

retail sales category. (Appendix table 1 provides some detail on merchandise group sales).

The home furnishings merchandise group is itself made up of a number of categories consisting not only of furniture but also including floor coverings, kitchen-ware, electrical appliances, curtains, draperies and dry goods. These categories are shown in (Appendix table 2). Rebounding strongly from the recession of the late 70s retail furniture sales increased by 14.4% in 1983 (the first post recession year), and by 11.9%, to a total of \$US 33.5 billion in 1984. Projections for 1985 indicate estimated retail sales of \$US 36 billion. These projections are shown in the chart which follows.

RETAIL FURNITURE SALES 1980-1984 IN \$US BILLIONS WITH PROJECTION FOR 1985

