

April 6, 1961.

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Department store sales during March declined slightly from February but were 4 per cent above the level of March 1960, after seasonal adjustment. The index for March is estimated at 143 per cent of the 1947-49 average compared with 145 in February and 138 in March a year ago.

Index of department store sales $\frac{1}{1947-49 = 100}$	1961			1960
	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Mar.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e143	145	142	138
Without seasonal adjustment	e129	109	108	115

## WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts) $\frac{2}{}$						
	One week ending				Four weeks ending		Jan. 1 to
	Apr. 1	Mar. 25	Mar. 18	Mar. 11	Apr. 1	Apr. 1	
Boston	+18	+12	+ 8	+14	+13	+ 8	
New York	+ 5	r+12	+ 7	+10	+ 8	+ 4	
Philadelphia	- 4	+ 7	+10	+18	+ 7	+ 2	
Cleveland	- 5	+ 8	+ 9	+11	+ 5	+ 2	
Richmond	+ 3	r+ 6	+15	+24	+11	+ 4	
Atlanta	+ 8	r+ 9	+12	+21	+12	+ 4	
Chicago	+ 2	r+ 5	+ 4	- 2	+ 2	+ 1	
St. Louis	- 2	- 2	+14	+31	+ 8	+ 4	
Minneapolis	+13	r+14	+10	- 1	+ 9	+ 2	
Kansas City	+10	0	+25	+15	+11	+10	
Dallas	+ 7	- 2	+ 9	+ 9	+ 6	+ 2	
San Francisco	+14	r+ 2	- 1	+ 3	+ 4	+ 1	
✓ U. S. Total	+ 5	r+ 7✓	+ 9	+10	+ 8	+ 4	

U. S. weekly index, without seasonal adjustment, 1947-49=100  $\frac{3}{}$

1961		1960		1959	
Mar. 4	122	Mar. 5	98	Mar. 7	118
Mar. 11	128	Mar. 12	116	Mar. 14	124
Mar. 18	140	Mar. 19	129	Mar. 21	137
Mar. 25	r140	Mar. 26	131	Mar. 28	141
Apr. 1	150	Apr. 2	143	Apr. 4	117

r--Revised.

e--Estimated.

$\frac{1}{}$  Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. March figures estimated from weekly sales.

$\frac{2}{}$  During March and April changes from a year ago reflect in part the fact that last year Easter was on April 17 while this year it was on April 2. For this reason it is estimated that in comparison with last year an allowance should be made for an increase in sales of about 8 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.

$\frac{3}{}$  For description and weekly indexes for the period January 1937 to March 1958 see Federal Reserve Bulletin for April 1958, pp. 412-421.