

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

7-263

G.7.4.1

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June 27, 1956

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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK
OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA

UNITED STATES - MAY 1956

JUN 23 1956

Selected series, based on retail dollar amount

FEDERAL RESERVE
BANK OF CHICAGO

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent change May from	
	1956		1955		Month ago	Year ago
	May	Apr.	May	Apr.		
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 438	385	r 405	414	+14	+ 8
Stocks <u>1/</u>	pl,276	1,314	rl,196	1,216	- 3	+ 7
Outstanding orders	p 345	336	r 310	311	+ 3	+11
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 400	428	r 385	435	- 7	+ 4
New orders <u>2/</u>	p 409	363	r 384	376	+13	+ 7

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1956		1955		1951-55 Average	
	May	Apr.	May	Apr.	May	Apr.
Stocks to Sales	p2.9	3.4	r3.0	2.9	3.1	3.2
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	p3.7	4.3	3.7	3.7	3.9	4.1
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	p0.9	1.1	rl.0	1.1	0.9	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 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.