

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

June 7, 1933  
r&s rtp 102

For release in morning papers  
Friday, June 9

DEPARTMENT STORE SALES IN MAY, 1933  
Preliminary report

Preliminary figures on the value of department store sales show an increase from April to May of about the estimated seasonal amount. The Federal Reserve Board's index, which makes allowance both for number of business days and for usual seasonal changes, was 68 in May on the basis of the 1923-1925 average as 100, compared with 67 in April and 57 in March.

In comparison with a year ago the value of sales for May, according to preliminary figures, was 2 per cent smaller; when allowance is made for the fact that there was one more trading day this year than last, the decrease from last year is about 6 per cent. The aggregate for the first five months of the year was 18 per cent smaller than last year.

PERCENTAGE INCREASE OR DECREASE FROM A YEAR AGO

	May*	January 1 to May 31*	Number of reporting stores	Number of cities
Total	- 2	- 18	439	211
Federal reserve district:				
Boston	- 4	- 21	55	29
New York	- 2	- 16	53	28
Philadelphia	- 6	- 19	34	17
Cleveland	- 4	- 20	24	9
Richmond	- 5	- 16	50	21
Atlanta	+ 4	- 17	21	14
Chicago	- 1	- 19	59	29
St. Louis	- 3	- 18	18	8
Minneapolis	+ 3	- 14	17	11
Kansas City	- 0	- 17	18	12
Dallas	+ 5	- 12	22	9
San Francisco	+ 4	- 18	68	24

\* May figures preliminary; in most districts the month had one more business day this year than last year.