

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

G.7.4.1

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 1959.

DEPARTMENT STORE MERCHANDISING DATA

UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1959

DATA FILE
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OF CHICAGO

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Selected series, based on retail dollar amounts

	Amount (In millions of dollars)				Percent change from	
	1959		1958		January	Year
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Month	ago
					ago	ago
Sales <u>1/</u>	p 379	911	r 367	842	-58	+ 3
Stocks <u>1/</u>	pl,220	1,231	rl,199	1,231	- 1	+ 2
Outstanding orders	p 418	332	r 379	305	+26	+10
Receipts <u>2/</u>	p 368	575	r 335	505	-36	+10
New Orders <u>2/</u>	p 454	445	r 409	382	+ 2	+11

Merchandising Ratios 3/

	1959	1958		1957	1954-58 average	1953-57 average
	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.
Stocks to Sales	p 3.2	1.4	3.3	1.5	3.2	1.4
Outstanding Orders to Sales	p 1.1	0.4	1.0	0.4	1.2	0.4
Stocks plus Outstanding Orders to Sales	p 4.3	1.7	4.3	1.8	4.4	1.8
Receipts to Sales <u>2/</u>	p 1.0	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.9	0.6

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 1958, sales by these stores accounted for about 45 per cent of the 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.