



FEDERAL RESERVE

statistical release

H.8a

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 28, 1961

Department store sales in December advanced to a new high. The seasonally adjusted index is estimated at 157 per cent of the 1947-49 average compared with 155 in November (the previous record) and 152 in October. The revised index for December 1960 is 146.

Index of department store sales 1/ 1947-49 = 100	1961			1960
	December	November	October	December
Adjusted for seasonal variation	e157	155	152	r146
Without seasonal adjustment	e282	181	153	262

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. 1 to Dec. 23
	Dec. 23	Dec. 16	Dec. 9	Dec. 2	Dec. 23	
Boston	+ 6	+23	+ 4	+11	+11	+ 6
New York	+ 8	+19	+ 2	+ 7	+ 9	+ 3
Philadelphia	+ 7	r+25	+ 1	+ 5	+ 9	+ 2
Cleveland	+16	r+ 9	- 2	+ 2	+ 6	+ 1
Richmond	+ 6	+18	- 1	0	+ 6	+ 2
Atlanta	+14	+ 2	r+ 1	0	+ 4	0
Chicago	+11	+ 3	- 2	0	+ 3	+ 1
St. Louis	+16	- 5	- 7	- 3	0	0
Minneapolis	+10	+ 4	- 3	- 2	+ 2	+ 2
Kansas City	+ 9	r- 6	- 3	- 1	0	+ 3
Dallas	+13	+ 2	+ 7	+ 1	+ 6	+ 2
San Francisco	+16	r+ 8	+ 5	+ 1	+ 8	+ 3
U. S. Total	+12	+ 9	+ 1	+ 3	+ 6	+ 3

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

1961		1960		1959	
Nov. 25	185	Nov. 26	173	Nov. 28	176
Dec. 2	r237	Dec. 3	231	Dec. 5	249
Dec. 9	299	Dec. 10	296	Dec. 12	298
Dec. 16	333	Dec. 17	305	Dec. 19	318
Dec. 23	356	Dec. 24	319	Dec. 26	246

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.

December of this year had one less trading day than last.