

Chambers
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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 1958.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 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)

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
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
Sept. 1957	106	115	93	111	83	103	85	104
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
Sept. 1958	110	118	95	115	84	108	89	106

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

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
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
Sept. 1957	142	158	162	125	118	132	148	125
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
Sept. 1958	141	157	158	123	115	134	147	124

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Sept. 1956	3.5	2.7	5.0	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.1	2.3
Sept. 1957	3.7	3.0	5.6	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.4	2.5
Sept. 1958	3.6	2.8	5.3	3.7	4.2	3.9	4.2	2.5

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 1958

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/ av.=100%/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100%)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	September		September	September
	Sept	Jan-Sept	September	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL-entire store	+ 3	- 1	- 1	3.4	3.5	--	--
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 3	- 1	- 1	3.6	3.7	110	141
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+ 1	- 2	- 2	4.2	4.3	84	115
Piece goods	+ 3	- 3	- 7	3.6	4.0	70	89
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 2	- 2	- 6	3.9	4.2	57	82
Woolen yard goods	+ 7	- 2	- 9	2.5	2.9	117	97
Cotton yard goods	+ 1	- 3	- 5	4.3	4.5	61	101
Household textiles	- 1	- 1	- 1	4.3	4.3	93	128
Linens and towels	+ 2	- 3	0	5.3	5.4	81	118
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	- 4	0	- 1	4.3	4.1	88	148
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 1	- 1	- 3	3.4	3.5	121	129
SMALL WARES	+ 5	+ 2	+ 1	3.9	4.1	108	134
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 4	- 8	- 2	4.9	4.8	76	115
Notions	+ 2	0	- 1	3.8	3.9	108	146
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 6	+ 4	+ 3	3.5	3.7	118	125
Silverware and jewelry	+ 5	+ 2	- 1	5.1	5.4	96	139
Silverware and clocks	+ 2	- 3	- 6	6.5	7.1	86	147
Costume jewelry	+ 6	+ 5	+ 3	3.3	3.4	104	136
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 9	+ 1	+ 7	9.2	9.3	98	140
Art needlework	+ 6	+ 1	- 2	4.2	4.5	97	115
Books and stationery	+ 7	+ 2	+ 3	3.3	3.5	124	145
Books and magazines	+ 7	0	+ 6	2.8	2.8	118	124
Stationery	+ 7	+ 3	+ 2	3.6	3.8	127	157
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 3	- 2	- 1	2.8	2.9	118	157
Women's accessories	+ 3	- 2	0	3.4	3.5	113	156
Neckwear and scarfs	- 5	- 8	- 7	2.7	2.8	117	170
Handkerchiefs	- 6	- 7	- 6	4.9	4.9	43	71
Millinery	+ 1	- 4	- 7	0.8	0.9	139	107
Women's and children's gloves	+ 4	- 3	0	6.1	6.3	75	129
Corsets and brassieres	+ 4	+ 1	+ 2	3.3	3.4	143	178
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 5	0	+ 2	2.9	3.0	85	140
Underwear, slips, and negligees	0	- 6	- 2	4.1	4.2	71	134
Knit underwear	0	- 4	- 2	4.0	4.1	95	179
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 1	- 7	- 2	4.4	4.5	57	115
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	0	- 4	- 2	3.4	3.4	75	124
Infants' wear	+ 2	- 2	+ 1	2.9	3.0	135	160
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 5	0	0	2.5	2.6	127	154
Women's and children's shoes	+ 5	+ 1	+ 2	4.5	4.6	150	185
Children's shoes	+ 1	+ 1	0	4.3	4.3	137	181
Women's shoes	+ 6	+ 1	+ 3	4.6	4.7	154	189

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

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 1958

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 ² /)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	September		September	
	Sept	Jan-Sept.	Sept.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 3	- 2	- 2	2.3	2.4	124	158
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 1	- 3	0	2.8	2.9	93	156
Women's, misses' coats	0	- 1	+ 3	3.0	2.9	91	173
Women's, misses' suits	+ 2	- 9	-10	2.2	2.5	92	105
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 1	- 3	0	2.3	2.3	138	183
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	0	- 6	- 2	1.9	1.9	120	162
Girls' wear	+ 2	+ 1	+ 1	2.6	2.7	160	200
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 5	- 3	- 3	1.7	1.8	121	136
Inexpensive dresses	+ 7	- 3	+ 2	1.3	1.4	123	132
Better dresses	+ 3	- 4	- 7	2.1	2.3	120	138
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 1	- 2	- 7	2.4	2.6	158	186
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 9	- 1	- 1	1.8	2.0	107	105
Furs	+ 3	+ 5	+ 6	5.1	5.0	104	140
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR							
Men's clothing	+ 1	- 2	- 3	6.4	6.6	96	173
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 2	- 2	- 3	5.3	5.6	79	144
Boys' wear	0	- 1	0	4.1	4.1	125	158
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 7	+ 2	+ 1	5.7	6.1	127	167
HOME FURNISHINGS							
Furniture and bedding	0	- 4	- 4	3.6	3.7	126	121
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	- 2	- 2	1.6	1.6	149	138
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 1	- 4	- 3	4.3	4.5	117	118
Domestic floor coverings	+ 8	- 1	- 5	3.6	4.1	109	108
Rugs and carpets	+ 7	- 1	- 6	3.5	3.9	105	105
Linoleum	+ 3	- 6	- 1	3.6	3.7	62	65
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	0	- 3	- 3	4.4	4.5	102	123
Lamps and shades	+ 5	- 2	- 1	3.8	4.0	96	120
China and glassware	+ 1	- 4	- 2	7.1	7.3	109	134
Major household appliances	+ 7	- 3	- 3	2.0	2.2	88	84
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 5	+ 2	- 1	3.5	3.7	128	140
Gift shop	+ 8	+ 4	+ 4	6.4	6.6	108	172
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+ 6	+ 3	+ 8	2.8	2.8	142	139
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 6	+ 4	+ 9	2.3	2.2	154	134
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 3	0	+ 5	4.4	4.3	91	114
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.							
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 6	+ 3	- 1	6.4	6.8	93	190
Toys and games	+ 1	- 3	- 2	7.3	7.4	77	214
Sporting goods and cameras	+13	+10	+ 1	5.2	5.8	124	158
Luggage	- 2	- 8	- 3	5.2	5.2	75	128
Candy	+ 4	+ 5	+10	1.4	1.3	91	117

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

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 1958

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales ^{1/}		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 ^{2/})	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	September		September	
	Sept	Jan-Sept.	Sept.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	+ 2	- 4	- 1	2.5	2.5	106	124
Domestics and blankets	- 3	- 3	- 3	2.9	2.9	101	119
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 1	- 5	- 2	2.0	2.0	103	122
Intimate apparel	+ 2	- 3	- 1	2.6	2.7	96	124
Hosiery	+ 6	- 1	0	2.2	2.3	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	0	- 4	- 1	2.7	2.8	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+ 2	- 6	- 1	2.0	2.0	79	110
Dresses	0	-12	- 3	1.1	1.2	83	90
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 2	- 3	- 4	1.6	1.7	156	150
Girls' wear	0	- 3	+ 3	2.1	2.0	140	169
Infants' wear	0	- 4	0	2.2	2.2	148	148
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 2	- 6	- 5	2.4	2.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 4	0	+ 2	3.0	3.1	117	151
Men's wear	+ 5	0	+ 2	3.1	3.2	110	147
Men's clothing	+ 8	+ 3	+ 4	3.2	3.3	127	160
Men's furnishings	+ 1	- 2	0	3.1	3.1	97	135
Boys' wear	+ 1	- 1	+ 2	2.6	2.6	143	163
Homefurnishings	+ 1	- 4	- 6	2.8	3.1	98	104
Shoes	+ 9	0	+ 4	3.3	3.5	123	128
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	+ 5	+ 2	3/	3/	3/	118	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 4	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	109	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.