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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 13, 1956

Since sales rise sharply with the approach of Christmas, the fact that the corresponding week last year was two days nearer Christmas becomes significant in comparing weekly data. In general, this causes weekly data to show a less favorable comparison with the previous year than if strictly comparable calendar periods were available. This should be taken into consideration in evaluating weekly percentage changes from a year ago.

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 Dec. 8 |
| | Dec. 8 | Dec. 1 | Nov. 24 | Nov. 17 | Dec. 8 | Dec. 8 |
| Boston | - 4 | - 4 | + 1 | + 2 | - 2 | + 2 |
| New York | - 7 | 0 | 0 | + 9 | 0 | + 3 |
| Philadelphia | - 4 | r- 1 | 0 | + 7 | 0 | + 3 |
| Cleveland | - 3 | + 1 | - 7 | + 5 | - 1 | + 3 |
| Richmond | - 4 | - 3 | + 1 | + 9 | 0 | + 2 |
| Atlanta | - 1 | r- 1 | + 8 | + 5 | + 2 | + 5 |
| Chicago | - 4 | + 6 | + 6 | + 9 | + 3 | + 3 |
| St. Louis | - 9 | + 4 | + 4 | + 5 | 0 | + 3 |
| Minneapolis | + 3 | + 3 | + 8 | + 6 | + 5 | + 4 |
| Kansas City | - 9 | + 1 | - 1 | + 1 | - 3 | + 1 |
| Dallas | - 5 | r- 11 | + 2 | + 1 | - 4 | + 2 |
| San Francisco | - 6 | r- 9 | - 4 | + 2 | - 5 | + 1 |
| U. S. Total | - 4 | - 1 | + 1 | + 6 | 0 | + 3 |

U. S. weekly index, without seasonal adjustment, 1947-49=100 1/

| 1956 | 1955 | 1954 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Nov. 10 137 | Nov. 12 141 | Nov. 13 130 |
| Nov. 17 151 | Nov. 19 142 | Nov. 20 134 |
| Nov. 24 148 | Nov. 26 146 | Nov. 27 133 |
| Dec. 1 196 | Dec. 3 197 | Dec. 4 192 |
| Dec. 8 225 | Dec. 10 235 | Dec. 11 224 |

r-Revised.

1/ 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.