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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR IMPEDIATE RELEASE July 15, 1960.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MAY 1960 (Based on retail dollar amounts)

Summary by Selected Department Groups

			Main Store					Base-	
	Main store total	Women's apparel and acces- sories		Home furnish- ings	Prese goods and house- hold textiles	Small wares	Miscel- laneous	nert store total	
SALES INDIXES (Unad	justed	, 1947-49	avera	ge monthly	sales = 1	00)			
Mar. 1958	101	112	82	104	74	98	92	98	
Apr. 1958	99	108	88	98	73	97	91	100	
May 1958	106	109	97	112	84	111	102	103	
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	
May 1959	109	114	106	112	80	109	95	104	
Jan. 1960	95	89	81	104	139	103	70	77	
Feb. 1960	87	84	73	104	70	99	70	72	
Mar. 1960	101	109	82	108	76	102	83	92	
Apr. 1960	118	137	114	105	75	108	103	118	
May 1960	108	111	100	113	83	113	95	98	
STOCKS INDEXES (Una	djuste	1, 1947-4	9 aver	age of end	-of-month	stocks :	= 100)		
Mar. 1958	135	143	141	132	115	132	123	118	
Apr. 1958	135	141	147	132	114	138	124	120	
May 1958	132	134	147	130	112	135	127	117	
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	
May 1959	138	141	148	135	116	141	129	121	
Jan. 1960	133	139	132	129	119	135	130	108	
Feb. 1960	139	152	142	132	120	135	119	116	
Mar. 1960	149	165	154	143	122	144	129	125	
Apr. 1960	148	157	156	145	123	151	128	125	
May 1960	148	154	162	145	120	149	134	127	
RATIO OF STOCKS TO S	SALES								
May 1958	3.4	2.6	4.8	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.2	2.3	
May 1959	3.4	2.6	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.1	3.5	2.4	
May 1960	3.7	2.9	5.1	4.3	4.3	4.1	3.6	2.6	

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MAY 1960

	Percentage change from						
	corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of		Unadjusted indexes	
Department		s during	Stocke	sales 1		(1947-49 av.=1002/)	
	period		menth)	Мау		May	
	May .	JanMay	May	1960	1959	Sales	Stock
GRAND TOTAL-entire store	1	+ 3	+ 7	3.5	3.2		
MAIN STORE TOTAL	- 1	+ 3	+ 8	3.7	3.4	108	148
PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES	+ 3	+ 4	+ 4	4.3	4.2	83	120
Piece goods	+ 2	+ 3	0	3.8	3.9	59	83
Silks, velvets, synthetics	- 1	+ 3	. 0	3.8	3.8	51	73
Woolen yard goods	- 1	+ 1	- 2	15,3		11	63
Cotton yard goods	+ 4	+ 3	0	2.8	2.9	107	116
Household textiles	+ 4	+ 4	+ 6	4.4	4.3	99	139
Linens and towels	+ 6	+ 5	+ 6	4.9	4.9	94	129
Domesticsmuslins, sheetings	+ 3	+ 2	+ 9	4.0	3,8	105	170
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 2	+ 4	+ 3	4.2	4.2	100	132
SMALL WARES	+ 4	+ 4	+ 5	4.1	4.0	113	149
Laces, trimmings, embrcideries,				4.3			
and ribbons	+ 2	+ 5	+ 6	4.2	4.1	102	139
Notions	+ 2	+ 4	+ 5	3.6	3.6	130	171
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 4	+ 3	+ 5	3.6	3.6	133	147
Silverware and jewelry	+ 3	+ 7	+ 6	4.7	4.6	110	155
Silverware and clocks	+ 3 + 6	+ 7 + 7	+ 4	6.7	6.8	92	166
Costume jewelry	+ 2	+ 7	+ 7	2.8	2.7	123	143
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 4	+ 7	+ 7	7.6	7.4	139	191
Art needlework	+ 6	+ 4	+ 3	6.1	6.3	65	111
Books and stationery	+ 4	+ 3	+ 6	4.2	4.1	100	154
Books and magazines	+ 6	+ 3	+ 9	3.8	3.7	99	
Stationery	+ 3	+ 2	+ 5	4.4	4.3	9 9	155
NOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES	- 2	+ 3	+ 9	2.9	2.6	111	154
Women's accessories	- 2					300	3 600
Neckwear and scarfs	- 4	+ 3	+ 8 +12	3.6	3.3	105	157
Handkerchiefs	- 2	- 2	+ 5	2.5 4.0	2.2 3.7	121 51	170 67
Millinery	- 3	+1	7 2	1.2	1.2	68	78
Women's and children's gloves	+ 2	+ 4	- 5 + 7	4.2	3.9	72	87
Corsets and brassieres	- ĩ	+ 3	+ 7	3.3	3.1	161	206
Women's, children's hosiery	ō	+ 3	+ 2	3.1	3.1	81	144
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 3	+ 2	+ 8	3.0	2.7	100	140
Knit underwear	· . ó	+ 3	+ 9	3.2	2.9	137	191
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 5	+ 1	+ 5	3.1	2.8	86	121
Negligees, robes, loung, apparel	- 4	+ 1	+13	2.2	1.9	102	118
Infants' wear	- 6	+ 3	+ 6	3.9	3.5	89	146
Handbags, small leather goods	- 1	+ 5	+10	2.4	2.1	133	162
Women's and children's shoes	- 2	+ 5	+ 9	5.4	4.9	130	195
Children's shoes Women's shoes	- 9	+ 6	+ 8	6.9	5.8	90	197

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS (Continued) UNITED STATES - MAY 1960

	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago					Unadjusted indexes	
Department	Sales during		Stooke	sales 1/		(1947_49 av.=1002/) May	
	May	anMay	May	1960 1959		Sales Stocks	
respect to the same of the sam							
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)						41	
Women's apparel	- 2	+ 3	+11	2.2	2.0	118	149
Women's, misses' coats & suits	+ 7	+ 2	- 6	2.6	3.0	45	76
Women's, misses' coats	+11	+ 4	- 9	2.6	3.1	41	71
Women's, misses' suits	+ 1	- 5	- 3	2.8	2.9	48	75
Juniors and girls wear	- 3	+ 5	+14	2.4		119	- 168
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	- 2	+ 6	+17	1.7	1.4	124	153
Girls' wear	- 5	+ 5	+12	3.3	2.8	112	181
Women's and misses' dresses	- 3	+ 3	+13	1.6	1.4	145	161
Inexpensive dresses	- 3	+3	+14	1.3	1.1	155	173
Better dresses	-í	+ 3	+12	2.1	1.9	130	153
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	- 3	+ 4	+13	2.5			
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 6	+ 2	+10	1.5	1.3	174	145
Furs	+1	- 4	+12	9.4	8.5	47	119
			16 2 11	300			
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR	- 6	+ 4	+10	5.1	4.4	100	162
Men's clothing	- 6	: + 3	+11	5.0	4.2	119	172
Men's furnishings and hats	- 6	+ 3	+ 9	4.9	4.2		155
Boys' wear	- 5	+ 7	+10	5.1	4.4	93	146
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	- 4	+ 3	+ 6	7.0	6.4	116	186
HOMEFURNISHINGS	+ 1	+ 4	+ 8	4.3	4.1	113	145
Furniture and bedding	- 2	+ 3	+12	4.2	3.7	126	148
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	+ 3	+ 8	2,1	1.9	136	156
Upholstered, other furniture	- 2	+ 4	+12	4.9	4.3	122	144
Pomestic floor coverings	~ 0 .	+ 3	+ 4	4.7	4.5	90	118
Rugs and carpets	- 1	+ 4	+ 2	4.7	4.6	90	121
Linoleum	-11	- 3	+ 2	3.7	3.3	65	74
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 1	+ 2	+ 4	4.2	4.1	115	135
Lamps and shades	+3	+ 3	+ 7	5.2	5.1	83	144
China and glassware	+13	+ 4	+ 4	7.3	7.9	109	145
Major household appliances	- 6	+ 3	+13	2.8	2.3	88	126
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 1	+ 1	+ 5	3.9	3.7	134	166
Gift shop	+.4	+ 3	+ 7	6.0	5.9	120	186
Radios, phonographs, television,					- 1		
pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+12	+16	+10	4.4	4.5	110	179 .
Radios, phonographs, television	+12	+16	+ 8	3.9		121	190
Records, sheet music, instr.	+14	+14	+14	5.9	5.9	120	182
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.	+ 1	+ 2	+ 4	3.6	3.5	95	134
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	+ 3	+ 3	+ 3	5.5	5.5	89	160
Toys and games	ó.	-1	+ 1	6.9	6.8	53	145
Sporting goods and cameras	+ 6	+ 6	+ 4	4.6	4.7	149	173
Luggage	+ 2	+ 2	+ 7	3.8	3.6	117	147
Candy	+ 2	+ 4	+ 5	1.4	1.3	97	124

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS (Continued) UNITED STATES - MAY 1960

	Perce	Ratio of					
Department	Sales during		Stooke	stocks to		indexes (1947_49 av.=1002/)	
	1	period	month)	May		May	
	May	JanMay	May	1960	1959	Sales	Stocks
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	- 5	+ 1	+ 5	2.6	2.4	98	127
Domestics and blankets	- 3	- 4	+ 3	3.5	3.3	87	125
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 4	+ 2	+ 6	2.0	1.8	97	121
Intimate apparel Hosiery Underwear, corsets & brassieres Coats and suits Dresses Blouses, skirts, and sportswear Girls' wear Infants' wear Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 4 + 3 - 6 +19 - 5 - 4 - 5 - 8 -10	+ 1 + 4 0 + 7 0 + 2 + 3 0	+ 6 0 + 8 - 2 + 7 + 5 + 5 + 5 + 8	2.5 2.4 2.6 1.9 1.1 1.8 2.5 3.3 1.6	2.5 2.2 2.3 0.9 1.7 2.2	109 3/ 3/ 44 122 138 106 86 3/	141 3/ 3/ 59 123 128 152 136 2/
Men's and boys' wear	-10	- 0	+ 6	3.2	2.7	112	156
Men's wear Men's clothing Men's furnishings Boys' wear	-10 -12 - 8 -10	- 1 - 3 + 1 + 3	+ 6 + 5 + 6 + 8	3.1 3.1 3.1 3.4		116 135 106 98	160 173 152 148
Homefurnishings	- 1	- 3	+ 1	3.4	3.3	90	118
Shoes	- 6	+ 3	+ 4	4.0	3.6	107	136
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	- 1	+ 2	3/	3/	3/	116	3/
Barber and beauty shop	- 7	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	154	3/

If 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 <u>Bulletin</u>. 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 1959, 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.