

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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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. 15
	Dec. 15	Dec. 8	Dec. 1	Nov. 24	Dec. 15	Dec. 15
Boston	-4	-4	-4	+1	-3	+2
New York	+1	r-2	r+5	r+4	+1	+5
Philadelphia	-4	-4	-1	0	-3	+3
Cleveland	+2	r-4	+1	-7	-1	+3
Richmond	+1	-4	-3	+1	-1	+2
Atlanta	-2	r-2	-1	+8	0	+4
Chicago	+3	-4	+6	+6	+2	+3
St. Louis	+3	-9	+4	+4	0	+3
Minneapolis	+5	+3	+3	+8	+5	+4
Kansas City	+3	-9	+1	-1	-2	+1
Dallas	+3	-5	-11	+2	-3	+2
San Francisco	+2	r-5	-9	-4	-4	+1
U. S. Total	+2	r-3	r 0	r+2	0	+3

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

1956		1955		1954	
Nov. 17	151	Nov. 19	142	Nov. 20	134
Nov. 24	r149	Nov. 26	146	Nov. 27	133
Dec. 1	r197	Dec. 3	197	Dec. 4	192
Dec. 8	r227	Dec. 10	235	Dec. 11	224
Dec. 15	260	Dec. 17	255	Dec. 18	240

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.