

November 18, 1959.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 1959
(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)

July 1957	86	78	77	104	81	84	91	79
Aug. 1957	102	105	87	110	106	95	92	101
Sept. 1957	106	115	93	111	83	103	85	104
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
Sept. 1958	110	118	95	115	84	108	89	106
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
Sept. 1959	114	125	101	118	85	110	83	108

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

July 1957	126	132	128	123	115	124	121	107
Aug. 1957	131	145	141	120	110	124	124	111
Sept. 1957	142	158	162	125	118	132	148	125
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
Sept. 1958	141	157	158	123	115	134	147	124
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
Sept. 1959	150	172	165	131	122	141	149	132

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Sept. 1957	3.7	3.0	5.6	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.4	2.5
Sept. 1958	3.6	2.8	5.3	3.7	4.2	3.9	4.2	2.5
Sept. 1959	3.6	2.9	5.2	3.8	4.4	4.1	4.5	2.6

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 1959

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)	Sept.	September		Sales	Stocks
				1959	1958		
<u>GRAND TOTAL--entire store</u>	+ 4	+ 4	+ 7	3.4	3.3	--	--
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 4	+ 5	+ 7	3.6	3.5	114	150
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	+ 1	+ 1	+ 7	4.4	4.2	85	122
Piece goods	- 4	- 2	+ 6	4.0	3.6	67	94
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 4	0	+ 6	4.4	3.9	55	87
Woolen yard goods	- 6	- 2	+11	2.9	2.5	110	108
Cotton yard goods	0	- 3	+ 2	4.4	4.3	61	103
Household textiles	+ 4	+ 2	+ 7	4.5	4.3	96	137
Linens and towels	+7	+ 6	+ 4	5.1	5.2	86	123
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 8	+ 1	+10	4.4	4.3	95	162
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 2	- 1	+ 9	3.8	3.4	119	141
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	+ 2	+ 3	+ 5	4.1	3.9	110	141
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+ 2	+ 3	+ 2	4.8	4.9	78	117
Notions	+ 9	+ 3	+ 3	3.6	3.8	118	150
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 3	+ 3	+ 5	3.6	3.6	121	132
Silverware and jewelry	- 1	+ 5	+ 7	5.4	5.0	96	149
Silverware and clocks	- 6	+ 3	+ 8	7.4	6.4	81	158
Costume jewelry	+ 1	+ 3	+ 8	3.5	3.2	105	147
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 4	+14	+ 6	9.3	9.2	102	148
Art needlework	- 6	- 1	+ 4	4.6	4.2	91	120
Books and stationery	0	+ 4	+ 6	3.5	3.3	124	154
Books and magazines	- 2	+ 7	+ 6	3.0	2.8	116	131
Stationery	+ 1	+ 2	+ 6	3.8	3.6	128	167
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	+ 6	+ 6	+ 9	2.9	2.8	125	172
Women's accessories	+ 5	+ 4	+ 7	3.5	3.4	119	167
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 5	+ 6	+ 7	2.8	2.7	122	182
Handkerchiefs	+ 4	+ 1	+ 1	4.8	5.0	45	71
Millinery	- 4	+ 2	+ 9	0.9	0.8	134	117
Women's and children's gloves	+ 1	+ 2	- 1	6.0	6.1	75	127
Corsets and brassieres	+ 7	+ 6	+ 7	3.3	3.3	153	190
Women's, children's hosiery	0	+ 2	+11	3.3	2.9	85	156
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 5	+ 5	+ 8	4.3	4.1	75	145
Knit underwear	+ 7	+ 7	+11	4.2	4.0	102	200
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 6	+ 5	+ 8	4.5	4.4	61	124
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	0	+ 4	+10	3.7	3.4	75	137
Infants' wear	+ 6	+ 2	+ 5	2.9	2.9	143	169
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 8	+ 8	+12	2.6	2.5	138	172
Women's and children's shoes	+ 8	+ 4	+ 7	4.4	4.5	162	198
Childrer.'s shoes	+18	+ 2	+10	4.0	4.3	161	198
Women's shoes	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	4.6	4.5	163	201

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

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 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)	Stocks (end of month)	September		September	
				1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
	Sept. 19 mos.	Sept.	Sept.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 6	+ 8	+12	2.5	2.3	131	177
Women's, misses' coats & suits	0	0	+ 8	3.0	2.8	93	168
Women's, misses' coats	- 1	- 3	+ 5	3.1	3.0	91	182
Women's, misses' suits	0	+ 4	+16	2.6	2.2	92	122
Juniors' and girls' wear	+14	+11	+10	2.2	2.3	158	202
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+12	+14	+ 8	1.8	1.9	134	175
Girls' wear	+16	+ 9	+12	2.5	2.6	186	223
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 5	+10	+14	1.8	1.7	127	154
Inexpensive dresses	+ 3	+10	+15	1.5	1.3	127	152
Better dresses	+ 6	+ 8	+14	2.3	2.1	128	157
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 5	+10	+13	2.6	2.4	166	210
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 5	+ 8	+ 6	1.8	1.8	112	111
Furs	- 5	- 4	+23	6.3	4.8	99	173
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	+ 7	+ 7	+ 5	5.2	5.3	101	165
Men's clothing	+ 2	+ 7	+ 2	6.4	6.4	99	177
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 4	+ 7	+ 5	5.3	5.2	82	151
Boys' wear	+18	+ 6	+ 5	3.6	4.1	148	167
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 5	+ 5	+ 9	6.0	5.7	134	182
HOMEFURNISHINGS	+ 3	+ 4	+ 6	3.8	3.7	118	131
Furniture and bedding	+ 4	+ 5	+ 6	3.6	3.5	132	128
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 3	+ 2	0	1.6	1.6	153	138
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	4.3	4.3	124	125
Domestic floor coverings	- 1	+ 6	+ 7	3.8	3.5	108	116
Rugs and carpets	- 2	+ 5	+ 7	3.8	3.5	103	112
Linoleum	-14	+ 2	+ 6	4.6	3.7	53	68
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 1	+ 4	+ 5	4.5	4.3	104	129
Lamps and shades	- 3	+ 1	+ 9	4.2	3.8	93	131
China and glassware	- 2	+ 3	+ 5	7.6	7.1	107	141
Major household appliances	+11	+ 6	+10	2.0	2.0	98	92
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 1	0	+ 7	3.8	3.5	126	149
Gift shop	+ 3	+ 8	+ 3	6.3	6.3	112	177
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+11	+ 9	+11	2.8	2.8	158	155
Radios, phonographs, television	+11	+ 9	+12	2.3	2.3	171	151
Records, sheet music, instr.	+10	+ 8	+ 8	4.3	4.3	100	123
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	- 7	- 2	+ 1	4.5	4.2	83	149
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 8	+ 2	+ 3	7.0	6.3	86	195
Toys and games	-13	- 1	- 2	8.0	7.2	67	209
Sporting goods and cameras	- 1	+ 4	+11	5.8	5.2	124	175
Luggage	+ 8	+ 4	0	4.8	5.2	82	128
Candy	0	+ 3	- 1	1.4	1.4	90	115

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

UNITED STATES - SEPTEMBER 1959

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	9 mos.	Stocks (end of month)	1959		1958	
				Sept.	Sept.	Sept.	Sept.
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 2	+ 2	+ 7	2.6	2.4	108	132
Domestics and blankets	- 2	- 1	+ 5	3.1	2.9	98	125
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 2	+ 2	+ 8	2.1	2.0	105	132
Intimate apparel	+ 4	+ 4	+10	2.7	2.6	100	137
Hosiery	+ 1	0	+17	2.5	2.1	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 5	+ 5	+ 9	2.8	2.7	3/	3/
Coats and suits	- 5	- 4	+ 5	2.2	2.0	75	116
Dresses	+ 1	+ 6	+10	1.2	1.1	83	100
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 1	+ 1	+ 7	1.7	1.6	153	160
Girls' wear	+10	+ 1	+11	2.1	2.1	155	187
Infants' wear	+ 2	- 1	+12	2.4	2.2	151	165
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 6	+ 5	0	2.2	2.4	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 3	+ 2	+ 7	3.1	3.0	121	161
Men's wear	- 1	+ 2	+ 7	3.4	3.1	109	157
Men's clothing	- 4	0	+ 6	3.5	3.2	122	170
Men's furnishings	+ 2	+ 4	+ 9	3.3	3.1	99	146
Boys' wear	+13	+ 3	+ 7	2.5	2.6	162	174
Homefurnishings	- 5	- 1	+ 4	3.1	2.8	93	108
Shoes	+ 8	+ 4	+ 6	3.2	3.3	133	135
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 6	+ 5	3/	3/	3/	125	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 6	+ 8	3/	3/	3/	116	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.