

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.4.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 1956

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA

UNITED STATES - APRIL 1956

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DATA FILE
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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO

Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent change April 1956 April from	
	1956		1955		Month ago	Year ago
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.		
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 385	429	r 414	393	-10	- 7
Stocks <u>1/</u>	p1,312	1,271	1,216	1,195	+ 3	+ 8
Outstanding orders	p 335	401	r 311	370	-16	+ 8
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 426	495	r 435	480	-14	- 2
New orders <u>2/</u>	p 360	446	r 376	435	-19	- 4

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1956		1955		1951-55 Average	
	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.
Stocks to Sales	p3.4	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.2	3.2
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p0.9	0.9	r0.8	0.9	0.8	1.1
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	p4.3	3.9	3.7	4.0	4.1	4.3
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	p1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	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.