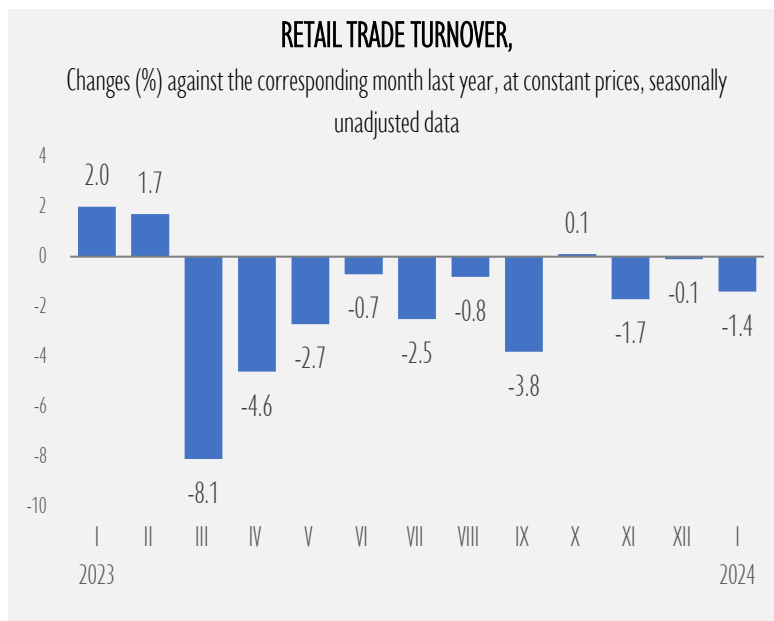


## On Retail Trade Turnover in January 2024

## In January 2024, the decline in retail trade continued

The year began with a decline in retail turnover. In January, the total turnover of retail enterprises at constant prices decreased by 1.4% (unadjusted), primarily due to a high base in January 2023 for non-food goods, when the retail turnover for this category rose sharply by 6.8% as it continued to recover from the Covid-19 crisis. A decline in retail sales volume was also observed on a monthly basis; compared to December, retail turnover in January decreased by 0.8% (seasonally adjusted data).

Throughout the year, retail turnover fell in both food and non-food product groups, while fuel retail turnover saw an increase.



In January, compared to the same month in the previous year, the retail turnover of non-food goods declined by 2.4%. The most significant declines were seen in the trade of textiles, carpets, floor coverings, wallpaper, furniture, lighting devices, and other types of household goods, which decreased by 27.1%. The retail trade of watches, jewelry, and other new goods not elsewhere classified also fell sharply, by 15%. More moderate declines were recorded in the trade of books, newspapers, stationery, audio and video recordings (down 4.9%), metal products, tools, building materials and plumbing (down 3.1%), cosmetics and toiletries (down 2.5%), and household electrical appliances (down 2.2%).

On the other hand, there were significant increases in some sectors. Retail turnover in January grew rapidly in the trade of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals, and their feed, rising by 17.1%, and in the trade of clothes, shoes, and leather goods, which increased by 13%. More moderate growth was seen in the trade of pharmaceutical medical supplies (up 3%), sporting goods and games (up 1.8%), and information and communication technology equipment (up 1.4%).

In terms of trading venues, there was a sharp decline in turnover for retail sales at stalls and markets, which fell by 14% over the year. Retail sales by post or on the Internet also dropped significantly by 6.2%. Meanwhile, retail trade outside of shops, stalls, and markets remained nearly unchanged, with a slight increase of 0.2%.

After a small increase in December, the annual turnover of **food** retail sales declined sharply again in January, dropping by 3.5%. This was the steepest annual decline since July 2023. Despite the cessation of rapid food price increases, the high level of food prices continues to affect food product turnover.

In contrast, the retail turnover of **fuel** at gas stations grew significantly in January, increasing by 5.5% compared to January 2023. This growth was driven by lower fuel prices compared to the same month in the previous year.

Looking ahead, buyer activity is expected to gradually increase. The rise in wages, currently outpacing inflation, will improve the financial situation of households and boost purchasing power.