

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 1959.

Department store sales in December increased substantially from the November level. The seasonally adjusted index for December is estimated at 145 per cent of the 1947-49 average compared with 137 in November and 138 in December 1957.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49 = 100	1958			1957
	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Dec.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e145	137	135	138
Without seasonal adjustment	e254	166	141	241

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. 3	Year 1958
	Jan. 3	Dec. 27*	Dec. 20	Dec. 13		
Boston	- 6	+34	+ 3	+ 6	+ 9	+ 2
New York	+ 1	r+28	- 3	+ 5	+ 6	+ 3
Philadelphia	+ 6	+31	+ 2	+ 3	+ 8	+ 2
Cleveland	+10	r+25	+ 3	+ 1	+ 7	- 2
Richmond	+ 4	r+29	+ 2	0	+ 7	+ 2
Atlanta	+ 7	r+27	+ 3	+ 2	+ 8	+ 1
Chicago	+ 1	+31	+ 8	0	+ 8	- 2
St. Louis	+ 3	r+23	+ 6	+ 2	+ 7	0
Minneapolis	- 2	r+27	+ 3	+ 2	+ 7	0
Kansas City	- 8	+29	+ 8	+ 4	+ 9	+ 4
Dallas	0	+26	+ 1	+ 2	+ 6	0
San Francisco	+ 8	+33	+ 1	+ 3	+ 9	+ 2
U. S. Total	+ 3	+30	+ 3	+ 3	+ 8	+ 1

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

1958		1957		1956	
Dec. 6	244	Dec. 7	230	Dec. 8	246
Dec. 13	293	Dec. 14	285	Dec. 15	283
Dec. 20	304	Dec. 21	294	Dec. 22	289
Dec. 27	205	Dec. 28	158	Dec. 29	121
1959		1958		1957	
Jan. 3	105	Jan. 4	102	Jan. 5	100

r--Revised.

e--Estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. December figures estimated from weekly sales. December this year had one more trading day than last.
2/ For description and weekly indexes for the period January 1937 to March 1958 see Federal Reserve Bulletin for April 1958, pp. 412-421.

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

* This year there were three shopping days before Christmas compared with two last