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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 1960.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 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)

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
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
Oct. 1958	120	125	117	127	90	117	106	115
Nov. 1958	130	124	145	131	88	142	170	121
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
Oct. 1959	126	133	124	134	92	124	105	117
Nov. 1959	139	133	156	139	92	152	180	127

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

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
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
Oct. 1958	154	167	173	132	121	156	189	134
Nov. 1958	158	170	176	133	122	174	196	136
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
Oct. 1959	162	178	181	138	125	162	188	138
Nov. 1959	166	182	187	140	124	179	194	141

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Nov. 1957	3.2	2.8	3.9	3.4	3.9	3.6	2.6	2.2
Nov. 1958	3.3	2.9	3.9	3.5	4.1	3.8	2.9	2.3
Nov. 1959	3.2	2.9	3.8	3.4	4.0	3.7	2.6	2.3

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/ (1947-49 av.=1002/)		Unadjusted indexes	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)	November 1959	November 1958		Sales	Stocks
				1959	1958		
	Nov.	11 mos.	Nov.	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks
<u>GRAND TOTAL-entire store</u>	+ 6	+ 5	+ 5	3.1	3.1	--	--
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 7	+ 5	+ 5	3.2	3.3	139	166
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	+ 4	+ 1	+ 2	4.0	4.1	92	124
Piece goods	+ 2	- 1	+ 4	3.6	3.5	65	84
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 4	0	+ 3	3.3	3.4	64	80
Woolen yard goods	- 1	- 2	+11	2.7	2.4	99	92
Cotton yard goods	+ 1	- 2	0	4.6	4.7	53	95
Household textiles	+ 5	+ 2	+ 2	4.1	4.2	110	145
Linens and towels	+ 6	+ 6	+ 3	3.9	4.0	126	138
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 4	+ 1	0	5.2	5.4	77	165
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 6	0	0	3.5	3.7	131	143
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	+ 7	+ 4	+ 3	3.7	3.8	152	179
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	+10	+ 5	0	4.2	4.6	99	132
Notions	+ 8	+ 4	+ 2	4.0	4.2	120	173
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 6	+ 3	+ 3	4.3	4.4	141	183
Silverware and jewelry	+ 8	+ 5	+ 4	4.1	4.3	149	179
Silverware and clocks	+ 5	+ 3	+ 5	5.6	5.6	124	182
Costume jewelry	+ 8	+ 4	+ 4	2.8	2.9	159	178
Fine jewelry and watches	+16	+13	+ 1	6.2	7.1	183	186
Art needlework	+ 3	0	0	3.6	3.7	116	120
Books and stationery	+ 7	+ 4	+ 3	2.7	2.8	218	212
Books and magazines	+ 7	+ 7	+ 7	2.8	2.8	181	187
Stationery	+ 7	+ 3	+ 2	2.6	2.7	234	218
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	+ 6	+ 6	+ 7	2.9	2.9	133	182
Women's accessories	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	3.3	3.3	132	181
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 7	+ 6	+ 7	2.6	2.6	154	221
Handkerchiefs	+ 1	+ 1	- 1	3.8	3.9	82	104
Millinery	+ 6	+ 3	+ 2	1.0	1.0	98	89
Women's and children's gloves	+13	+ 4	+ 3	3.0	3.3	166	125
Corsets and brassieres	+ 5	+ 6	+ 6	3.6	3.6	138	193
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 2	+ 1	+ 4	3.0	3.0	98	171
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 8	+ 6	+ 6	3.3	3.4	125	188
Knit underwear	+ 7	+ 7	+ 8	3.5	3.5	156	250
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 8	+ 5	+ 5	3.4	3.5	101	158
N negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 8	+ 4	+ 7	2.6	2.6	148	195
Infants' wear	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	2.8	2.7	164	183
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 5	+ 7	+ 8	2.8	2.7	153	218
Women's and children's shoes	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	5.2	5.2	130	186
Children's shoes	+ 3	+ 2	+ 8	5.5	5.2	117	196
Women's shoes	+ 7	+ 5	+ 6	5.1	5.2	133	181

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/ (1947-49 av.=100 ² /)		Unadjusted indexes	
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)	November 1959	November 1958	November		
					Sales	Stocks	
Nov.	11 mos.	November	1959	1958	Sales	Stocks	
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	+ 7	+ 8	+ 9	2.4	2.4	133	183
Women's, misses' coats and suits	+ 6	+ 1	+ 3	2.1	2.2	111	144
Women's, misses' coats	+ 7	0	0	1.9	2.1	132	165
Women's, misses' suits	+ 3	+ 3	+12	3.0	2.7	51	91
Juniors' and girls' wear	+10	+11	+10	2.2	2.2	167	218
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+13	+14	+ 8	1.9	2.0	133	182
Girls' wear	+ 8	+ 8	+11	2.4	2.3	209	247
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 6	+ 9	+ 8	2.2	2.2	101	154
Inexpensive dresses	+ 6	+10	+10	1.8	1.7	106	162
Better dresses	+ 7	+ 8	+ 8	2.7	2.7	102	154
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 8	+ 9	+12	2.8	2.7	168	238
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+ 6	+ 8	+ 5	2.5	2.5	103	142
Furs	- 1	- 3	+15	4.0	3.4	159	165
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR							
Men's clothing	+ 8	+ 7	+ 6	3.8	3.9	156	187
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 7	+ 7	+ 3	4.4	4.6	143	181
Men's wear	+ 9	+ 7	+ 7	3.4	3.5	161	192
Boys' wear	+ 7	+ 6	+ 7	3.5	3.5	167	177
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 5	+ 5	+ 9	5.8	5.6	150	195
HOMEFURNISHINGS							
Furniture and bedding	+ 7	+ 5	+ 5	3.4	3.4	139	140
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	+ 4	+ 5	+ 6	3.3	3.3	141	130
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 4	+ 3	+ 4	2.1	2.1	130	144
Domestic floor coverings	+ 4	+ 5	+ 6	3.6	3.5	148	126
Rugs and carpets	+ 8	+ 6	+ 5	2.9	3.0	134	111
Linoleum	+13	+ 6	+ 3	2.6	2.9	143	110
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 1	+ 2	+21	4.4	3.7	63	74
Lamps and shades	+ 6	+ 4	0	3.2	3.4	142	130
China and glassware	+ 4	+ 2	+ 4	3.1	3.1	140	149
Major household appliances	+ 4	+ 3	+ 4	5.4	5.4	160	154
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 5	+ 6	+12	2.9	2.7	74	110
Gift shop	+ 6	+ 1	+ 5	3.7	3.8	139	165
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheet music, instr.	+ 9	+ 8	+ 6	4.0	4.1	232	229
Radios, phonographs, television	+16	+11	+ 7	2.5	2.7	210	182
Records, sheet music, instr.	+21	+11	+ 6	2.2	2.5	236	224
	+ 7	+ 8	+ 7	3.3	3.4	225	200
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.							
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 6	- 1	- 1	2.6	2.8	180	194
Toys and games	+10	+ 4	0	2.8	3.1	270	249
Sporting goods and cameras	+12	+ 3	- 5	2.4	2.8	303	278
Luggage	+ 5	+ 4	+ 9	4.2	4.0	208	217
Candy	+ 7	+ 5	+ 1	4.6	4.9	108	168
	+ 9	+ 4	+ 1	1.6	1.7	150	214

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

UNITED STATES - NOVEMBER 1959

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago		Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted stocks to indexes (1947-49 av.=1002/)		
	Sales during period	Stocks (end of month)	November		November		
			1959	1958	Sales	Stocks	
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	+ 5	+ 3	+ 3	2.3	2.3	127	141
Domestics and blankets	+ 2	- 1	- 2	2.9	3.0	110	130
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 5	+ 3	+ 4	2.0	2.0	118	141
Intimate apparel	+ 4	+ 4	+ 6	2.5	2.4	122	152
Hosiery	+ 4	0	+ 5	2.2	2.2	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 4	+ 4	+ 6	2.6	2.6	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+ 4	- 2	+ 2	1.5	1.5	93	100
Dresses	+ 6	+ 7	+ 5	1.6	1.6	79	117
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	+ 5	+ 2	- 1	1.8	1.9	155	170
Girls' wear	+ 6	+ 2	+ 5	1.8	1.9	173	180
Infants' wear	+ 4	0	+ 4	2.1	2.1	170	171
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	+14	+ 6	- 1	2.2	2.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 7	+ 3	+ 4	2.4	2.5	172	178
Men's wear	+ 7	+ 3	+ 4	2.4	2.5	168	177
Men's clothing	+ 4	0	+ 6	2.7	2.6	160	180
Men's furnishings	+10	+ 5	+ 3	2.3	2.5	173	173
Boys' wear	+ 7	+ 4	+ 6	2.2	2.2	179	177
Homefurnishings	0	- 1	- 1	2.3	2.4	122	109
Shoes	+ 5	+ 4	+ 6	3.5	3.4	122	137
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	+ 6	+ 5	3/	3/	3/	153	3/
Barber and beauty shop	- 1	+ 7	3/	3/	3/	113	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.