

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 5, 1957

G.7.4.1

DATA FILE  
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FEDERAL RESERVE BANK  
OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1957

MAR 7 1957  
FEDERAL RESERVE  
BANK OF CHICAGO

Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent change January from	
	1957		1956		Month ago	Year ago
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.		
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 366	821	r 351	825	-55	+ 4
Stocks <u>1/</u>	p1,198	1,214	r1,144	r1,148	- 1	+ 5
Outstanding orders	p 433	340	r 437	360	+27	- 1
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 350	510	r 347	r 548	-31	+ 1
New orders <u>2/</u>	p 443	377	r 424	r 420	+18	+ 4

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1957	1956		1955	1952-56 average	1951-55 average
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.
Stocks to Sales	p 3.3	1.5	3.3	1.4	3.2	1.4
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p 1.2	0.4	r 1.2	0.4	1.2	0.4
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	p 4.5	1.9	4.5	1.8	4.4	1.9
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	p 1.0	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.0	0.7

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 1956, 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.