

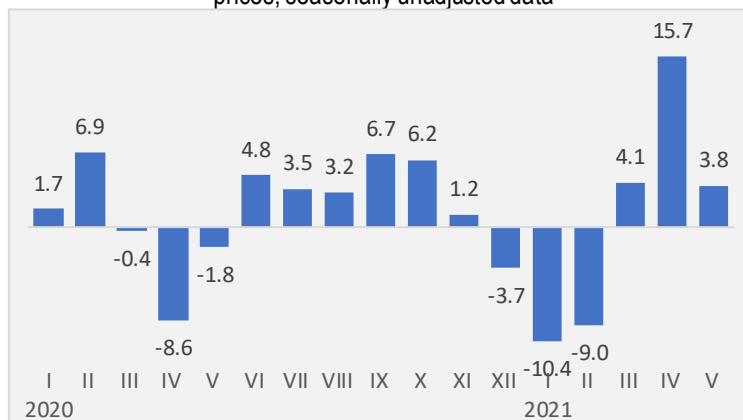
On Retail Trade Turnover in May 2021

In May 2021, retail sales continued to grow

After a more rapid growth in April 2021, the growth rate of retail trade turnover moderated. In May 2021, it was 3.8% higher, compared to the corresponding month last year (unadjusted data at constant prices).

In January-May 2021, retail trade turnover increased by 0.8% annually. Following restrictions on trade in non-food products, retail trade in the category declined by 2.3%. Grocery trade increased slightly (by 1.2%).

Turnover of retail trade enterprises,
Changes (as per cent) against the corresponding month last year, constant prices, seasonally unadjusted data



In May, the annual retail trade turnover of **non-food products** increased by 6.5%, contributing the largest share of total trade. A number of retail restrictions were lifted on 7 April, 2021. In May 2021, retail trade turnover increased in all product categories except retail sale of clothing, footwear, and leather goods, which declined by 14%. It can primarily be attributed to the lifting of restrictions, which was followed by a sharp wave of shopping in April 2021, when residents rushed to realize previously postponed purchases. Accordingly, a certain saturation of shopping was reached in May and the volume of shopping decreased. Retail trade of books, newspapers, stationery, audio, and video recordings increased more rapidly (by 25%). Retail sale of electrical household appliances in specialized stores rose by 23%. Also, retail sale of information and communication technology equipment in specialized stores increased by 22%.

The largest increases were observed in retail second-hand stores (an increase of 32%) and other retail trade outside of stores, stalls, and markets (an increase of 33%). Retail trade at stalls and markets (by 13%) and retail trade outside of stores, stalls, and markets (by 12%) also increased. With the resumption of on-site sales on a larger scale, distance shopping decreased significantly, increasing by only 6% in May 2021 (compared to 47% in March 2021).

In May 2021, **food retail sales** declined slightly by 0.3%, compared to May 2020.

In May 2021, **retail fuel turnover** at service stations was 5% higher than in May 2020.

The future situation in the retail sector will be greatly affected by the lifting of trade restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the ability of traders and buyers to adapt to changing circumstances. The gradual expansion of on-site sales in large shopping centres and compliance with the established epidemiological security measures will have a positive effect on the development of retail trade.