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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 17, 1961.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - FEBRUARY 1961
(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)

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
Oct. 1959	126	133	124	134	92	124	105	117
Nov. 1959	139	133	156	139	92	152	180	127
Dec. 1959	228	211	311	171	122	317	390	192
Jan. 1960	95	89	81	104	139	103	70	77
Feb. 1960	87	84	73	104	70	99	70	72
Oct. 1960	123	132	121	125	90	122	100	115
Nov. 1960	139	135	155	135	92	157	178	126
Dec. 1960	225	209	315	162	119	315	383	189
Jan. 1961	91	85	77	96	135	101	72	73
Feb. 1961	83	83	72	93	69	93	70	71

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

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
Oct. 1959	162	178	181	138	125	162	188	138
Nov. 1959	166	182	187	140	124	179	194	141
Dec. 1959	132	137	137	128	125	136	112	108
Jan. 1960	133	139	132	129	119	135	130	108
Feb. 1960	139	152	142	132	120	135	119	116
Oct. 1960	169	186	195	145	130	169	194	141
Nov. 1960	175	191	201	145	129	191	202	146
Dec. 1960	136	141	143	130	127	144	113	106
Jan. 1961	135	141	135	130	120	139	130	106
Feb. 1961	138	150	145	131	120	139	121	114

RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

Feb. 1959	4.3	3.6	5.9	4.5	5.2	4.4	4.3	3.3
Feb. 1960	4.3	3.8	6.1	4.3	5.2	4.3	4.2	3.3
Feb. 1961	4.5	3.8	6.3	4.7	5.1	4.6	4.2	3.3

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - FEBRUARY 1961

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 2/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	February		Sales	Stocks
	Feb.	Jan., Feb.		1961	1960		
<u>GRAND TOTAL—entire store</u>	- 4	- 4	0	4.2	4.1	--	--
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	- 5	- 5	0	4.5	4.3	83	138
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	- 2	- 3	0	5.1	5.1	69	120
Piece goods	+ 2	+ 2	- 3	3.9	4.1	64	92
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 1	+ 2	0	3.7	3.8	61	84
Woolen yard goods	+15	+10	- 5	3.4	4.1	58	72
Cotton yard goods	- 1	0	- 1	4.0	4.0	82	128
Household textiles	- 4	- 4	0	5.8	5.5	71	133
Linens and towels	- 6	- 4	+ 4	6.3	5.7	69	127
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 1	- 3	- 3	4.9	5.2	77	197
Blankets, comforters, spreads	- 9	- 6	- 2	6.0	5.6	68	132
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	- 6	- 4	+ 3	4.6	4.3	93	139
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 9	- 7	- 1	5.9	5.4	65	126
Notions	- 4	- 4	+ 2	4.9	4.6	84	150
Toilet articles, drug sundries	- 2	0	+ 3	4.1	3.9	110	138
Silverware and jewelry	-14	-10	+ 6	6.3	5.2	79	149
Silverware and clocks	-29	-22	+ 5	8.4	5.7	72	156
Costume jewelry	- 3	- 2	+ 5	3.8	3.5	84	135
Fine jewelry and watches	-10	- 8	+ 6	12.2	10.4	81	156
Art needlework	- 3	+ 3	- 1	4.2	4.1	89	104
Books and stationery	- 5	- 4	+ 3	3.8	3.5	105	143
Books and magazines	- 5	- 4	+12	3.3	2.8	113	145
Stationery	- 5	- 4	+ 2	4.1	3.8	100	146
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	- 2	- 3	- 1	3.8	3.7	83	150
Women's accessories	- 3	- 3	+ 1	4.7	4.5	79	153
Neckwear and scarfs	- 9	- 7	- 1	3.6	3.3	78	156
Handkerchiefs	-13	-11	- 3	4.6	4.1	41	62
Millinery	+ 7	+ 2	- 1	1.7	1.8	72	116
Women's and children's gloves	+ 4	+ 5	+ 4	5.0	5.1	65	94
Corsets and brassieres	- 2	- 1	+ 4	4.1	3.9	119	195
Women's, children's hosiery	- 3	- 1	+ 2	3.5	3.3	71	143
Underwear, slips, and negligees	- 3	- 2	0	4.2	4.0	63	121
Knit underwear	- 4	- 3	+ 3	4.4	4.1	85	176
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	- 5	- 2	0	4.5	4.3	51	106
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+ 4	+ 2	- 5	2.5	2.8	69	88
Infants' wear	- 2	- 4	- 1	4.3	4.2	82	145
Handbags, small leather goods	- 6	- 6	0	3.7	3.5	80	152
Women's and children's shoes	- 5	- 5	0	7.6	7.2	93	198
Children's shoes	+ 2	- 2	+ 3	8.3	8.2	77	202
Women's shoes	- 6	- 5	0	7.5	7.0	96	191

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

UNITED STATES - FEBRUARY 1961

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 2/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	Feb.		February	
	Feb.	Jan.-Feb.	Feb.	1961	1960	Sales	Stocks
WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)							
Women's apparel	- 1	- 3	- 3	3.0	3.1	86	146
Women's, misses' coats and suits	+ 4	0	- 6	2.3	2.5	77	110
Women's, misses' coats	+ 3	- 1	- 3	2.0	2.1	81	109
Women's, misses' suits	+ 7	+ 2	-12	2.8	3.4	72	114
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 1	- 4	- 5	3.2	3.4	87	166
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 2	- 3	- 7	2.3	2.5	85	143
Girls' wear	+ 1	- 4	- 3	4.2	4.3	88	184
Women's and misses' dresses	- 4	- 4	- 2	2.7	2.6	83	156
Inexpensive dresses	- 4	- 4	- 3	2.0	2.0	85	152
Better dresses	- 5	- 4	- 1	3.4	3.3	86	167
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	- 1	- 3	- 2	3.3	3.3	97	169
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 2	- 3	- 3	2.5	2.6	94	131
Furs	0	- 5	+ 1	5.9	5.9	80	121
MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR							
Men's clothing	0	- 5	+ 5	7.4	7.1	72	160
Men's furnishings and hats	- 4	- 3	- 1	5.3	5.1	67	126
Boys' wear	+ 1	- 2	+ 1	6.1	6.1	76	144
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	0	- 2	+ 3	8.1	7.9	93	173
HOMEFURNISHINGS							
Furniture and bedding	-13	-12	- 1	4.1	3.6	117	132
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	-13	-10	- 1	2.2	2.0	129	161
Upholstered, other furniture	-12	-11	- 1	4.7	4.2	119	132
Domestic floor coverings	-11	-10	- 2	4.5	4.0	86	106
Rugs and carpets	-10	-10	- 2	4.1	3.8	92	115
Linoleum	-26	-25	- 7	5.6	4.5	39	63
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	-11	- 9	- 1	5.9	5.3	77	128
Lamps and shades	-13	-11	0	5.2	4.5	74	129
China and glassware	-15	-12	+ 2	9.1	7.6	85	141
Major household appliances	-15	-13	-11	3.3	3.2	60	107
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	- 9	- 7	- 2	5.1	4.7	89	143
Gift shop	-15	-11	+ 9	8.4	6.5	86	185
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+ 1	- 1	- 2	3.1	3.2	139	156
Radios, phonographs, television	+ 5	+ 2	- 3	2.7	2.9	120	125
Records, sheet music, instr.	0	- 1	+ 1	3.4	3.3	164	164
MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.							
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 3	- 3	0	8.0	7.8	54	139
Toys and games	- 3	- 5	0	9.0	8.8	36	123
Sporting goods and cameras	- 4	- 4	0	7.3	7.0	86	157
Luggage	+22	+27	+ 2	5.0	6.0	79	129
Candy	- 5	- 4	+16	1.4	1.1	114	144

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

UNITED STATES - FEBRUARY 1961

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 2/)	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)	Feb.		February	
	Feb.	Jan.-Feb.	Feb.	1961	1960	Sales	Stocks
BASEMENT STORE TOTAL	- 2	- 4	- 2	3.3	3.3	71	114
Domestics and blankets	- 5	- 5	- 4	4.2	4.2	67	117
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	- 2	- 4	- 3	2.6	2.6	67	108
Intimate apparel	0	- 1	0	3.0	3.0	84	125
Hosiery	0	+ 1	+ 9	2.6	2.4	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	- 1	- 1	- 1	3.2	3.3	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+ 8	0	- 2	1.9	2.1	58	82
Dresses	- 9	- 8	- 5	1.8	1.7	57	93
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 6	- 7	- 7	2.5	2.6	75	114
Girls' wear	0	- 5	- 2	3.2	3.2	68	133
Infants' wear	- 5	- 5	- 3	3.7	3.6	70	125
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 2	- 6	- 9	2.3	2.5	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	0	- 3	0	3.7	3.7	80	130
Men's wear	- 1	- 3	0	3.6	3.6	81	130
Men's clothing	0	- 4	- 1	3.8	3.8	93	149
Men's furnishings	- 1	- 2	+ 1	3.4	3.3	75	116
Boys' wear	+ 5	- 1	0	4.0	4.2	80	137
Homefurnishings	- 9	- 6	- 3	3.9	3.6	72	103
Shoes	- 2	- 4	- 2	4.9	4.9	83	130
NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL	- 3	- 2	3/	3/	3/	111	3/
Barber and beauty shop	- 3	- 5	3/	3/	3/	128	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 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.

February this year had one less trading day than last.