

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 12, 1959.

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts) <sup>1/</sup>					
	One week ending				Four weeks ending March 7	Jan. 1 to March 7
	Mar. 7	Feb. 28*	Feb. 21*	Feb. 14		
Boston	0	+10	+30	- 8	+ 6	+ 6
New York	- 1	- 4	+47	+ 1	+ 7	+ 5
Philadelphia	+ 2	r+ 8	+45	+ 8	+12	+ 9
Cleveland	+ 7	r+11	+17	+11	+11	+ 4
Richmond	0	+12	+30	+ 4	+10	+ 9
Atlanta	+ 6	r+ 8	r+23	+ 5	+10	+ 7
Chicago	+ 3	+17	+19	+ 6	+11	+ 7
St. Louis	+10	+12	+12	+11	+11	+ 9
Minneapolis	- 5	r+11	+ 9	+ 9	+ 5	+ 4
Kansas City	+ 7	r+17	+11	+13	+12	+11
Dallas	+ 8	+13	+ 8	+16	+11	+ 9
San Francisco	+12	r+ 5	+20	+11	+12	+12
U. S. Total	+ 5	+10	+24	+ 8	+11	+ 8

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

1959		1958		1957	
Feb. 7	108	Feb. 8	99	Feb. 9	108
Feb. 14	111	Feb. 15	103	Feb. 16	109
Feb. 21	109	Feb. 22	88	Feb. 23	107
Feb. 28	118	Mar. 1	107	Mar. 2	106
Mar. 7	118	Mar. 8	112	Mar. 9	105

F--Revised.

1/ During March and April changes from a year ago reflect in part the fact that last year Easter was on April 6 while this year it will be on March 29. For this reason it is estimated that in comparison with last year an allowance should be made for an increase in sales of about 2 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.

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.

\* Comparisons are affected by store closings in some cities in observance of Washington's birthday, which occurred one week later this year.