



# FEDERAL RESERVE

statistical release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 18, 1961.

## MONTHLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES AND STOCKS, BY DEPARTMENTS

UNITED STATES - MAY 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)

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
Jan. 1961	91	85	77	96	135	101	72	73
Feb. 1961	83	83	72	93	69	93	70	71
Mar. 1961	114	133	98	103	76	109	98	110
Apr. 1961	100	108	89	104	76	101	84	93
May 1961	112	117	103	114	86	121	97	103

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

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
Jan. 1961	135	141	135	130	120	139	130	106
Feb. 1961	138	150	145	131	120	139	121	114
Mar. 1961	148	160	156	141	122	146	127	120
Apr. 1961	150	161	163	141	121	154	130	126
May 1961	148	154	164	142	120	151	134	123

#### RATIO OF STOCKS TO SALES

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
May 1961	3.5	2.7	5.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	3.5	2.4

Figures for departments within groups given on following pages.

## UNITED STATES - MAY 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)		May		Sales	Stocks
		May	Jan.-May	1961	1960		
	May	Jan.-May	May	1961	1960	Sales	Stocks
<u>GRAND TOTAL-entire store</u>	+ 4	- 2	- 1	3.3	3.5	--	--
<u>MAIN STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 4	- 2	0	3.5	3.7	112	148
<u>PIECE GOODS, HOUSEHOLD TEXTILES</u>	+ 3	0	0	4.1	4.3	86	120
Piece goods	+ 1	+ 1	+ 1	3.8	3.8	60	84
Silks, velvets, synthetics	+ 4	+ 2	+ 2	3.6	3.7	53	74
Woolen yard goods	+ 4	+ 7	- 5	13.5	14.7	12	60
Cotton yard goods	0	- 1	+ 5	2.9	2.7	106	122
Household textiles	+ 3	- 1	- 1	4.2	4.3	102	138
Linsens and towels	+ 5	- 1	+ 3	4.8	4.8	99	134
Domestics--muslins, sheetings	+ 1	0	- 6	3.7	4.0	106	159
Blankets, comforters, spreads	+ 4	- 2	- 1	4.0	4.2	104	131
<u>SMALL WARES</u>	+ 7	0	+ 1	3.9	4.1	121	151
Laces, trimmings, embroideries, and ribbons	- 4	- 6	+ 1	4.4	4.2	98	140
Notions	- 1	- 3	+ 1	3.7	3.6	128	174
Toilet articles, drug sundries	+ 7	+ 1	+ 2	3.4	3.6	142	150
Silverware and jewelry	+12	0	+ 1	4.2	4.7	123	156
Silverware and clocks	+21	- 7	- 1	5.5	6.7	111	164
Costume jewelry	+ 9	+ 4	0	2.6	2.8	133	144
Fine jewelry and watches	+ 7	- 1	+ 4	7.5	7.7	149	199
Art needlework	+ 8	+ 3	+ 1	5.8	6.2	70	112
Books and stationery	+ 7	- 1	+ 2	4.0	4.2	107	156
Books and magazines	+10	0	+ 3	3.6	3.8	108	149
Stationery	+ 5	- 1	+ 1	4.2	4.4	105	157
<u>WOMEN'S APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES</u>	+ 5	- 1	0	2.7	2.8	117	154
Women's accessories	+ 4	- 2	0	3.4	3.6	110	157
Neckwear and scarfs	+ 3	- 4	- 3	2.5	2.6	125	166
Handkerchiefs	+ 2	- 6	- 4	3.7	3.9	52	64
Millinery	+ 2	0	- 3	1.1	1.2	70	76
Women's and children's gloves	+17	+10	+ 1	3.6	4.1	84	88
Corsets and brassieres	+ 6	+ 1	+ 3	3.2	3.3	170	213
Women's, children's hosiery	+ 6	+ 1	+ 2	3.0	3.1	86	147
Underwear, slips, and negligees	+ 4	- 1	- 1	2.8	3.0	104	139
Knit underwear	+ 3	- 1	- 2	3.0	3.1	141	187
Silk & muslin underwear, slips	+ 2	- 2	+ 1	3.0	3.0	88	122
Negligees, robes, loung. apparel	+10	+ 4	- 3	1.9	2.2	112	115
Infants' wear	+ 5	- 3	0	3.7	3.9	93	146
Handbags, small leather goods	+ 3	- 3	0	2.3	2.3	138	162
Women's and children's shoes	+ 2	- 4	0	5.3	5.4	133	195
Children's shoes	+12	- 3	+ 1	6.3	6.9	100	199
Women's shoes	0	- 4	0	5.1	5.1	137	194

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

UNITED STATES - MAY 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)	May		May	
	May	Jan.-May	May	1961	1960	Sales	Stocks
<b>WOMEN'S APPAREL, ACCESSORIES (Cont.)</b>							
Women's apparel	+ 6	- 1	0	2.1	2.2	125	149
Women's, misses' coats and suits	+22	+ 5	-12	1.9	2.6	54	66
Women's, misses' coats	+26	+ 6	-12	1.7	2.5	52	62
Women's, misses' suits	+16	+ 2	-15	2.0	2.8	56	64
Juniors' and girls' wear	+ 7	- 1	0	2.2	2.4	127	168
Juniors' coats, suits, dresses	+ 8	+ 2	0	1.6	1.7	134	154
Girls' wear	+ 5	- 5	- 1	3.1	3.3	118	180
Women's and misses' dresses	+ 3	- 2	+ 2	1.6	1.6	149	165
Inexpensive dresses	+ 3	- 1	+ 2	1.3	1.3	159	176
Better dresses	+ 3	- 2	+ 3	2.1	2.1	133	157
Blouses, skirts, sportswear	+ 5	- 1	+ 2	2.4	2.4	168	211
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	0	- 5	+ 4	1.6	1.5	173	150
Furs	+33	+ 3	0	7.0	9.3	63	119
<b>MEN'S AND BOYS' WEAR</b>							
	+ 4	- 3	+ 1	5.0	5.1	103	164
Men's clothing	+ 2	- 4	+ 4	5.1	5.0	122	179
Men's furnishings and hats	+ 2	- 2	- 1	4.7	4.9	90	154
Boys' wear	+10	- 2	+ 1	4.6	5.0	102	147
Men's & boys' shoes, slippers	+ 2	- 2	0	6.8	6.9	119	187
<b>HOMEFURNISHINGS</b>							
	+ 2	- 5	- 2	4.1	4.3	114	142
Furniture and bedding	0	- 6	- 5	4.0	4.2	126	141
Mattresses, springs, studio beds	0	- 7	+ 1	2.3	2.3	137	158
Upholstered, other furniture	+ 1	- 6	- 4	4.6	4.8	123	138
Domestic floor coverings	+ 2	- 4	- 2	4.5	4.7	92	116
Rugs and carpets	+ 2	- 4	- 4	4.4	4.7	92	116
Linoleum	- 7	-15	+ 2	4.1	3.8	60	75
Draperies, curtains, upholstery	+ 2	- 3	- 1	4.0	4.2	118	133
Lamps and shades	+ 2	- 5	- 1	5.0	5.2	84	142
China and glassware	- 8	- 8	- 1	7.9	7.3	100	144
Major household appliances	- 3	-10	- 9	2.6	2.8	86	115
Housewares (incl. small appliances)	+ 4	- 3	- 2	3.7	3.9	139	163
Gift shop	+ 2	- 6	+ 5	6.2	6.0	123	195
Radios, phonographs, television, pianos, records, sheetmusic, instr.	+14	+ 4	+ 2	3.8	4.3	125	183
Radios, phonographs, television	+16	+ 6	+ 2	3.3	3.8	141	194
Records, sheet music, instr.	+ 9	+ 3	+ 3	5.4	5.7	131	187
<b>MISCELLANEOUS MERCHANDISE DEPTS.</b>							
	+ 2	0	0	3.5	3.5	97	134
Toys, games, sporting goods, cameras	- 1	- 3	0	5.5	5.4	89	160
Toys and games	- 1	- 4	- 1	6.8	6.8	52	143
Sporting goods and cameras	0	- 2	+ 1	4.6	4.5	149	174
Luggage	- 2	+ 8	0	3.9	3.8	115	147
Candy	+ 9	+ 1	- 1	1.2	1.3	105	122

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

UNITED STATES - MAY 1961

Department	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago			Ratio of stocks to sales 1/		Unadjusted indexes (1947-49 av.=100 $\frac{2}{1}$ )	
	Sales during period		Stocks (end of month)				
	May	Jan.-May	May	May 1961	1960	May Sales	May Stocks
<u>BASEMENT STORE TOTAL</u>	+ 5	- 2	- 4	2.4	2.6	103	123
Domestics and blankets	+ 5	- 1	- 6	3.1	3.5	91	117
Women's, misses' ready-to-wear	+ 5	- 2	- 4	1.8	2.0	102	116
Intimate apparel	+ 6	+ 1	- 3	2.3	2.5	116	137
Hosiery	+ 8	+ 2	0	2.3	2.4	3/	3/
Underwear, corsets & brassieres	+ 5	0	- 4	2.3	2.6	3/	3/
Coats and suits	+22	+ 6	-11	1.3	1.9	54	52
Dresses	+ 2	- 5	- 3	1.0	1.0	124	120
Blouses, skirts, and sportswear	- 1	- 7	- 1	1.8	1.8	137	127
Girls' wear	+ 6	- 3	- 4	2.2	2.5	113	146
Infants' wear	+ 7	- 5	- 4	3.0	3.3	92	131
Aprons, housedresses, uniforms	- 1	- 5	- 8	1.5	1.6	3/	3/
Men's and boys' wear	+ 6	0	- 1	3.0	3.2	118	154
Men's wear	+ 5	0	0	2.9	3.1	121	159
Men's clothing	+ 6	+ 1	+ 1	2.9	3.1	144	175
Men's furnishings	+ 5	- 1	0	3.0	3.1	111	151
Boys' wear	+10	- 1	- 3	2.9	3.3	108	143
Homefurnishings	+ 1	- 3	- 6	3.2	3.4	91	111
Shoes	+ 6	- 3	- 3	3.7	4.0	113	133
<u>NONMERCHANDISE TOTAL</u>	+ 7	+ 1	3/	3/	3/	124	3/
Barber and beauty shop	+ 7	- 1	3/	3/	3/	165	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 1960, 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.

May this year had one more trading day than last.