ARY 6

# CHAIN STORE SALES AND STOCKS <br> JULY, 1951 

Increases in sales and inventories of chain food stores continued to outrank those for the five other chain store trades covered in this summary. July results showed sales $20 \%$ higher then in July last year, and stocks up $29 \%$.

Sales of women's clothing chains increased $14 \%$ over July 1950. Inventory values, which began to incline more sharply some six months ago, reached a point on July lst $19 \%$ higher than the value of stocks a year previously.

An 11\% gain in seles volume was recorded by chein variety stores with a marked increase of $29 \%$ in variety store stocks. The number of units operated by the reporting, firms increased from 501 in July 1950 to 521 in July 1951.

Chain shoe store sales increased $9 \%$ while chain drup store sales were $4 \%$ higher than in July 1950. Stocks for each of these trades were $13 \%$ higher than those held a year ago.

Hardware store sales were $6 \%$ lower than sales for July 1950. Stocks at July 1, 1951 were 6\% higher than inventory values a year earlier.


Table 1 - Sales anc Stocks, for Six Trades, July 1951

| Trade | Sales |  | Stocks |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Chance } \\ \text { July } 1951 / 1950 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 1950 \end{aligned}$ | July | July | July | Sales | Stocks |
|  | \$000's | \$000's | \$000's | \$000's | \% | \% |
| Food Stores | 41,035 | 49,077 | 31,66,2 | 40,708 | + 19.6 | $+28.6$ |
| Women's Clothing Stores. | 2,959 | 3,370 | 6,975 | 8,298 | + 13.9 | + 19.0 |
| Shoe Stores | 2,698 | 2,930 | 15,945 | 17,947 | + 8.6 | + 12.6 |
| Hardware Stores | 1,135 | 1.073 | 3,877 | 4,101 | - 5.5 | + 5.8 |
| Drug Stores | 2,173 | 2,266 | 7,389 | 8,328 | + 4.3 | + 12.7 |
| Variety Stores | 11,587 | 12,839 | 35,944 | 46,268 | + 10.8 | + 28.7 |

Table 2-Sales/Stocks Kelationships, July 1951

| Trede | Stocks/Sales Ratio |  | Stock Turnover Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 1950 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 1951 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 1951 \end{aligned}$ |
| Food Stores ............ | 0.8 | 0.8 | 14.1 |
| Women's Clothing Stores. | 2.4 | 2.5 | 4.6 |
| Shoe Stores | 5.9 | 6.1 | 1.9 |
| Hardware Stores | 3.4 | 3.8 | 3.3 |
| Drue Stores | 3.4 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| Variety Stores ......... | 3.1 | 3.6 | 3.4 |

Stock/Sales Retios - are obtained by dividing stocks at selling value as at the beginning of the month by sales made durine the month.

Stock Turnover Rates - are obtained by dividing sales in the 12 months ending with the report month by stocks at selling value at the beginning of the report month.

Table 3 - Number of Stores Operated by Sample Firms

| Trade | Number of Stores |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | July 1950 | June 1951 |
| Food Stores ............ | 775 | 780 |
| Wonen's Clothing Stores . | 267 | 279 |
| Shoe Stores ....... | 464 | 473 |
| Hardware Stores . | 37 | 36 |
| Drue Stores | 243 | 24.3 |
| Variety Stores... | 501 | 521 |

The number of stores relates to the sample of chain companies used to determine trends. They constitute $85 \%$, by volume, of the total chain store sales in each of the six different trades.


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