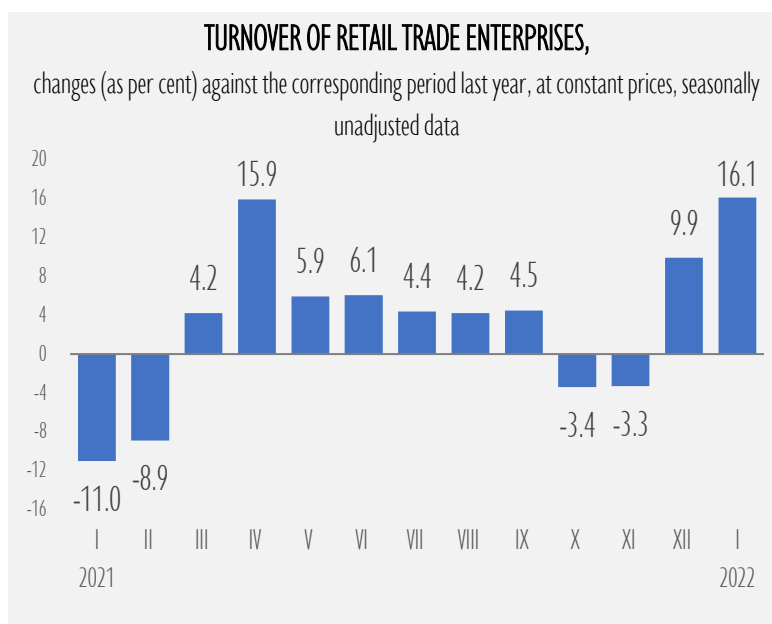


On Retail Trade Turnover in January 2022

In January 2021, an increase in retail trade turnover was observed

The year started with an increase in retail sales. It can largely be attributed to the easing of trade restrictions. As of November 15, 2021, trade services at any point of sale indoors can be provided in an epidemiologically safe environment, i.e. the "green" security regime (i.e., all point of sale staff and all purchasers have an interoperable vaccination or disease certificate).

In January 2022, the retail trade turnover was by 16.1% higher than a year ago (unadjusted data at constant prices). The rapid growth was determined not only by the easing of trade restrictions, but also by the base effect, as in January 2021 strict trade restrictions were in force and mainly grocery stores were open.



In January 2022, the **non-food** retail trade turnover increased by 35.3% annually, providing the largest share of total retail trade. Trade turnover increased significantly in all product categories, except retail sale of electrical household appliances in specialized stores (-0.4%). The largest growth was observed in clothing and footwear (by 132%), retail sale of watches, jewellery and other articles not elsewhere classified (by 105%), and retail sale of books, newspapers, stationery, audio and video recordings (by 74%). Trade in sporting goods and games increased by 61%. Also, trade in cultural goods rose by 64%.

Retail trade turnover distribution by point of sale increased in almost all categories, except other retail sale not in stores, stalls, or markets (-17%) and retail sale via stalls and markets (down 5%). Retail trade in second-hand goods grew most rapidly (by 563%). This can be attributed to the low base in January 2021, when retail sales in second-hand goods stores decreased by 90%. Along with more active on-site shopping, shopping by mail order or Online also declined.

In January 2022, the retail trade turnover of **food products** also increased, and it was by 4.3% higher, compared to the corresponding period last year.

In January 2021, compared to the corresponding period last year, retail **fuel** turnover at service stations increased by 2%. Nevertheless, the growth rate slowed down.

The future situation in the retail sector will be affected not only by the ability to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, but also by the current geopolitical uncertainty, which will affect not only the economy as a whole, but also the retail sector. Rising prices, largely driven by soaring energy prices, allow citizens to reconsider their consumption needs and purchasing priorities.