

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 1956

Department store sales increased in January after allowance for the usual seasonal change. The adjusted index is estimated at 125 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 122 for December. Total dollar sales for the month were 5 per cent greater than in January 1955.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1956		1955	
	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	Jan.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e125	122	122	119
without seasonal adjustment	e 95	212	148	91

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 Feb. 4 ^{2/}
	Feb. 4	Jan. 28	Jan. 21	Jan. 14	Feb. 4	
Boston	+ 6	+ 9	- 1	- 8	+ 1	- 4
New York	+ 8	r+ 8	+ 8	+ 5	+ 7	+ 3
Philadelphia	+15	r+15	+ 4	+ 3	+ 9	+ 4
Cleveland	+12	+20	- 3	+10	+ 9	+ 5
Richmond	- 2	+ 8	- 2	0	+ 1	- 1
Atlanta	- 2	0	+ 7	+ 8	+ 4	+ 2
Chicago	+ 3	+15	+ 3	+ 3	+ 6	+ 2
St. Louis	- 1	r+ 4	- 3	+10	+ 3	0
Minneapolis	+ 6	r+ 9	0	+10	+ 6	+ 3
Kansas City	- 3	r- 4	+ 4	+ 4	0	- 2
Dallas	- 3	+ 3	- 3	+ 9	+ 2	- 1
San Francisco	+ 6	- 5	+ 3	+ 2	+ 1	- 2
U. S. Total	+ 5	+ 8	+ 3	+ 5	+ 5	+ 1

U. S. weekly index, without seasonal adjustment, 1947-49=100 3/

1956		1955		1954	
Jan. 7	94	Jan. 8	106	Jan. 9	94
Jan. 14	104	Jan. 15	99	Jan. 16	85
Jan. 21	98	Jan. 22	95	Jan. 23	86
Jan. 28	94	Jan. 29	87	Jan. 30	85
Feb. 4	90	Feb. 5	86	Feb. 6	86

e--Estimated.

r--Revised.

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

2/ Comparison period begins with the January 2-7 week in 1956 and with the January 3-8 week in 1955.

3/ 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.