

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

STATEMENT FOR THE PRESS

For release in morning papers,
Thursday, June 10, 1926.

Retail Trade in May, 1926

Total sales in May of 543 retail stores, which made preliminary reports to the Federal reserve system from all sections of the country, were 7.3 per cent larger than in May, 1925. Weather conditions were generally more favorable for retail trade in May than in earlier months of this year and the increase in sales over the corresponding month of last year was larger than for any previous month of this year except March, the month in which a large volume of Easter trading was done.

Increases in sales occurred in all Federal reserve districts except the Minneapolis district where sales were slightly smaller, but the most substantial improvement was in the Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, and St. Louis Federal reserve districts. More than 70 per cent of the total number of stores reporting from the country as a whole showed larger sales than a year ago.

Sales of two mail order houses were 14.2 per cent larger than in May, 1925, and sales of five and ten cent chain stores (5 chains) were 11.5 per cent larger.

Percentage changes in dollar sales between May, 1925, and May, 1926, are shown in the following table:

	: Total number of stores reporting: Percentage of increase or decrease compared with May, 1925			
	Total	Increase	Decrease	
Boston	65	44	21	+ 4.7
New York	69	52	17	+ 7.2
Philadelphia	78	55	23	+ 7.7
Cleveland	46	33	13	+ 7.8
Richmond	47	38	9	+ 10.7
Atlanta	30	28	2	+ 10.6
Chicago	53	43	10	+ 17.2
St. Louis	18	14	4	+ 14.5
Minneapolis	14	8	6	- 0.8
Kansas City	32	20	12	+ 4.3
Dallas	17	14	3	+ 3.6
San Francisco	74	40	34	+ 2.5
Total	543	389	154	+ 7.3
Mail order houses (2 houses)				+ 14.2
Five and ten cent stores (5 chains)				+ 11.5