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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 15, 1959.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)

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
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
Oct. 1957	115	120	115	120	89	113	102	113
Nov. 1957	135	129	151	133	95	148	183	127
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
Oct. 1958	120	125	117	127	90	117	106	115
Nov. 1958	130	124	145	131	88	142	170	121

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

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
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
Oct. 1957	156	168	178	135	123	154	189	133
Nov. 1957	159	170	181	135	122	172	192	137
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
Oct. 1958	154	167	173	132	121	156	189	134
Nov. 1958	158	170	176	133	122	174	196	136

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Nov. 1956	3.1	2.7	3.5	3.4	3.7	3.5	2.5	2.1
Nov. 1957	3.2	2.8	3.9	3.4	3.9	3.6	2.6	2.2
Nov. 1958	3.3	2.9	3.9	3.5	4.1	3.8	2.9	2.3

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)	November		November	
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	November	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<u>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</u>	- 4	- 1	0	3.1	3.0	—	—
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	- 4	- 1	0	3.3	3.2	130	158
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	- 8	- 2	- 1	4.1	3.8	88	122
Piece goods	- 6	- 3	- 5	3.5	3.5	64	81
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 5	- 2	- 3	3.3	3.3	61	77
Woolen yard goods	+ 1	- 1	- 5	2.3	2.5	100	82
Cotton yard goods	-11	- 3	- 5	4.8	4.5	52	96
Household textiles	- 8	- 2	0	4.2	3.9	105	143
Linens and towels	- 4	- 2	0	4.0	3.9	118	134
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	-10	0	+ 4	5.4	4.7	74	164
Blankets, comforters, spreads	-12	- 2	- 2	3.7	3.3	124	143
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	- 4	+ 1	+ 1	3.8	3.6	142	174
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 6	- 7	- 1	4.6	4.4	90	133
Notions	- 6	- 1	+ 3	4.2	3.9	111	170
Toilet articles, drug sundries	- 5	+ 3	+ 1	4.4	4.2	132	177
Silverware and jewelry	- 3	+ 1	0	4.3	4.2	138	173
Silverware and clocks	- 6	- 3	- 4	5.5	5.4	119	173
Costume jewelry	- 1	+ 5	+ 1	2.9	2.8	148	171
Fine jewelry and watches	- 4	+ 2	+ 5	7.1	6.5	159	184
Art needlework	- 6	+ 1	0	3.7	3.5	112	120
Books and stationery	- 3	+ 2	+ 3	2.8	2.6	205	206
Books and magazines	- 2	0	0	2.8	2.7	169	174
Stationery	- 4	+ 2	+ 4	2.7	2.5	220	214
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	- 4	- 2	0	2.9	2.8	124	170
Women's accessories	- 4	- 1	0	3.4	3.2	125	171
Neckwear and scarfs	- 9	- 8	- 7	2.6	2.6	144	206
Handkerchiefs	-13	- 8	- 6	3.9	3.6	81	105
Millinery	- 1	- 3	- 7	1.0	1.1	92	87
Women's and children's gloves	- 4	- 3	- 5	3.3	3.4	147	120
Corsets and brassieres	- 2	+ 1	+ 2	3.6	3.4	132	182
Women's, children's hosiery	0	+ 1	+ 3	3.0	2.9	96	163
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 8	- 5	- 1	3.4	3.1	116	177
Knit underwear	- 7	- 4	- 2	3.5	3.3	146	231
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 8	- 6	0	3.5	3.2	93	150
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 7	- 4	0	2.6	2.5	137	182
Infants' wear	- 3	- 2	+ 2	2.7	2.6	158	174
Handbags, small leather goods	- 2	0	0	2.8	2.7	146	201
Women's and children's shoes	0	+ 2	+ 1	5.2	5.2	122	175
Children's shoes	- 2	+ 1	- 1	5.2	5.1	114	182
Women's shoes	+ 1	+ 2	+ 1	5.2	5.2	124	171

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)	November		November		
			1958	1957	Sales	Stocks	
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	- 3	- 2	0	2.4	2.3	124	167
Women's, misses' coats & suits	- 8	- 3	+ 4	2.2	1.9	105	140
Women's, misses' coats	- 9	- 2	+ 6	2.0	1.7	123	166
Women's, misses' suits	- 3	- 7	- 5	2.8	2.8	50	81
Juniors' and girls' wear	- 3	- 2	+ 3	2.2	2.1	152	199
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	- 5	- 5	+ 1	2.0	1.9	117	168
Girls' wear	- 2	+ 1	+ 4	2.4	2.2	194	223
Women's and misses' dresses	- 3	- 3	0	2.2	2.1	96	143
Inexpensive dresses	- 1	- 2	+ 2	1.7	1.7	100	147
Better dresses	- 4	- 4	- 3	2.7	2.6	95	143
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	- 3	- 2	- 5	2.7	2.7	154	212
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 3	0	- 2	2.5	2.5	98	135
Furs	+ 6	+ 7	+ 2	3.4	3.5	161	143
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>	- 4	- 1	- 2	3.9	3.8	145	176
Men's clothing	- 2	- 2	- 4	4.5	4.6	134	175
Men's furnishings and hats	- 6	- 2	- 2	3.5	3.4	148	180
Boys' wear	- 2	- 1	- 1	3.5	3.4	157	166
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	0	+ 2	- 1	5.6	5.6	143	180
<b>HOMEFURNISHINGS</b>	- 2	- 1	- 1	3.5	3.4	131	133
Furniture and bedding	- 3	- 3	- 6	3.3	3.4	136	123
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	- 4	- 2	- 1	2.1	2.0	125	139
Upholstered, other furniture	- 2	- 3	- 6	3.5	3.6	143	119
Domestic floor coverings	0	0	- 7	3.0	3.2	125	105
Rugs and carpets	- 4	- 1	- 7	2.9	3.0	127	106
Linoleum	+11	- 3	-13	3.5	4.5	63	61
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 5	- 3	- 1	3.4	3.3	134	129
Lamps and shades	- 5	- 1	+ 3	3.1	2.9	135	143
China and glassware	0	- 2	- 2	5.4	5.5	154	149
Major household appliances	- 2	- 2	+ 5	2.8	2.6	71	98
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	0	+ 3	+ 1	3.8	3.8	131	158
Gift shop	+ 2	+ 4	+ 3	4.1	4.1	213	216
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	- 2	+ 2	+13	2.7	2.4	180	170
Radios, phonographs, television	- 4	+ 3	+19	2.5	2.0	196	211
Records, sheet music, instr.	0	+ 1	+ 6	3.4	3.2	210	187
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>	- 7	+ 1	+ 2	2.9	2.6	170	196
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 9	0	+ 3	3.1	2.8	245	251
Toys and games	-11	- 5	+ 2	2.8	2.5	272	294
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 1	+ 9	+ 4	4.1	4.0	197	199
Luggage	-12	- 8	- 3	4.9	4.5	101	165
Candy	- 3	+ 4	+ 9	1.8	1.6	137	213

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)	November		November	November
	Nov.	Jan.-Nov.	Nov.	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<b>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</b>	- 5	- 3	- 1	2.3	2.2	121	136
Domestics and blankets	- 9	- 4	- 2	3.0	2.8	108	133
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 5	- 4	- 1	2.0	1.9	112	136
Intimate apparel	- 4	- 2	0	2.5	2.4	117	144
Hosiery	+ 3	+ 1	+ 3	2.2	2.2	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 6	- 4	- 1	2.6	2.5	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 7	- 5	+ 2	1.5	1.4	89	98
Dresses	- 5	-10	+ 2	1.6	1.5	74	112
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 5	- 2	- 5	2.0	2.0	148	171
Girls' wear	- 6	- 3	- 2	1.9	1.8	164	171
Infants' wear	- 4	- 3	- 1	2.2	2.1	163	164
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	-11	- 7	- 4	2.5	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 4	- 1	0	2.5	2.4	160	171
Men's wear	- 5	0	0	2.5	2.4	157	170
Men's clothing	- 4	+ 2	+ 2	2.7	2.5	155	171
Men's furnishings	- 6	- 3	- 2	2.4	2.3	157	168
Boys' wear	- 3	- 2	0	2.4	2.3	167	167
Homefurnishings	- 5	- 4	- 1	2.4	2.3	122	110
Shoes	+ 2	+ 2	0	3.5	3.6	116	128
<b>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</b>	- 3	+ 2	3/	3/	3/	145	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 2	+ 2	3/	3/	3/	114	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.

November this year had one less trading day than last.