

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.4.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 31, 1956

DATA FILE  
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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA

UNITED STATES - DECEMBER 1955

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF ST. LOUIS  
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Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent change December from	
	1955		1954		Month ago	Year ago
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.		
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 817	546	r 774	513	+50	+ 6
Stocks <u>1/</u>	pl,138	1,415	rl,067	1,327	-20	+ 7
Outstanding orders	p 358	487	r 299	406	-26	+20
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 540	611	r 514	565	-12	+ 5
New orders <u>2/</u>	p 411	517	r 407	492	-21	+ 1

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1955		1954		1950-54 Average	
	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Nov.
Stocks to Sales	pl.4	2.6	1.4	2.6	1.5	2.7
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p0.4	0.9	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.9
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	pl.8	3.5	1.8	3.4	1.9	3.6
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	p0.7	1.1	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.1

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 1955, sales by these stores account 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.