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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 8, 1956

Department store sales declined in February after allowance for the usual seasonal change. The adjusted index is estimated at 119 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 124 for January and 112 for February 1955. In the first two months of 1956 total dollar sales were 3 per cent greater than in the same months last year.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1956		1955	
	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Feb.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e119	124	123	112
Without seasonal adjustment	e 93	95	212	88

## 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 -
	Mar. 3	Feb. 25	Feb. 18	Feb. 11	Mar. 3	Mar. 3
Boston	+12	+ 4	- 2	- 1	+ 3	- 1
New York	+ 7	r+ 1	+ 3	+ 1	+ 3	+ 3
Philadelphia	+ 5	r+ 8	+ 3	+ 8	+ 6	+ 5
Cleveland	+ 8	+ 3	+13	+12	+ 9	+ 7
Richmond	0	+ 3	+ 3	+ 8	+ 3	+ 1
Atlanta	- 2	r+16	+ 3	- 2	+ 3	+ 3
Chicago	+ 8	+ 4	+ 3	+ 6	+ 5	+ 4
St. Louis	+ 8	+ 3	+ 8	+10	+ 8	+ 4
Minneapolis	- 1	+ 9	+ 8	+ 7	+ 6	+ 4
Kansas City	+ 2	+ 2	+ 8	+ 3	+ 4	+ 1
Dallas	+ 5	r+12	+11	+ 7	+ 9	+ 3
San Francisco	+ 3	0	+ 3	+ 3	+ 2	0
U. S. Total	+ 6	+ 4	+ 6	+ 5	+ 5	+ 3

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

1956		1955		1954	
Feb. 4	90	Feb. 5	86	Feb. 6	86
Feb. 11	97	Feb. 12	92	Feb. 13	91
Feb. 18	95	Feb. 19	90	Feb. 20	86
Feb. 25	97	Feb. 26	93	Feb. 27	90
Mar. 3	104	Mar. 5	98	Mar. 6	85

r--revised.

e--Estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. February 1956 figures estimated from weekly sales. February this year had one more trading day than last.

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.

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