

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department store sales in May were slightly higher than in the previous month, after allowance for the usual seasonal change. The adjusted index is estimated at 123 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 122 for April and 117 for May 1955.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1956				1955
	May	Apr.	Mar.	Feb.	May
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e123	122	122	118	117
Without seasonal adjustment	e121	113	111	92	116

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 June 2
	June 2	May 26	May 19	May 12*	June 2	
Boston	+ 1	- 5	+ 2	+20	+ 4	0
New York	+ 6	r- 1	+ 6	+18	+ 7	+ 3
Philadelphia	+ 5	0	+ 8	+13	+ 6	+ 4
Cleveland	+ 8	+ 4	+ 6	+20	+ 9	+ 5
Richmond	+ 1	- 7	+12	+20	+ 6	+ 2
Atlanta	0	+ 4	+12	+25	+10	+ 4
Chicago	+ 9	r+ 5	+ 5	+13	+ 8	+ 3
St. Louis	+ 9	+ 6	+ 6	+33	+13	+ 5
Minneapolis	+31	r+10	+ 5	+21	+15	+ 4
Kansas City	+ 7	+ 5	+ 7	+22	+10	+ 1
Dallas	+ 9	+ 5	+ 3	+31	+12	+ 3
San Francisco	+ 5	r+ 1	+ 3	+16	+ 6	+ 1
U. S. Total	+ 7	+ 3	+ 6	+19	+ 9	+ 3

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

1956	1955		1954		
May 5	125	May 7	134	May 8	123
May 12	129	May 14	108	May 15	97
May 19	122	May 21	115	May 22	106
May 26	117	May 28	114	May 29	104
June 2	109	June 4	102	June 5	97

r--Revised.

e--Estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. May 1956 figures estimated from weekly sales. May 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, 359-362. Indexes for the period April 1952 to date may be obtained upon request from the Division of Research and Statistics.

*--Comparisons are affected by the fact that Mother's Day is one week later this year than last.

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