

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 22, 1956WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts) 1/					
	One week ending				Four weeks ending	Jan. 1 to
	Mar. 17	Mar. 10	Mar. 3	Feb. 25	Mar. 17	Mar. 17
Boston	-16	- 2	+12	+ 4	- 1	- 2
New York	- 8	r+ 9	+ 7	+ 1	+ 2	+ 2
Philadelphia	- 3	r+10	+ 5	+ 8	+ 5	+ 4
Cleveland	- 4	+18	+ 8	+ 3	+ 6	+ 6
Richmond	+ 2	+ 3	- 1	+ 3	+ 2	+ 1
Atlanta	- 1	+ 7	- 2	+16	+ 5	+ 3
Chicago	+ 3	+ 6	+ 8	+ 4	+ 5	+ 4
St. Louis	+ 5	r+10	+ 8	+ 8	+ 7	+ 4
Minneapolis	0	r+ 2	- 1	+ 9	+ 3	+ 4
Kansas City	- 5	- 1	+ 2	+ 2	- 1	0
Dallas	- 9	r+ 8	+ 5	+12	+ 3	+ 2
San Francisco	0	r+ 3	+ 3	0	+ 1	0
U. S. Total	- 2	+ 7	+ 6	+ 4	+ 4	+ 3

U. S. weekly index, without seasonal adjustment, 1947-49=100 2/

1956		1955		1954	
Feb. 18	95	Feb. 19	90	Feb. 20	86
Feb. 25	97	Feb. 26	93	Feb. 27	90
Mar. 3	104	Mar. 5	98	Mar. 6	85
Mar. 10	109	Mar. 12	102	Mar. 13	92
Mar. 17	106	Mar. 19	108	Mar. 20	95

r--Revised.

1/ During March and April changes from a year ago reflect in part the fact that last year Easter was on April 10 while this year it will be on April 1. For this reason it is estimated that in comparison with last year an allowance should be made for an increase in sales of about 4 per cent for the month of March as a whole and a corresponding decrease for the month of April. These allowances apply to the figures for the United States.

2/ For description and weekly indexes for the period January 1937 to March 1952 see Federal Reserve Bulletin for April 1952, pp. 359-362. Indexes for the period April 1952 to date may be obtained upon request from the Division of Research and Statistics.

Weekly indexes at the district and city levels are published by several of the Federal Reserve Banks.