

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Department store sales in February were slightly lower than in the preceding month, after allowance for the usual seasonal change. The adjusted index is estimated at 124 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 125 for January and 118 for February a year ago.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1957		1956	
	Feb.	Jan.	Dec.	Feb.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e 124	125	129	118
Without seasonal adjustment	e 96	95	222	92

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. 2	Feb. 23	Feb. 16	Feb. 9	Mar. 2	Mar. 2
Boston	-12 <sup>a</sup>	+5	+13	+15	+5	0
New York	0	+14	+13	+3	+7	+5
Philadelphia	-15	r+4	+5	-2	-2	-1
Cleveland	-4	+1	0	+7	+1	0
Richmond	-5	+3	-2	+4	0	+3
Atlanta	-5	+1	+11	+6	+3	+4
Chicago	-2	+5	+10	+11	+5	+3
St. Louis	-7	r-3	+3	-1	-2	-1
Minneapolis	+6	-2	+10	+1	+3	+2
Kansas City	-5	-8	+6	0	-2	0
Dallas	-6	-9	+5	0	-3	0
San Francisco	-4	+3	+5	-5	0	+1
U. S. Total	-4	+3	+7	+4	+3	+2

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

1957	1956	1955
Feb. 2 94	Feb. 4 90	Feb. 5 86
Feb. 9 101	Feb. 11 97	Feb. 12 92
Feb. 16 102	Feb. 18 95	Feb. 19 90
Feb. 23 100	Feb. 25 97	Feb. 26 93
Mar. 2 100	Mar. 3 104	Mar. 5 98

r--Revised. e--Estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. February 1957 figures estimated from weekly sales. February this year had one less 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.