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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 14, 1959.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)

June 1957	99	92	121	108	72	100	105	102
July 1957	86	78	77	104	81	84	91	79
Aug. 1957	102	105	87	110	106	95	92	101
Apr. 1958	99	108	88	98	73	97	91	100
May 1958	106	109	97	112	84	111	102	103
June 1958	97	90	114	103	72	103	105	96
July 1958	87	79	80	104	84	87	95	79
Aug. 1958	100	100	87	108	105	94	92	97
Apr. 1959	102	109	87	109	76	99	84	99
May 1959	109	114	106	112	80	109	95	104
June 1959	107	99	131	115	75	112	111	104
July 1959	92	86	85	109	89	91	96	81
Aug. 1959	100	100	86	113	106	95	87	94

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

June 1957	128	127	137	129	112	129	122	110
July 1957	126	132	128	123	115	124	121	107
Aug. 1957	131	145	141	120	110	124	124	111
Apr. 1958	135	141	147	132	114	138	124	120
May 1958	132	134	147	130	112	135	127	117
June 1958	126	125	133	127	108	130	124	108
July 1958	123	129	125	119	110	124	123	105
Aug. 1958	128	142	136	116	106	124	125	110
Apr. 1959	141	148	148	136	117	145	126	125
May 1959	138	141	148	135	116	141	129	121
June 1959	132	134	135	133	113	137	126	115
July 1959	132	143	129	127	118	131	125	112
Aug. 1959	137	158	142	123	114	131	126	119

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Aug. 1957	3.5	3.0	5.2	3.7	3.2	4.2	3.4	2.3
Aug. 1958	3.5	3.1	5.0	3.7	3.1	4.2	3.4	2.4
Aug. 1959	3.7	3.4	5.2	3.7	3.2	4.3	3.6	2.7

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/ August		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	August		August	
	Aug.	8 mos.		1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
GRAND TOTAL--entire store	0	+ 4	+ 7	3.5	3.3	--	--
MAIN STORE TOTAL	+ 1	+ 5	+ 7	3.7	3.5	100	137
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+ 1	+ 1	+ 8	3.2	3.1	106	114
Piece goods	- 2	- 2	+ 6	4.6	4.3	55	92
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 1	0	+ 8	5.4	5.0	43	85
Woolen yard goods	- 4	- 1	+10	3.9	3.4	76	106
Cotton yard goods	- 1	- 3	+ 1	3.8	3.7	70	100
Household textiles	+ 2	+ 2	+ 9	2.8	2.6	142	125
Linens and towels	+ 7	+ 5	+ 5	3.2	3.3	128	113
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	0	0	+13	2.1	1.8	171	143
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 1	- 1	+10	3.3	3.1	129	132
SMALL WARES	+ 2	+ 3	+ 16	4.3	4.2	95	131
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 1	+ 3	+ 3	5.5	5.3	68	115
Notions	+ 2	+ 2	+ 5	4.6	4.4	88	145
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	3.7	3.7	110	125
Silverware and jewelry	- 1	+ 5	+ 7	5.4	5.1	86	134
Silverware and clocks	- 3	+ 4	+ 6	6.0	5.5	92	149
Costume jewelry	- 2	+ 4	+10	4.0	3.6	83	136
Fine jewelry and watches	+12	+15	+ 3	8.5	9.3	96	126
Art needlework	0	0	+ 5	4.9	4.7	76	110
Books and stationery	0	+ 4	+ 7	3.8	3.5	105	141
Books and magazines	+11	+ 8	+ 6	2.9	3.0	109	120
Stationery	- 4	+ 3	+ 7	4.2	3.8	102	149
WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	0	+ 6	+11	3.4	3.0	100	158
Women's accessories	- 2	+ 4	+ 8	4.3	3.9	88	155
Neckwear and scarfs	- 1	+ 6	+ 9	3.5	3.2	88	167
Handkerchiefs	+ 2	+ 1	+ 4	4.5	4.4	41	63
Millinery	- 9	+ 3	+ 9	2.0	1.7	63	119
Women's and children's gloves	- 3	+ 2	- 1	9.2	9.0	39	102
Corsets and brassieres	+ 2	+ 6	+ 8	3.5	3.3	133	176
Women's, children's hosiery	- 5	+ 2	+12	4.2	3.6	61	145
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 3	+ 6	+ 8	3.7	3.5	71	120
Knit underwear	+ 3	+ 7	+ 9	3.7	3.5	97	159
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 6	+ 5	+ 7	3.7	3.6	61	105
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	- 4	+ 4	+13	3.4	2.9	66	111
Infants' wear	- 4	+ 2	+ 8	3.5	3.1	117	165
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 3	+ 8	+10	3.6	3.4	86	153
Women's and children's shoes	- 5	+ 4	+ 9	6.3	5.5	112	194
Children's shoes	-10	- 1	+11	4.4	3.6	147	204
Women's shoes	- 3	+ 5	+ 8	7.0	6.3	103	193

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

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 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)	August		Sales	Stocks	
			1959	1958			
	Aug.	8 mos.	Aug.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 1	+ 8	+14	2.7	2.4	112	162
Women's, misses' coats & suits	- 7	0	+12	4.0	3.4	63	152
Women's, misses' coats	-10	- 4	+ 9	3.9	3.3	67	167
Women's, misses' suits	- 3	+ 5	+21	4.2	3.3	55	126
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 2	+11	+15	2.1	1.8	163	193
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 8	+14	+11	1.9	1.8	125	164
Girls' wear	- 2	+ 7	+18	2.2	1.8	210	217
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 3	+10	+13	2.2	2.1	91	134
Inexpensive dresses	+ 2	+11	+14	1.8	1.6	93	139
Better dresses	+ 5	+ 9	+12	2.8	2.6	94	140
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 2	+10	+17	2.8	2.5	144	202
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 7	+ 9	+ 9	1.8	1.8	105	103
Furs	0	- 3	+15	4.7	4.1	116	141
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	- 2	+ 7	+ 5	5.2	4.9	86	142
Men's clothing	0	+ 7	+ 1	6.9	6.9	75	151
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 1	+ 8	+ 4	5.1	5.0	69	126
Boys' wear	- 6	+ 4	+10	3.5	3.0	144	153
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	- 3	+ 5	+12	7.2	6.3	107	171
HOME FURNISHINGS	+ 4	+ 4	+ 6	3.7	3.6	113	123
Furniture and bedding	+ 3	+ 5	+ 6	3.0	2.9	145	121
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	+ 2	+ 5	1.2	1.1	177	123
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 4	+ 5	+ 7	3.7	3.6	135	122
Domestic floor coverings	+ 3	+ 7	+ 3	4.2	4.2	90	104
Rugs and carpets	+ 2	+ 6	+ 4	4.2	4.1	95	111
Linoleum	+10	+ 5	+ 2	4.6	4.9	52	67
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 4	+ 5	+ 4	5.0	5.0	86	121
Lamps and shades	- 2	+ 2	+ 8	4.5	4.1	80	121
China and glassware	+ 1	+ 4	+ 5	7.6	7.4	100	137
Major household appliances	+13	+ 6	+ 7	1.7	1.8	107	90
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 1	0	+ 6	3.9	3.7	113	140
Gift shop	+ 5	+ 8	+ 7	5.7	5.6	112	166
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+11	+ 8	+14	3.2	3.1	126	144
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 9	+ 8	+12	2.6	2.5	128	140
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 9	+ 7	+14	4.7	4.5	113	164
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	- 5	- 1	+ 1	3.6	3.4	87	126
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 4	+ 3	+ 3	5.2	4.8	90	154
Toys and games	- 7	+ 2	- 3	5.7	5.5	68	151
Sporting goods and cameras	- 1	+ 5	+12	4.7	4.1	128	154
Luggage	+ 4	+ 4	+ 2	3.6	3.7	103	123
Candy	- 3	+ 3	+ 8	1.3	1.2	78	98

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

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=1000/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	August		August	August
	Aug.	8 mos.	Aug.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	- 3	+ 2	+ 8	2.7	2.4	94	119
Domestics and blankets	- 1	- 1	+ 8	2.5	2.3	119	114
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 4	+ 2	+10	2.3	2.0	89	120
Intimate apparel	+ 1	+ 4	+10	2.6	2.4	94	121
Hosiery	- 7	0	+17	3.0	2.4	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 2	+ 5	+ 9	2.6	2.4	3/	3/
Coats and suits	-10	- 4	+10	3.2	2.6	49	111
Dresses	+ 2	+ 7	+ 2	1.3	1.3	73	85
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 6	+ 2	+10	2.0	1.7	123	148
Girls' wear	- 9	0	+18	1.8	1.4	173	175
Infants' wear	- 9	- 2	+11	2.8	2.3	120	153
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 6	+ 5	+ 5	2.3	2.3	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	- 6	+ 2	+ 8	2.9	2.6	110	138
Men's wear	- 3	+ 3	+ 7	3.3	3.0	92	132
Men's clothing	- 7	+ 1	+ 7	3.8	3.3	98	155
Men's furnishings	0	+ 5	+ 6	2.9	2.7	89	120
Boys' wear	-10	+ 1	+12	2.1	1.7	183	156
Homefurnishings	- 3	- 1	+ 5	3.5	3.3	78	103
Shoes	- 5	+ 3	+ 9	4.0	3.5	102	129
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 3	+ 5	3/	3/	3/	124	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 4	+ 8	3/	3/	3/	133	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.