

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.4.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 30, 1956

DATA FILE
 REFERENCE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA 1956
 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
 OF CHICAGO UNITED STATES - MARCH 1956

Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent change March from	
	1956		1955		Month ago	Year ago
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.		
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 429	332	r 393	307	+29	+ 9
Stocks <u>1/</u>	pl,271	1,205	rl,195	1,108	+ 5	+ 6
Outstanding orders	p 401	450	r 370	415	-11	+ 8
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 495	404	r 480	367	+23	+ 3
New orders <u>2/</u>	p 446	419	r 435	396	+ 6	+ 3

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1956		1955		1951-55 Average	
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.
Stocks to Sales	p3.0	3.6	3.0	3.6	3.2	3.6
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p0.9	1.4	0.9	1.4	1.1	1.6
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	p3.9	5.0	4.0	5.0	4.3	5.2
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	pl.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

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 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.