

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 3, 1958.

Seasonally adjusted March sales at department stores showed a substantial recovery from the low level of the preceding month. The adjusted index for the month is estimated at 130 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 124 for February and 137 for March last year.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49=100	1958			1957
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Mar.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e130	124	130	137
Without seasonal adjustment	e115	95	100	114

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts) 2/					
	One week ending				Four weeks ending	Jan. 1 to
	Mar. 29	Mar. 22	Mar. 15	Mar. 8	Mar. 29	Mar. 29
Boston	+12	r 0	- 8	+ 2	+ 2	- 2
New York	+11	- 6	+ 9	+15	+ 7	+ 2
Philadelphia	+ 2	r-20	+ 1	+22	0	- 3
Cleveland	- 2	+ 2	- 9	+ 4	- 1	- 4
Richmond	+ 3	r-18	- 2	+ 5	- 3	- 3
Atlanta	- 3	- 1	+ 4	+17	+ 4	- 3
Chicago	- 3	r- 5	- 1	+ 1	- 2	- 5
St. Louis	- 1	- 6	- 6	+ 3	- 3	- 4
Minneapolis	+ 1	- 3	+17	+13	+ 6	- 1
Kansas City	+ 5	r+ 1	- 2	- 1	+ 1	- 1
Dallas	- 3	- 4	- 3	+ 2	- 2	- 4
San Francisco	- 1	+ 5	- 5	+ 1	0	- 2
U. S. total	+ 2	- 4	- 1	+ 7	+ 1	- 2

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

1958		1957		1956	
Mar. 1	100	Mar. 2	99	Mar. 3	104
Mar. 8	105	Mar. 9	98	Mar. 10	109
Mar. 15	106	Mar. 16	107	Mar. 17	105
Mar. 22	109	Mar. 23	113	Mar. 24	112
Mar. 29	114	Mar. 30	112	Mar. 31	122

r--revised.

e--estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. March 1958 figures estimated from weekly sales.

2/ During March and April changes from a year ago reflect in part the fact that last year Easter was on April 21 while this year it will be on April 6. For this reason it is estimated that in comparison with last year an allowance should be made for an increase in sales of about 6 per cent for the month of March as a whole and a corresponding decrease for the month of April. These allowances apply to the figures for the United States.

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