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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 1956

Seasonally adjusted department store sales in August remained near the record July level. The index for August is estimated at 127 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 128 for July and 118 for August 1955.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1956			1955
	August	July	June	August
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e 127	128	124	118
Without seasonal adjustment	e 112	101	119	105

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts)					
	One week ending				Four weeks ending	Jan. 1 to
	Sept. 1	Aug. 25	Aug. 18	Aug. 11	Sept. 1	Sept. 1
Boston	- 1	+ 4	+19	+ 7	+6	+3
New York	- 1	+ 7	+ 3	+10	+4	+4
Philadelphia	-11	+ 8	+ 3	+11	+2	+4
Cleveland	0	+11	+ 2	+ 3	+4	+4
Richmond	- 5	+ 1	+ 2	+11	+2	+3
Atlanta	+ 5	+10	+ 3	+10	+7	+6
Chicago	+ 2	+14	+10	+ 5	+7	+4
St. Louis	+ 5	+ 7	+ 2	+14	+6	+5
Minneapolis	+ 6	+11	+ 9	0	+6	+5
Kansas City	0	+10	0	r + 8	+4	+2
Dallas	+ 4	+ 6	+ 2	+ 6	+4	+4
San Francisco	+ 9	r - 2	+ 2	+ 3	+2	+2
U. S. Total	+ 2	+ 8	+ 5	+ 7	+5	+4

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

1956		1955		1954	
Aug. 4	104	Aug. 6	97	Aug. 7	92
Aug. 11	107	Aug. 13	100	Aug. 14	97
Aug. 18	111	Aug. 20	106	Aug. 21	100
Aug. 25	120	Aug. 27	111	Aug. 28	102
Sept. 1	127	Sept. 3	125	Sept. 4	113

r--Revised. e--Estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. August 1956 figures estimated from weekly sales.

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.