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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 1956

Department store sales in November recovered sharply from the reduced level of the preceding month after allowance for the usual seasonal change. The adjusted index is estimated at 129 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 122 for October and 122 for November a year ago.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1956			1955
	Nov.	Oct.	Sept.	Nov.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e 129	122	129	122
without seasonal adjustment	e 157	127	131	148

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
	Dec. 1	Nov. 24	Nov. 17	Nov. 10	Dec. 1	Dec. 1
Boston	- 4	+ 1	+ 2	- 5	- 1	+ 2
New York	0	r 0	+ 9	- 8	0	+ 4
Philadelphia	- 2	0	+ 7	- 7	- 1	+ 3
Cleveland	+ 1	r- 7	+ 5	- 8	- 2	+ 3
Richmond	- 3	r+ 1	+ 9	- 5	0	+ 2
Atlanta	- 2	r+ 8	+ 5	+ 5	+ 4	+ 5
Chicago	+ 6	+ 6	+ 9	+ 2	+ 6	+ 4
St. Louis	+ 4	+ 4	+ 5	- 2	+ 3	+ 4
Minneapolis	+ 3	r+ 8	+ 6	- 4	+ 3	+ 4
Kansas City	+ 1	- 1	+ 1	0	0	+ 1
Dallas	-12	+ 2	+ 1	- 1	- 4	+ 2
San Francisco	- 8	- 4	+ 2	- 4	- 3	+ 1
U. S. Total	- 1	+ 1	+ 6	- 3	+ 1	+ 3

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

1956		1955		1954	
Nov. 3	124	Nov. 5	128	Nov. 6	127
Nov. 10	137	Nov. 12	141	Nov. 13	130
Nov. 17	151	Nov. 19	142	Nov. 20	134
Nov. 24	148	Nov. 26	146	Nov. 27	133
Dec. 1	196	Dec. 3	197	Dec. 4	192

e--Estimated.

r--Revised.

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

NOTE: Since sales rise sharply with the approach of Christmas, the fact that the corresponding week last year was two days nearer Christmas becomes increasingly significant in comparing weekly data. Allowance should be made for this calendar irregularity in evaluating the weekly percentage changes from a year ago.

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