

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.4.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 1957

DATA FROM DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA
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 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO
 JAN 30 1957
 FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF CHICAGO

UNITED STATES - December 1956

Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

| | Amount (In millions of dollars) | | | | Per cent change December from | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | 1956 | | 1955 | | Month ago | Year ago |
| | Dec. | Nov. | Dec. | Nov. | | |
| Sales <u>1/</u> | p 823 | 577 | r 825 | 552 | +43 | 0 |
| Stocks <u>1/</u> | pl,212 | 1,525 | rl,149 | 1,425 | -21 | + 5 |
| Outstanding orders | p 342 | 473 | r 360 | 488 | -28 | - 5 |
| Receipts <u>2/</u> | p 510 | 627 | r 549 | 616 | -19 | - 7 |
| New orders <u>2/</u> | p 379 | 512 | r 421 | 522 | -26 | -10 |

Merchandising Ratios 3/

| | 1956 | | 1955 | | 1951-55 Average | |
|---|-------|------|------|------|-----------------|------|
| | Dec. | Nov. | Dec. | Nov. | Dec. | Nov. |
| Stocks to Sales | p 1.5 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 2.6 | 1.4 | 2.7 |
| Outstanding Orders to Sales | p 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.9 | 0.4 | 0.9 |
| Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales | p 1.9 | 3.5 | 1.8 | 3.5 | 1.9 | 3.5 |
| Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u> | p 0.6 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 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.