

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

*Blanchard*  
*Black*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - DECEMBER 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)

Oct. 1956	118	122	114	126	93	113	102	117
Nov. 1956	140	133	163	135	99	150	190	135
Dec. 1956	202	188	278	149	117	271	346	177
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
Dec. 1957	206	191	282	149	116	282	362	179
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
Dec. 1958	221	205	308	161	121	299	385	193

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

Oct. 1956	150	162	172	131	121	147	178	133
Nov. 1956	154	164	174	131	121	165	185	136
Dec. 1956	122	124	128	120	120	125	104	103
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
Dec. 1957	124	125	131	122	118	128	111	103
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
Dec. 1958	123	126	126	120	119	131	109	103

## RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Dec. 1956	1.7	1.4	1.5	2.8	3.1	1.5	0.8	1.2
Dec. 1957	1.7	1.4	1.5	2.9	3.1	1.4	0.8	1.2
Dec. 1958	1.5	1.3	1.3	2.5	2.9	1.4	0.7	1.1

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - DECEMBER 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)	December	December		Sales	Stocks
				1958	1957		
	Dec.	Jan.-Dec.	December	1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<b>GRAND TOTAL--entire store</b>	+ 7	0	0	1.5	1.6	--	--
<b>MAIN STORE TOTAL</b>	+ 7	0	- 1	1.5	1.6	221	123
<b>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</b>	+ 4	- 1	+ 1	2.9	3.0	121	119
Piece goods	+ 4	- 3	- 3	4.0	4.3	57	79
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 4	- 2	- 3	3.7	4.0	53	72
Woolen yard goods	+15	0	- 6	2.9	3.6	81	76
Cotton yard goods	- 3	- 3	- 4	5.3	5.3	51	104
Household textiles	+ 4	- 1	+ 2	2.6	2.7	167	141
Linsens and towels	+ 4	- 1	0	2.1	2.2	205	120
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 1	0	+ 7	4.0	3.8	112	184
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 7	- 1	- 1	2.4	2.6	181	134
<b>SMALL WARES</b>	+ 6	+ 2	+ 3	1.4	1.4	299	131
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 4	- 5	0	2.5	2.6	137	108
Notions	+ 3	0	+ 4	2.1	2.1	178	139
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 5	+ 4	+ 3	1.3	1.4	328	137
Silverware and jewelry	+ 7	+ 3	+ 2	1.5	1.6	296	132
Silverware and clocks	+ 5	- 2	- 4	2.5	2.7	223	144
Costume jewelry	+ 7	+ 5	+ 4	0.9	0.9	326	119
Fine jewelry and watches	+12	+ 5	+ 7	2.2	2.3	408	145
Art needlework	+ 5	+ 1	+ 3	2.7	2.7	150	112
Books and stationery	+ 8	+ 3	+ 2	0.8	0.9	434	130
Books and magazines	+ 9	+ 2	+ 1	1.0	1.0	351	128
Stationery	+ 7	+ 3	+ 2	0.8	0.8	463	127
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</b>	+ 7	0	+ 1	1.3	1.4	205	126
Women's accessories	+ 7	0	0	1.4	1.5	227	128
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 4	- 5	- 7	0.8	0.9	296	127
Handkerchiefs	- 2	- 6	- 5	0.7	0.8	242	62
Millinery	+17	- 2	- 5	0.7	0.9	95	66
Women's and children's gloves	+16	+ 2	-10	0.9	1.1	325	84
Corsets and brassieres	+ 7	+ 2	+ 3	2.6	2.7	176	174
Women's, children's hosiery	+12	+ 2	+ 4	1.2	1.3	181	129
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 5	- 3	- 1	0.8	0.9	276	106
knit underwear	+ 4	- 2	0	1.0	1.0	328	215
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 4	- 4	- 1	0.9	1.0	236	99
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 9	- 1	- 2	0.5	0.5	350	81
Infants' wear	+ 7	0	+ 2	1.3	1.3	247	127
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 4	+ 1	+ 4	0.8	0.8	321	126
Women's and children's shoes	+ 9	+ 2	+ 1	3.4	3.6	166	154
Children's shoes	+ 2	+ 1	0	2.9	3.0	175	153
Women's shoes	+11	+ 3	0	3.5	3.8	164	153

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

UNITED STATES - DECEMBER 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)	December		December	
	Dec.	Jan.-Dec.		1958	1957	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	+ 8	- 1	+ 1	1.3	1.3	182	123
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 8	- 2	+ 6	1.8	1.8	104	116
Women's, misses' coats	+ 8	- 1	+ 7	1.6	1.6	122	126
Women's, misses' suits	+10	- 6	0	2.8	3.1	54	80
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 9	0	+ 2	1.0	1.0	235	123
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 7	- 3	+ 1	1.1	1.1	171	112
Girls' wear	+11	+ 3	+ 3	0.9	1.0	312	132
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 4	- 2	0	1.5	1.6	120	122
Inexpensive dresses	+ 6	- 1	+ 5	1.1	1.1	132	122
Better dresses	+ 3	- 3	- 3	2.1	2.2	113	124
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 9	0	- 4	1.0	1.1	290	137
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	0	0	+ 6	1.3	1.3	156	115
Furs	+12	+ 8	+ 6	1.9	2.0	235	114
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>							
Men's clothing	+10	0	- 5	2.4	2.7	202	135
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 9	+ 1	- 5	0.8	1.0	384	115
Boys' wear	+10	+ 1	- 1	1.3	1.5	286	114
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 8	+ 3	+ 1	2.4	2.5	284	154
<b>HOME FURNISHINGS</b>							
Furniture and bedding	+ 5	- 3	- 6	3.9	4.4	116	122
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 3	- 2	- 3	3.1	3.3	86	142
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 6	- 2	- 7	4.0	4.6	124	117
Domestic floor coverings	+12	+ 1	- 4	4.1	5.0	94	107
Rugs and carpets	+12	0	- 4	4.3	5.1	95	112
Linoleum	+10	- 2	- 3	4.5	5.1	47	56
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 5	- 2	- 2	3.4	3.7	125	120
Lamps and shades	+ 5	0	+ 6	2.1	2.1	178	123
China and glassware	+ 7	- 1	- 2	2.6	2.9	264	125
Major household appliances	+11	- 2	+ 4	2.7	2.9	73	96
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 9	+ 4	0	1.9	2.1	215	131
Gift shop	+ 8	+ 5	+ 2	1.4	1.4	445	153
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+ 7	+ 3	+11	1.2	1.1	329	131
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 8	+ 4	+16	1.1	1.0	318	143
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 8	+ 2	+ 3	1.3	1.3	437	142
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>							
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 6	+ 2	0	0.7	0.7	572	127
Toys and games	+ 3	- 2	- 2	0.5	0.5	613	115
Sporting goods and cameras	+16	+10	+ 2	1.2	1.3	483	141
Luggage	- 2	- 7	- 2	1.5	1.5	252	122
Candy	+ 9	+ 5	- 3	0.3	0.3	399	107

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

UNITED STATES - DECEMBER 1958

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 <sup>2/</sup> )	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	December		December	
	Dec.	Jan.-Dec.	December	1956	1957	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 7	- 2	0	1.1	1.2	193	103
Domestics and blankets	+ 4	- 3	0	2.1	2.2	149	130
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 6	- 3	0	0.9	0.9	177	96
Intimate apparel	+ 6	- 1	+ 1	1.0	1.1	207	106
Hosiery	+15	+ 3	+ 6	1.0	1.1	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 3	- 3	0	1.1	1.1	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+11	- 4	+ 3	1.2	1.3	87	78
Dresses	+ 1	- 9	+ 3	0.9	0.9	110	86
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 9	- 1	- 4	0.7	0.8	254	105
Girls' wear	+ 7	- 1	+ 1	0.7	0.8	271	105
Infants' wear	+ 6	- 2	- 2	0.9	1.0	251	111
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 2	- 6	- 3	0.9	1.0	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+10	+ 1	- 1	0.8	0.9	314	111
Men's wear	+ 9	+ 1	- 2	0.8	0.9	313	111
Men's clothing	+10	+ 3	+ 1	1.4	1.5	222	127
Men's furnishings	+ 9	0	- 4	0.6	0.6	357	95
Boys' wear	+11	0	- 2	0.8	1.0	295	107
Homefurnishings	+ 2	- 3	- 3	2.2	2.4	120	104
Shoes	+10	+ 3	+ 2	2.0	2.2	170	111
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+10	+ 3	3/	3/	3/	177	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 9	+ 2	3/	3/	3/	125	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.

December this year had one more trading day than last.