

On Retail Trade Turnover in December 2021

In December 2021, growth in retail trade turnover was observed

Since the onset of the pandemic, the situation in the retail sector has been largely affected by the national emergency and various trade-related restrictions. These restrictions are also reflected in retail data. At the beginning of last year (i.e., January and February) and at the end of the year (i.e., October and November), when the state of emergency was in place and the purchase of non-food products was limited, retail trade turnover declined. However, in 2021, the sector was able to maintain a positive increase in retail trade turnover, and it was 2.5% higher

than in 2020. Food retail trade turnover remained essentially unchanged (a decrease of 0.1%). Despite trade restrictions, in 2021, non-food trade increased by 3.3%, while fuel retail trade turnover increased by 6.3%. Merchants have been able to adapt to the changing situation and customers have also adapted to new forms of shopping. In 2021, distance selling increased by 23% and the population was increasingly shopping on the Internet.

In December 2021, retail trade turnover was affected by restrictions imposed in previous months (21.10-14.11.2021), when most non-food stores were closed, and population movements were restricted. In December, trade was resumed in an epidemiologically safe environment, i.e. in "green" security mode. In December 2021, retail trade turnover was 9.9% higher than in December 2020 (unadjusted data at constant prices).

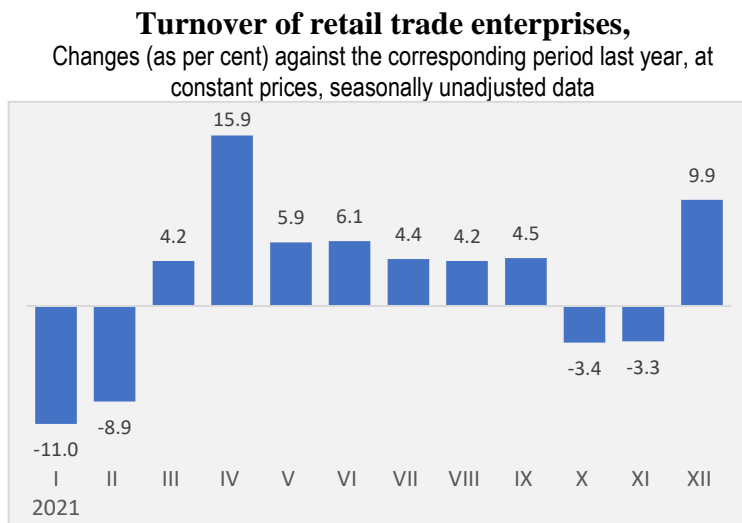
In December 2021, retail trade turnover of **non-food products** increased by 18.1% year-on-year. The sharp increase is due to the lifting of trade restrictions in December and the low base in December 2020, when access to non-food items was limited. In December, the increase in trade turnover was observed in almost all product categories, except for information and communication equipment. Trade in clothing and footwear grew most rapidly (by 64%). Also, trade in sports goods and games (by 52%) and trade in cultural goods (by 44%) increased. Retail trade in second-hand goods rose by 1/3.

The distribution by point of sale also increased in almost all categories, except for other retail trade outside stores, stalls and markets, which decreased by 10%. Shopping by mail order or Online grew most rapidly (by 17.3%).

In December 2021, the retail trade turnover of **food products** was similar to a year ago, rising by merely 0.7 percent.

In December 2021, compared to the corresponding month last year, retail trade turnover of **fuel** at petrol stations increased by 9.4%.

As before, the situation in the retail sector will be affected by the continued spread of the pandemic and the ability to contain it. An additional burden on the purchasing power of the population will be the rise



in prices, which will be largely determined by the sharp rise in energy prices. Accordingly, citizens may be more cautious about making larger purchases.