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BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 27, 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. 22
	Dec. 22	Dec. 15	Dec. 8	Dec. 1	Dec. 22	
Boston	+15	- 4	- 4	- 4	+ 1	+ 2
New York	+18	+ 1	- 2	+ 5	+ 5	+ 5
Philadelphia	+14	- 4	- 4	- 1	+ 1	+ 3
Cleveland	+11	+ 3	- 4	+ 1	+ 3	+ 3
Richmond	+17	+ 1	- 4	- 3	+ 3	+ 2
Atlanta	+ 8	+ 3	- 2	- 1	0	+ 4
Chicago	+14	+ 4	- 4	+ 6	+ 5	+ 4
St. Louis	+13	+ 3	- 9	+ 4	+ 2	+ 4
Minneapolis	+19	+ 5	+ 3	+ 3	+ 7	+ 5
Kansas City	+14	+ 2	- 9	+ 1	+ 2	+ 1
Dallas	+11	+ 3	- 6	-11	0	+ 2
San Francisco	+14	+ 2	- 5	- 9	- 1	+ 1
U. S. Total	+14	+ 2	- 4	0	+ 3	+ 3

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

1956			1955			1954		
Nov. 24	149		Nov. 26	146		Nov. 27	133	
Dec. 1	197		Dec. 3	197		Dec. 4	192	
Dec. 8	r226		Dec. 10	235		Dec. 11	224	
Dec. 15	260		Dec. 17	255		Dec. 18	240	
Dec. 22	264		Dec. 24	231		Dec. 25	190	

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.