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MONTHLY

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MARCH 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)

Jan. 1957	91	84	78	101	139	95	65	81
Feb. 1957	82	81	67	96	71	90	67	73
Mar. 1957	97	105	77	105	77	92	81	94
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
Feb. 1958	76	72	64	87	63	88	68	65
Mar. 1958	101	112	82	104	74	98	92	98
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
Feb. 1959	83	82	70	95	65	93	67	71
Mar. 1959	105	123	91	96	68	101	95	103

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

Jan. 1957	121	125	121	120	111	123	118	104
Feb. 1957	126	134	132	122	114	123	112	112
Mar. 1957	138	148	145	133	118	132	124	122
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
Feb. 1958	128	138	133	122	112	126	117	113
Mar. 1958	135	143	141	132	115	132	123	118
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
Feb. 1959	129	140	130	123	113	130	117	113
Mar. 1959	138	147	140	136	117	138	123	120

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Mar. 1957	4.0	3.1	6.1	4.4	4.7	4.6	4.0	2.7
Mar. 1958	3.7	2.7	5.6	4.3	4.7	4.3	3.4	2.5
Mar. 1959	3.6	2.5	4.9	4.8	5.2	4.3	3.3	2.4

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MARCH

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales $\frac{1}{2}$		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49, av.=100 $\frac{2}{1}$)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	March		March	
	Mar.	3 mos.	March	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL-entire store	+ 4	+ 5	+ 2	3.4	3.4	--	--
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 4	+ 5	+ 2	3.6	3.7	105	138
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	- 8	- 1	+ 2	5.2	4.7	68	117
Piece goods	- 9	- 1	+ 1	3.5	3.2	73	90
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 7	+ 1	+ 3	3.2	2.9	69	78
Woolen yard goods	-16	0	- 1	4.3	3.7	44	63
Cotton yard goods	- 8	- 4	- 2	3.3	3.1	99	123
Household textiles	- 8	- 1	+ 2	6.4	5.8	64	130
Linsens and towels	- 4	+ 2	+ 2	6.3	5.9	67	120
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	-11	- 3	+ 3	6.4	5.6	59	153
Blankets, comforters, spreads	-11	- 4	+ 2	6.5	5.6	67	131
SMALL WARES	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4	4.3	4.3	101	138
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 7	+ 5	0	4.3	4.6	101	141
Notions	- 3	0	+ 5	4.7	4.3	97	162
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 1	+ 2	+ 5	3.7	3.6	120	135
Silverware and jewelry	+11	+ 9	+ 2	5.4	5.9	89	142
Silverware and clocks	+ 8	+ 7	- 2	7.4	8.2	78	151
Costume jewelry	+12	+ 9	+ 7	3.2	3.4	104	139
Fine jewelry and watches	+10	+12	+ 1	11.1	12.0	78	144
Art needlework	-10	- 2	+ 5	5.5	4.7	73	110
Books and stationery	+ 4	+ 5	+ 7	3.7	3.6	108	141
Books and magazines	+ 2	+ 5	+ 8	2.9	2.7	121	131
Stationery	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	4.2	4.2	100	144
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	+10	+ 9	+ 3	2.5	2.7	123	147
Women's accessories	+ 9	+ 8	+ 2	3.1	3.4	118	151
Neckwear and scarfs	+14	+ 8	- 2	2.6	3.0	112	160
Handkerchiefs	+13	+ 4	- 2	3.8	4.4	53	67
Millinery	+18	+18	+ 3	0.7	0.8	173	111
Women's and children's gloves	+24	+13	- 9	2.8	3.8	113	90
Corsets and brassieres	+ 5	+ 7	+ 8	3.3	3.2	149	190
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 5	+ 6	+ 6	3.0	3.0	84	141
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 3	+ 4	+ 3	4.1	4.1	71	130
Knit underwear	+ 4	+ 5	+ 4	4.2	4.2	93	172
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 4	+ 4	+ 2	4.3	4.4	61	118
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 4	+ 4	+ 4	3.0	2.9	73	104
Infants' wear	+ 5	+ 6	+ 1	2.6	2.7	130	139
Handbags, small leather goods	+21	+16	+ 2	2.2	2.6	138	154
Women's and children's shoes	+10	+ 9	+ 2	4.3	4.7	159	187
Children's shoes	+12	+ 8	+ 1	3.5	3.9	164	184
Women's shoes	+10	+ 9	+ 2	4.5	4.9	158	191

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

UNITED STATES - MARCH

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)	March		March	March
	Mar.	3 mos.	March	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+10	+10	+ 4	2.0	2.1	128	141
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 1	+ 4	+ 4	1.5	1.6	110	109
Women's, misses' coats	- 2	0	+ 6	1.6	1.5	103	105
Women's, misses' suits	+ 4	+13	+ 1	1.6	1.6	129	118
Juniors' and girls' wear	+12	+13	+ 5	1.6	1.7	169	153
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+12	+12	+ 6	1.3	1.4	148	134
Girls' wear	+11	+14	+ 4	1.8	1.9	194	168
Women's and misses' dresses	+13	+13	+ 5	1.7	1.9	125	145
Inexpensive dresses	+14	+15	+ 6	1.4	1.5	127	141
Better dresses	+11	+ 9	+ 3	2.2	2.4	120	147
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+17	+13	+ 2	2.8	3.2	120	172
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+13	+10	+ 2	2.1	2.3	119	134
Furs	- 3	- 4	+12	4.4	3.8	91	109
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+11	+ 9	- 1	4.9	5.5	91	140
Men's clothing	+ 8	+ 8	- 4	6.1	6.8	88	152
Men's furnishings and hats	+12	+ 8	- 1	5.1	5.8	72	128
Boys' wear	+14	+12	+ 1	3.2	3.6	138	135
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 7	+ 7	+ 7	6.2	6.2	127	171
HOMEFURNISHINGS	- 8	+ 1	+ 3	4.8	4.3	96	136
Furniture and bedding	-10	0	- 1	4.7	4.2	107	136
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	-12	- 3	+ 6	2.6	2.1	115	161
Upholstered, other furniture	-10	+ 1	- 2	5.3	4.8	105	131
Domestic floor coverings	- 2	+ 6	- 1	4.7	4.7	86	112
Rugs and carpets	- 5	+ 5	0	4.8	4.5	84	112
Linoleum	- 9	+ 8	+ 9	4.2	3.5	61	68
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	- 3	+ 2	+ 2	5.1	4.9	95	133
Lamps and shades	- 7	+ 2	+ 5	5.1	4.5	77	128
China and glassware	+ 1	+ 4	+ 2	8.3	8.2	92	138
Major household appliances	-14	- 1	+ 9	3.4	2.7	66	113
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	-13	- 3	+ 6	4.8	3.9	105	156
Gift shop	+ 7	+10	+ 4	6.4	6.6	101	165
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	- 8	+ 2	+12	3.8	3.1	121	161
Radios, phonographs, television	- 8	+ 2	+19	3.6	2.7	108	151
Records, sheet music, instr.	- 2	+ 5	+ 4	4.4	4.1	135	153
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 3	+ 2	0	3.3	3.4	95	123
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 8	+ 7	+ 3	6.0	6.2	74	143
Toys and games	+11	+ 9	- 2	5.7	6.4	56	124
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 5	+ 6	+ 9	6.2	6.0	100	153
Luggage	- 3	+ 3	0	5.9	5.7	68	129
Candy	+50	+25	-16	0.6	1.0	212	109

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

UNITED STATES - MARCH

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)	March		March	
	Mar.	3 mos.	March	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 5	+ 4	+ 2	2.4	2.5	103	120
Domestics and blankets	- 7	- 3	+ 3	4.2	3.8	74	125
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 6	+ 5	+ 2	1.8	1.9	105	116
Intimate apparel	+ 4	+ 4	+ 4	2.6	2.6	99	129
Hosiery	+ 4	+ 5	+ 3	2.1	2.1	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 4	+ 4	+ 5	2.8	2.8	3/	3/
Coats and suits	0	+ 3	- 5	1.0	1.1	101	74
Dresses	+12	+ 9	+13	1.2	1.2	93	97
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 2	+ 1	- 1	2.6	2.6	92	142
Girls' wear	+ 8	+ 8	0	1.5	1.6	164	140
Infants' wear	+ 5	+ 2	+ 4	2.3	2.3	127	136
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 3	+ 1	0	2.2	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 5	+ 4	+ 1	2.9	3.0	112	139
Men's wear	+ 1	+ 2	+ 2	3.3	3.3	96	138
Men's clothing	0	+ 1	+ 3	3.2	3.1	118	161
Men's furnishings	+ 3	+ 3	+ 2	3.4	3.4	81	125
Boys' wear	+15	+11	- 4	1.9	2.2	174	141
Homefurnishings	- 7	- 2	+ 1	3.6	3.3	85	114
Shoes	+11	+ 9	+ 1	3.1	3.4	134	132
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 5	+ 6	3/	3/	3/	129	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+10	+12	3/	3/	3/	152	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 1958, 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.