

January 7, 1960

Seasonally adjusted department store sales advanced to a new high in December. The index for the month is estimated at 151 per cent of the 1947-49 average, up 4 per cent from the 145 level of November and 6 per cent above the 143 index recorded in December 1958. Total sales for year 1959 were 7 per cent above the 1958 level.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49 = 100	1959			1958
	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	Dec.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e151	145	144	143
Without seasonal adjustment	e264	176	150	251

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. 2	Year 1959
	Jan. 2	Dec. 26*	Dec. 19	Dec. 12		
Boston	+ 6	+20	+ 5	+ 1	+ 7	+ 4
New York	+ 7	r+21	+ 8	+ 1	+ 8	+ 4
Philadelphia	+13	r+18	+ 5	- 4	+ 5	+ 4
Cleveland	+ 5	+19	+ 5	- 1	+ 6	+ 7
Richmond	0	+16	0	- 3	+ 3	+ 3
Atlanta	+ 3	+22	+ 3	+ 4	+ 8	+ 7
Chicago	+ 5	+19	+ 3	+ 2	+ 7	+ 8
St. Louis	+16	+16	+ 1	+ 1	+ 6	+ 6
Minneapolis	+ 6	+19	+ 1	+ 1	+ 5	+ 5
Kansas City	+24	r+14	- 1	+ 1	+ 6	+ 6
Dallas	+13	+23	+ 5	+ 2	+ 9	+ 7
San Francisco	+ 8	+22	+ 6	+ 4	+ 9	+ 9
U. S. Total	+ 9	+20	+ 5	+ 2	+ 8	+ 7

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

1959		1958		1957	
Dec. 5	249	Dec. 6	244	Dec. 7	230
Dec. 12	298	Dec. 13	293	Dec. 14	285
Dec. 19	318	Dec. 20	304	Dec. 21	294
Dec. 26	246	Dec. 27	205	Dec. 28	158
1960		1959		1958	
Jan. 2	113	Jan. 3	104	Jan. 4	102

r--Revised.

e--Estimated.

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

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 4 shopping days before Christmas compared with 3 last year.