

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.4.1 LIBRARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 1955

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FEDERAL RESERVE
BANK OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING

UNITED STATES - AUGUST 1955

DATA FILE
REFERENCE LIBRARY
FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF CHICAGO

Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent change August from	
	1955		1954		Month ago	Year ago
	August	July	August	July		
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 382	324	r 351	307	+18	+ 9
Stocks <u>1/</u>	p1,156	1,090	r1,096	1,045	+ 6	+ 5
Outstanding orders	p 550	554	r 466	472	- 1	+18
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 448	292	r 402	282	+53	+11
New orders <u>2/</u>	p 444	397	r 396	362	+12	+12

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1955		1954		1950-54 Average	
	August	July	August	July	August	July
Stocks to Sales	p3.0	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.4
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p1.4	1.7	1.3	1.5	1.6	1.8
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	p4.5	5.1	4.5	4.9	4.7	5.2
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	p1.2	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2	0.9

p--Preliminary.

r--Revised.

1/ Figures are based on the sample described in the note below and are presented here solely to permit comparisons with changes in orders and receipts. For monthly movements of total department store sales and stocks, refer to the regular monthly sales report G.7.2 and stocks report G.7.4.2, or the Federal Reserve Bulletin.

2/ Receipts of goods are derived from the reported figures on sales and stocks. New orders are derived from receipts and reported figures on outstanding orders.

3/ The first three ratios are of stocks and/or orders at the end of the month to sales during the month. The final ratio is based on totals of sales and receipts for the month.

Note:--These figures are not estimates for all department stores in the United States. They are the actual dollar amounts reported by a group of department stores located in various cities throughout the country. In 1954, sales by these stores accounted for about 50 per cent of estimated total department store sales. Figures for the most recent thirteen-month period are shown regularly in the Bulletin. For description and back data, January 1939 to August 1952, see Federal Reserve Bulletin for October 1952, pp. 1098-1102.

Back data may be obtained from the Board's Division of Research and Statistics.