

H.8a

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 1960.

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts) <u>1/</u>					
	One week ending				Four weeks ending Mar. 19	Jan. 1 to Mar. 19
	Mar. 19	Mar. 12	Mar. 5	Feb. 27		
Boston	-12	+10	-31	+ 5	- 8	- 1
New York	- 3	+ 1	-23	- 2	- 7	+ 1
Philadelphia	- 8	r-11	r-32	0	-13	- 3
Cleveland	-10	- 2	-20	- 8	-10	0
Richmond	-15	r-22	-31	- 2	-17	- 9
Atlanta	- 1	r-10	-21	- 2	- 9	- 3
Chicago	- 4	- 7	-12	-14	- 9	0
St. Louis	-14	-23	-25	-19	-20	- 6
Minneapolis	- 4	- 9	- 3	- 1	- 5	+ 3
Kansas City	-21	-18	-13	-21	-18	- 7
Dallas	- 4	- 8	- 7	-12	- 8	- 2
San Francisco	- 3	- 3	- 5	- 3	- 4	0
U. S. Total	- 6	r- 7	-17	- 7	- 9	- 1

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

<u>1960</u>		<u>1959</u>		<u>1958</u>	
Feb. 20	107	Feb. 21	109	Feb. 22	88
Feb. 27	110	Feb. 28	118	Mar. 1	107
Mar. 5	98	Mar. 7	118	Mar. 8	112
Mar. 12	r115	Mar. 14	124	Mar. 15	114
Mar. 19	129	Mar. 21	137	Mar. 22	117

r--Revised.

1/ During March and April changes from a year ago reflect in part the fact that last year Easter was on March 29 while this year it will be on April 17. For this reason it is estimated that in comparison with last year an allowance should be made for a decrease in sales of about 8 per cent for the month of March as a whole and a corresponding increase for the month of April. These figures 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.