-2	-8	1.2	1.3	177	117
Upholstered, other furniture	-6	-5	-4	3.6	3.5	130	114
Domestic floor coverings	-2	-2	-4	4.2	4.3	87	100
Rugs and carpets	-2	-3	-4	4.2	4.2	94	108
Linoleum	-16	-7	+1	4.8	3.9	48	65
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	-6	-4	-3	5.1	4.9	83	117
Lamps and shades	-1	-2	0	4.1	4.1	82	112
China and glassware	-5	-4	-3	7.4	7.3	98	131
Major household appliances	+3	-4	-4	1.8	2.0	95	84
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+3	+2	-3	3.7	4.0	112	132
Gift shop	0	+3	+1	5.7	5.6	106	156
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+1	+2	+4	3.1	3.0	113	127
Radios, phonographs, television	+4	+3	+3	2.6	2.6	117	125
Records, sheet music, instr.	-5	-1	+3	4.5	4.2	104	144
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	0	+3	0	3.4	3.4	92	125
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+2	+3	0	4.9	5.0	93	149
Toys and games	+2	-3	-2	5.5	5.7	73	155
Sporting goods and cameras	+4	+9	+2	4.2	4.3	129	138
Luggage	-12	-9	-3	3.7	3.4	99	121
Candy	-2	+5	+8	1.2	1.1	81	91

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

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 1958

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		Stocks (end of month)	August		August	
	Aug.	Jan.-Aug.	August	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
BASMENT STORE TOTAL	-4	-4	-1	2.4	2.3	97	110
Domestics and blankets	-5	-3	-6	2.3	2.3	120	106
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	-6	-6	-2	2.0	1.9	93	109
Intimate apparel	-5	-4	-4	2.4	2.4	93	110
Hosiery	-3	-2	-5	2.4	2.5	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	-5	-5	-5	2.4	2.4	3/	3/
Coats and suits	-8	-7	-2	2.6	2.5	54	101
Dresses	-11	-13	-1	1.3	1.1	71	83
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	-8	-4	-3	1.8	1.7	131	134
Girls' wear	-3	-4	+4	1.4	1.3	191	149
Infants' wear	-7	-4	-1	2.3	2.2	132	137
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-1	-7	-8	2.3	2.4	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+1	-1	+1	2.6	2.6	116	127
Men's wear	+2	0	0	3.0	3.1	95	123
Men's clothing	+8	+3	+2	3.3	3.5	105	145
Men's furnishings	-3	-3	-1	2.8	2.7	89	113
Boys' wear	0	-2	+4	1.7	1.6	203	140
Homefurnishings	-6	-5	-4	3.3	3.2	81	98
Shoes	+1	-1	+4	3.5	3.4	108	119
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	-2	+1	3/	3/	3/	120	3/
Barber and beauty shop	0	+1	3/	3/	3/	128	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.

August this year had one less trading day than last.