

May 4, 1961.

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Seasonally adjusted department store sales continued to improve during April. The index for the month is estimated at 150 per cent of the 1947-49 average compared with 146 in March, 145 in February and 142 in January. The index for April 1960 was at a record high of 154.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49 = 100	1961			1960
	Apr.	Mar.	Feb.	Apr.
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e150	146	145	154
Without seasonal adjustment	e137	132	109	150

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

Federal Reserve District	Percentage change from corresponding period a year ago (Based on retail dollar amounts) 2/					
	One week ending				Four weeks ending	Jan. 1 to
	Apr. 29	Apr. 22	Apr. 15	Apr. 8	Apr. 29	Apr. 29
Boston	+ 6	+ 4	-23	-16	- 8	+ 3
New York	+ 5	r 0	-19	-18	- 9	0
Philadelphia	- 8	+ 7	-26	-21	-13	- 3
Cleveland	- 9	r-10	-19	-23	-15	- 3
Richmond	- 7	- 4	-24	-21	-14	- 1
Atlanta	- 6	0	-20	-12	-10	0
Chicago	- 7	- 7	-15	-16	-11	- 3
St. Louis	- 8	- 4	-24	-21	-15	- 2
Minneapolis	- 3	r- 5	-13	-12	- 8	- 1
Kansas City	+ 3	+ 8	-13	-15	- 4	+ 5
Dallas	- 3	+ 1	-13	-18	- 8	- 1
San Francisco	- 3	- 1	- 8	- 8	- 5	0
U. S. Total	- 3	- 1	-17	-16	-10	0

U. S. weekly index, without seasonal adjustment, 1947-49=100 3/

1961		1960		1959	
Apr. 1	151	Apr. 2	143	Apr. 4	117
Apr. 8	128	Apr. 9	153	Apr. 11	130
Apr. 15	130	Apr. 16	156	Apr. 18	132
Apr. 22	144	Apr. 23	146	Apr. 25	141
Apr. 29	146	Apr. 30	151	May 2	141

r--Revised.

e--Estimated.

1/ Monthly indexes refer to daily average sales in calendar month. April figures estimated from weekly sales. April this year had one less trading day than last.

2/ During 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 a decrease in sales of about 8 per cent for the month of April as a whole. This allowance applies to the figures for the United States.

3/ 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.