

On Retail Trade Turnover in October 2021

In October 2021, retail sales are affected by trade restrictions

In October 2021, retail sales were affected by stricter security conditions at points of sale. The new restrictions came into force on October 21, 2021 and aimed to significantly reduce crowding and contact in public places. In October 2021, retail trade turnover decreased by 3.4%, compared to the corresponding period last year (unadjusted data at constant prices).

Although in October for one-and-a-half-week spot sales were closed in almost all non-food stores, the retail turnover of **non-food products**

decreased by 7% annually. The decline was observed in almost all product categories, except in the retail sale of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical products, medical goods, and in specialized stores for flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals, and pet food. Retail trade in watches, jewellery, and goods not elsewhere classified declined most rapidly. Retail trade in clothing, footwear, and leather goods also decreased by 1/5. Given that the restrictions also applied to the organization of sporting and cultural events, the retail sale of cultural and recreational goods in specialized stores and the retail sale of sporting goods and games also declined.

The population continued to actively use shopping opportunities by mail order or on the Internet (an increase of almost 20%). Retail sales at stalls and markets and outside shops, stalls, and markets also increased. The restrictions hit the second-hand retail trade, which fell by almost half in October 2021. Other retail sales outside shops, stalls, and markets also declined.

In October 2021, **food** retail trade turnover increased by merely 0.8%, compared to October 2020.

Also, in October 2021, retail **fuel** turnover at service stations fell by 2%, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Overall, in January-October 2021, the retail trade turnover increased by 2.3%. Retail trade of non-food products increased by 2.5%. Also, retail trade of fuel increased by 6.9%. However, trade in food products remained essentially unchanged (an increase of 0.1%).

In the coming months, retail sales will be affected by the spread of Covid-19 infection and measures to control it. From 15 November 2021 until the end of the emergency situation (11 January 2022), the conditions for organizing trade in an epidemiologically safe environment (i.e., "green" mode) have been in place. One-off support for shopping centre owners will be available for the period from 11 October 2021 to 15 November 2021 to compensate for the decline in turnover for shopping and sports centres, as well as cultural, leisure, and entertainment venues affected by the Covid-19 crisis. The support mechanism will be available as a grant and can be applied for until 15 January 2022.

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

