

On Retail Trade Turnover in April 2022

Despite the rise in prices, in April 2022, retail sales are increasing

After a more rapid increase in the previous four months, the growth rate of retail trade turnover slowed down in April and was 4.1% higher, compared to the corresponding month last year (unadjusted data at constant prices). This was due to the high base in April 2021, when the state of emergency was lifted, and all stores were opened, and retail sales increased significantly. It can be assessed positively that with the fall back of the Covid-19 pandemic, since April 1, 2022, residents have been able to shop freely in all points of sale without space restrictions or other security requirements. Service providers are free to decide on additional security requirements.

In April 2022, the **non-food** retail trade turnover increased by 8.2% year on year, accounting for the largest share of total retail trade. Although trade turnover increased in almost all product categories, the growth rate was lower than in previous months. The most rapid growth in retail trade was observed in clothing and footwear (by 76%), sporting goods and games (by 40%), cultural goods (by 37%), and retail sale of watches, jewellery and new articles not elsewhere classified (by 26%). Retail sale of electrical household appliances in specialized stores (-6%) and retail sale of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals and pet food (-1.3%) also declined.

By point of sale, the increase was observed only in the retail sale of second-hand goods (by 5%). Retail sales outside stores, stalls, and markets declined by 20%. Mail order or Internet shopping continued to decline for the third consecutive month (by 16.5%). With the lifting of trade restrictions, people are more active and willing to shop in person. Retail sales at stalls and markets also decreased by 8%.

In April 2022, retail trade turnover in **food** products grew slightly faster than in the previous two months, rising by 3.4%, compared to the corresponding month last year.

In April 2022, compared to April 2021, due to the sharp rise in **fuel** prices, the retail turnover of fuel at petrol stations declined by 5.3%.

Overall, in January-April 2022, the retail trade turnover was 10.5% higher, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Although all trade restrictions have now been lifted and all shops have been opened, the purchasing power of the population is being adversely affected by rising price levels. In the future, this implies that more will be spent on basic necessities (food and monthly payments), thus delaying the purchase of non-food items, including larger purchases.

