

G.7.3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 1959.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1959
(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)

Nov. 1956	110	133	163	135	99	150	190	135
Dec. 1956	202	188	278	149	117	271	346	177
Jan. 1957	91	84	78	101	139	95	65	81
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
Jan. 1958	91	84	76	99	137	98	71	78
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
Jan. 1959	94	87	81	103	138	101	74	78

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

Nov. 1956	154	164	174	131	121	165	185	136
Dec. 1956	122	124	128	120	120	125	104	103
Jan. 1957	121	125	121	120	111	123	118	104
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
Jan. 1958	122	126	124	121	110	124	123	104
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
Jan. 1959	123	128	120	121	111	128	125	104

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Jan. 1957	3.7	3.2	5.1	4.1	2.4	4.1	4.5	2.7
Jan. 1958	3.7	3.2	5.3	4.1	2.4	4.0	4.2	2.8
Jan. 1959	3.6	3.1	4.8	3.9	2.4	4.0	4.9	2.8

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1959

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)	Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100%)	
			Jan.	January	January	January
	January	Jan.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL—entire store	+ 3	+ 1	3.4	3.5	--	--
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 4	+ 1	3.6	3.7	94	123
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+ 1	+ 1	2.4	2.4	138	111
Piece goods	- 1	- 1	4.2	4.2	58	88
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 3	+ 2	4.0	4.1	52	79
Woolen yard goods	+ 5	- 6	3.1	3.4	64	72
Cotton yard goods	- 5	- 4	4.2	4.2	69	115
Household textiles	+ 1	+ 1	2.0	2.0	194	122
Linen and towels	+ 4	0	2.4	2.5	161	109
Domestics—muslins, sheetings	0	+ 1	1.3	1.3	254	135
Blankets, comforters, spreads	0	+ 1	2.6	2.6	167	133
SMALL WARES	+ 3	+ 4	4.0	3.9	101	128
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 4	- 2	5.7	5.7	59	103
Notions	+ 1	+ 3	4.1	4.0	95	136
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 4	+ 4	3.4	3.4	126	130
Silverware and jewelry	+ 4	+ 5	5.8	5.7	75	130
Silverware and clocks	0	- 3	7.1	7.3	73	135
Costume jewelry	+ 4	+ 6	3.4	3.4	75	106
Fine jewelry and watches	+12	+18	12.0	11.3	73	151
Art needlework	+ 3	+ 2	3.3	3.3	110	103
Books and stationery	+ 4	+ 3	3.4	3.4	115	137
Books and magazines	+ 3	+ 4	2.7	2.6	123	124
Stationery	+ 5	+ 3	3.7	3.8	109	141
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+ 4	+ 2	3.1	3.2	87	128
Women's accessories	+ 4	+ 2	3.9	3.9	81	128
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 1	- 1	3.2	3.3	74	131
Handkerchiefs	- 5	- 5	4.5	4.5	41	62
Millinery	+ 7	+ 9	1.4	1.4	57	79
Women's and children's gloves	+ 3	- 9	4.1	4.7	66	74
Corsets and brassieres	+ 7	+ 3	3.0	3.1	144	167
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 7	+ 4	2.9	3.0	75	126
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 2	0	3.6	3.7	64	105
Knit underwear	+ 4	0	3.6	3.8	93	153
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	0	+ 1	4.0	4.0	51	92
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 2	0	2.6	2.7	58	78
Infants' wear	+ 1	+ 2	3.5	3.5	85	123
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 7	+ 5	3.4	3.4	72	125
Women's and children's shoes	+ 3	+ 2	6.0	6.0	98	161
Children's shoes	0	+ 1	7.5	7.4	69	166
Women's shoes	+ 3	+ 2	5.8	5.8	100	152

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

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago		Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)	January		Sales	Stocks
			1959	1958		
	January	Jan.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)						
Women's apparel	+ 4	+ 2	2.5	2.5	93	128
Women's, misses' coats & suits	0	+ 5	1.9	1.8	97	113
Women's, misses' coats	- 3	+ 8	1.6	1.4	109	110
Women's, misses' suits	+11	- 3	3.1	3.6	63	107
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 6	+ 4	3.0	3.0	76	134
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 4	+ 1	2.2	2.2	76	118
Girls' wear	+ 8	+ 5	3.9	4.7	76	147
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 6	- 2	2.3	2.4	87	133
Inexpensive dresses	+10	+ 1	1.7	1.9	89	131
Better dresses	+ 1	- 5	2.8	3.0	82	129
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 6	0	2.8	3.0	100	144
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 3	0	2.1	2.2	98	116
Furs	0	+ 9	3.1	2.8	125	104
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+ 6	- 3	4.8	5.3	81	120
Men's clothing	+ 5	- 6	4.4	5.0	102	129
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 7	- 4	4.7	5.2	70	112
Boys' wear	+ 6	0	5.3	5.6	68	112
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 7	+ 4	6.3	6.5	104	145
HOMEFURNISHINGS	+ 4	0	3.9	4.1	103	121
Furniture and bedding	0	- 4	3.3	3.5	135	122
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	- 4	- 2	1.5	1.5	154	143
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 2	- 4	4.0	4.3	122	116
Domestic floor coverings	+ 9	- 4	3.6	4.1	104	105
Rugs and carpets	+ 9	- 4	3.4	3.9	101	102
Linoleum	+ 6	- 4	5.5	6.1	64	64
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 1	- 1	5.2	5.3	80	118
Lamps and shades	+ 2	+ 5	3.9	3.8	89	117
China and glassware	+ 3	- 2	7.3	7.6	97	128
Major household appliances	+ 8	+11	2.5	2.4	78	101
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 3	+ 2	4.5	4.5	90	131
Gift shop	+ 9	+ 2	6.7	7.1	86	144
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+ 8	+11	3.1	3.0	134	147
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 9	+17	3.0	2.8	144	150
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 7	+ 3	3.5	3.7	99	130
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 4	+ 2	4.9	5.0	74	125
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 5	+ 2	8.3	8.6	54	135
Toys and games	+ 6	- 1	13.0	13.9	29	141
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 6	+ 5	6.0	6.0	94	128
Luggage	+ 4	- 3	5.4	5.8	72	131
Candy	+ 5	+ 4	1.8	1.8	84	141

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

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago		Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)	1/		2/	
			Jan. 1959	1958	January Sales	January Stocks
	January	Jan.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	- 1	+ 1	2.8	2.7	78	104
Domestics and blankets	- 3	0	2.0	2.0	144	113
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 2	+ 1	2.4	2.3	68	97
Intimate apparel	+ 1	+ 1	2.7	2.7	83	109
Hosiery	+ 6	+ 4	2.4	2.5	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	0	+ 1	2.8	2.8	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 3	+ 2	1.7	1.6	59	71
Dresses	0	0	1.7	1.7	58	91
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 1	- 1	2.2	2.2	84	105
Girls' wear	+ 2	0	2.9	3.0	63	104
Infants' wear	- 6	+ 1	3.1	2.9	79	113
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 6	- 3	2.6	2.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 1	+ 1	3.4	3.4	82	116
Men's wear	0	0	3.3	3.3	85	115
Men's clothing	- 3	+ 2	3.3	3.2	101	128
Men's furnishings	+ 5	- 1	3.1	3.3	76	105
Boys' wear	+ 3	+ 1	3.7	3.7	72	112
Homefurnishings	- 3	- 1	3.7	3.6	78	105
Shoes	+ 4	+ 5	4.5	4.5	79	111
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 4	3/	3/	3/	121	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+11	3/	3/	3/	130	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.