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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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

UNITED STATES - APRIL 1959
(Based on retail dollar amounts)

Summary by Selected Department Groups

Main Store								Base- ment store total
Main store total	Women's apparel and accessories	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)

Feb. 1957	82	81	67	96	71	90	67	73
Mar. 1957	97	105	77	105	77	92	81	94
Apr. 1957	104	120	98	96	73	97	94	111
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
Apr. 1958	99	108	88	98	73	97	91	100
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
Apr. 1959	102	109	87	109	76	99	84	99

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

Feb. 1957	126	134	132	122	114	123	112	112
Mar. 1957	138	148	145	133	118	132	124	122
Apr. 1957	139	144	149	136	119	138	123	122
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
Apr. 1958	135	141	147	132	114	138	124	120
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
Apr. 1959	141	148	148	136	117	145	126	125

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Apr. 1957	3.7	2.6	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.5	3.4	2.3
Apr. 1958	3.7	2.7	5.3	4.5	4.7	4.4	3.4	2.5
Apr. 1959	3.7	2.9	5.3	4.2	4.6	4.5	3.7	2.6

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - APRIL

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales $\frac{S}{I}$		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)			April	April
	Apr.	4 mos.	April	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
<u>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</u>	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4	3.5	3.5	--	--
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 3	+ 5	+ 4	3.7	3.7	102	141
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	+ 5	0	+ 3	4.6	4.7	76	117
Piece goods	0	- 1	+ 1	3.6	3.6	65	85
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 2	+ 1	+ 3	3.5	3.5	61	78
Woolen yard goods	-12	- 1	- 1	10.3	9.2	14	60
Cotton yard goods	- 1	- 3	- 1	2.9	2.9	110	117
Household textiles	+ 7	0	+ 3	5.0	5.2	84	134
Linens and towels	+10	+ 4	+ 2	5.5	5.9	83	124
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 8	- 1	+ 5	4.7	4.8	84	157
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 5	- 2	+ 3	4.8	4.8	93	134
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	+ 2	+ 3	+ 5	4.5	4.4	99	145
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	0	+ 3	0	4.5	4.5	95	138
Notions	+ 3	+ 1	+ 4	3.9	3.9	118	166
Toilet articles, drag sundries	+ 2	+ 2	+ 7	3.9	3.7	118	142
Silverware and jewelry	+ 2	+ 7	+ 4	5.8	5.7	88	150
Silverware and clocks	+ 6	+ 7	- 1	7.9	8.5	76	158
Costume jewelry	- 3	+ 5	+ 8	3.6	3.2	97	144
Fine jewelry and watches	+16	+13	+ 4	9.7	10.8	112	176
Art needlework	+ 5	- 1	+ 4	5.8	5.8	68	113
Books and stationery	+ 3	+ 5	+ 7	4.6	4.5	89	150
Books and magazines	+10	+ 6	+12	3.6	3.5	143	142
Stationery	0	+ 4	+ 5	5.2	5.0	84	155
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	+ 1	+ 7	+ 6	2.9	2.7	109	148
Women's accessories	- 4	+ 5	+ 5	3.8	3.4	100	154
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 1	+ 6	+ 2	2.6	2.6	111	162
Handkerchiefs	-14	- 1	+ 1	5.1	4.3	39	67
Millinery	-23	+ 5	+11	1.1	0.8	88	91
Women's and children's gloves	-22	+ 2	- 5	4.3	3.6	72	89
Corsets and brassieres	+ 6	+ 7	+ 8	3.3	3.2	151	192
Women's, children's hosiery	- 2	+ 4	+ 8	3.4	3.0	76	148
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 5	+ 4	+ 6	3.9	3.8	80	139
Knit underwear	+ 7	+ 5	+ 9	4.1	4.0	101	185
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 3	+ 4	+ 3	4.0	4.0	69	125
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 5	+ 5	+ 9	2.8	2.7	83	120
Infants' wear	- 7	+ 2	+ 4	3.5	3.1	99	145
Handbags, small leather goods	- 8	+ 8	+ 7	2.9	2.5	109	161
Women's and children's shoes	- 5	+ 5	+ 4	5.3	4.8	127	188
Children's shoes	-24	- 1	+ 4	7.0	5.1	88	189
Women's shoes	- 1	+ 6	+ 4	5.0	4.8	140	192

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

UNITED STATES - APRIL

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 ^{2/3})	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)		April		Sales	Stocks
				1959	1958		
Apr.	4 mos.	Apr.	1959	1958	1959	1958	
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 6	+ 9	+ 7	2.1	2.1	118	140
Women's, misses' coats & suits	0	+ 3	+ 7	1.7	1.6	80	87
Women's, misses' coats	0	0	+ 7	1.6	1.5	82	87
Women's, misses' suits	- 4	+ 8	+ 5	2.0	1.8	83	91
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 2	+10	+ 7	2.2	2.1	118	154
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+10	+12	+ 4	1.5	1.6	124	132
Girls' wear	- 8	+ 8	+ 9	3.2	2.7	110	173
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 9	+12	+ 6	1.6	1.7	133	147
Inexpensive dresses	+10	+14	+10	1.3	1.3	141	154
Better dresses	+ 8	+ 9	+ 4	2.0	2.1	129	147
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+10	+12	+ 6	2.6	2.6	140	187
Abrons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 6	+ 9	+ 5	1.7	1.7	150	143
Furs	+ 1	- 3	+12	5.4	4.8	73	111
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	- 1	+ 6	+ 1	5.3	5.2	87	148
Men's clothing	+ 5	+ 7	- 3	5.3	5.7	101	158
Men's furnishings and hats	0	+ 6	+ 1	5.2	5.2	73	137
Boys' wear	-12	+ 5	+ 6	4.9	4.0	93	139
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	- 4	+ 4	+ 8	7.3	6.5	109	182
HOMEFURNISHINGS	+12	+ 4	+ 3	4.2	4.5	109	136
Furniture and bedding	+17	+ 4	0	3.9	4.6	121	134
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+16	+ 1	0	2.0	2.3	133	153
Upholstered, other furniture	+15	+ 4	0	4.5	5.2	118	134
Domestic floor coverings	+18	+ 9	0	4.3	5.1	89	106
Rugs and carpets	+15	+ 7	0	4.6	5.2	89	117
Linoleum	+21	+12	+15	4.5	4.7	69	75
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+10	+ 4	+ 2	4.3	4.7	112	134
Lamps and shades	+12	+ 4	+ 5	4.7	5.0	88	136
China and glassware	+11	+ 5	+ 1	7.8	8.6	98	139
Major household appliances	+10	+ 2	+ 8	2.8	2.8	84	117
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 3	- 2	+ 7	3.8	3.7	131	159
Gift shop	+12	+10	+ 4	6.2	6.6	109	172
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+20	+ 6	+11	4.1	4.4	109	163
Radios, phonographs, television	+24	+ 6	+14	3.7	4.0	99	161
Records, sheet music, instr.	+10	+ 6	+ 7	5.4	5.5	119	156
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	- 8	- 1	+ 2	3.7	3.4	84	126
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 2	+ 4	+ 4	5.9	5.6	76	148
Toys and games	-12	+ 1	0	6.9	6.0	48	133
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 8	+ 6	+ 9	5.2	5.1	128	164
Luggage	+ 6	+ 4	+ 1	5.2	5.4	78	136
Candy	-37	+ 5	+ 8	1.5	0.9	72	128

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

UNITED STATES - APRIL

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)	April		April	
	Apr.	4 mos.	April	1957	1958	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	- 1	+ 3	+ 4	2.6	2.5	99	125
Domestics and blankets	+ 8	- 1	+ 3	3.4	3.5	130	176
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	< 2	+ 3	+ 5	2.0	1.9	97	120
Intimate apparel	+ 3	+ 4	+ 6	2.7	2.6	105	138
Hosiery	- 3	+ 3	+ 4	2.4	2.2	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 4	+ 4	+ 6	2.8	2.7	3/	3/
Coats and suits	-12	- 1	+12	1.4	1.1	70	71
Dresses	+ 5	+ 7	+ 4	1.2	1.2	100	115
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 5	+ 2	+ 3	2.0	2.1	125	152
Girls' wear	-14	+ 1	+ 4	2.4	2.0	108	148
Infants' wear	- 9	- 1	+ 6	2.9	2.5	103	137
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 6	+ 3	0	1.8	1.9	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 3	+ 2	+ 4	3.1	2.9	109	147
Men's wear	+ 1	+ 2	+ 4	3.1	3.0	111	151
Men's clothing	0	+ 1	+ 5	3.0	2.9	139	174
Men's furnishings	+ 2	+ 3	+ 3	3.1	3.1	96	135
Boys' wear	-17	+ 2	+ 3	3.0	2.4	107	143
Homefurnishings	+ 9	+ 1	0	3.1	3.4	101	118
Shoes	- 9	+ 4	+ 4	4.0	3.5	109	141
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 4	+ 6	3/	3/	3/	124	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 5	+10	3/	3/	3/	165	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.