of 5/2 Stat. 1121
DII 5/23 - Harless

H.8a BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 18, 1961.

NOTE:--The increase shown for the week ending May 13 is partly due to a difference in timing of Mother's Day. Mother's Day this year was on May 14 while last year it was on May 8.

WEEKLY DEPARTMENT STORE SALES

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

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

1961		1960		1959	
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
May 6	140	May 7	156	May 9	158
May 13	157	May 14	134	May 16	137

r--Revised.

1/ 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.

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.