

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 1957

G.7.4.1

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA

UNITED STATES - MARCH 1957

Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Per cent changes March from	
	1957		1956		Month	Year
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	ago	ago
Sales 1/	p 395	336	r 433	336	+18	- 9
Stocks 2/	p1,362	1,252	r1,282	1,215	+ 9	+ 6
Outstanding orders	p 415	461	r 402	451	-10	+ 3
Receipts 2/	p 505	391	r 500	407	+29	+ 1
New orders 2/	p 459	422	r 451	421	+ 9	+ 2

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1957		1956		1952-56 average	
	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.	Feb.
Stocks to Sales	p 3.4	3.7	3.0	3.6	3.1	3.6
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p 1.1	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.4
Stocks plus Outstand- ing Orders to Sales	p 4.5	5.1	3.9	5.0	4.1	5.0
Receipts to Sales 2/	p 1.3	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 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.