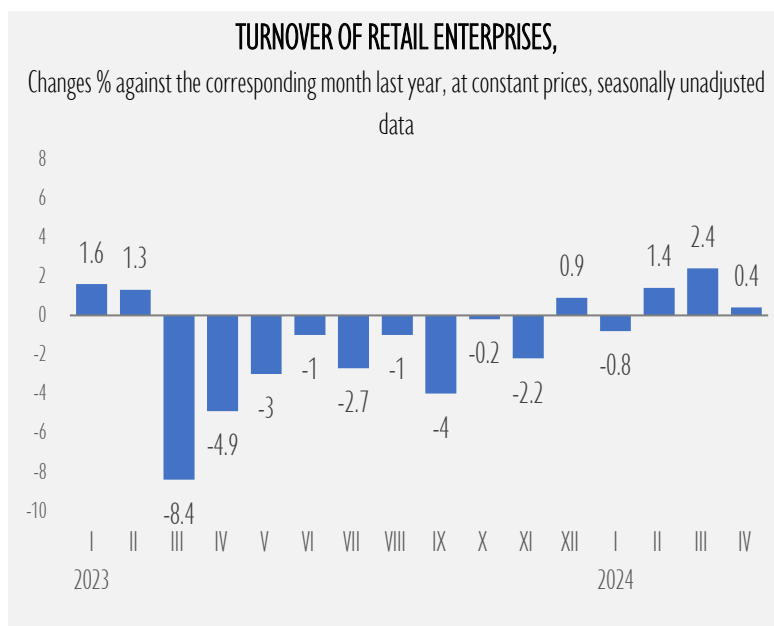


On Retail Trade Turnover in April 2024

In April 2024, retail turnover increased very moderately

In April 2024, retail turnover saw a very modest increase. Despite an improvement in citizens' purchasing power, consumer sentiment for making larger purchases remains cautious. Over the year, the total turnover of retail enterprises in comparable prices increased by only 0.4% (according to unadjusted data). However, on a monthly basis, a decline in retail sales volume is evident. In April, compared to March, retail turnover decreased by 3.3% (seasonally adjusted data), with declines across all major product groups.

Throughout the year, retail turnover for non-food goods and fuel increased, while the turnover for food goods decreased.



Compared to April of the previous year, the retail turnover of **non-food goods** increased by 1.2%. The fastest turnover increases were seen in the trade of information and communication technology equipment (up 25.1%) and flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pets, and their feed (up 17.7%). More moderate increases were observed in the sale of cosmetics and toiletries (up 10.5%), clothing, shoes, and leather goods (up 9.3%), household electrical appliances in specialized stores (up 9%), pharmaceutical medical supplies (up 8.9%), and books, newspapers, stationery, audio and video recordings (up 7.5%). Conversely, the fastest decreases in turnover were recorded in the retail trade of sports goods and games (down 14.7%), textiles, carpets, floor coverings, wallpapers, furniture, lighting devices, and other household goods (down 10.8%), watches, jewelry, and new goods not classified elsewhere (down 10.1%), and metal products, tools, building materials, and plumbing (down 10%).

By trading place, a sharper decline in turnover continued in April in retail trade at stalls and markets (down 10.8%), while other retail trade outside shops, stalls, and markets saw a moderate decrease (down 1.7%). In contrast, after a decline in March, turnover from retail sales by mail or online increased in April by 5.2%.

Food retail sales turnover decreased by 3.9% in April, marking the sharpest drop since July 2023. Although the rapid rise in food prices has halted, the overall high price level continues to impact food product turnover.

Retail turnover for **fuel** at gas stations continued to grow, increasing by 7.5% in April compared to the previous year, despite higher fuel prices. However, on a monthly basis (April vs. March), fuel retail sales volumes decreased sharply by 8.9% (seasonally adjusted data).

In general, from January to April this year, retail sales turnover was 0.9% higher than in the same period of 2023, largely driven by a 5.4% increase in fuel retail sales turnover. Retail sales of food products decreased by 0.8%, while retail sales of non-food products increased moderately by 0.5%.

Looking ahead, it is anticipated that consumer activity will gradually increase. Rising real incomes are expected to improve households' financial situations and boost purchasing power. Although food prices remain high, the rapid increase has stopped, and energy-related housing costs have significantly decreased, which will positively impact retail trade turnover.