

Retail Trade Turnover In October 2020

In October 2020, retail trade turnover continued to increase for the fifth consecutive month

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the entire economy, retail is one of the sectors that has suffered to a lesser extent. After the first wave of the pandemic in April and May 2020, retail sales improved. In October 2020, similarly to the previous four months, retail trade turnover increased and was 6.1% higher than in October 2019 (according to unadjusted data at constant prices).

The annual growth rate of **non-food retail trade turnover** decreased slightly in October 2020 and was only 1.5% higher than in October 2019.

As in previous months, the largest increase was observed for retail sales of electrical household appliances. Retail sales of watches, jewellery and other retail sale of new goods continued to rise, indicating that the population also spends on goods that are not considered basic necessities. An increase was also observed in the pharmaceutical and medical products category. In October 2020, with the onset of a colder period, when it was no longer possible to hold various outdoor cultural and sporting events, retail sales of cultural and recreation goods declined. The decline will further be exacerbated by the country's state of emergency, during which all on-site public cultural events, including those celebrating national holidays, are banned. In October 2020, retail sales of information and communication technology equipment, clothing, footwear and leather goods, and books, newspapers, stationery, audio and video recordings also declined. Also, a decline was observed in retail sales of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals and their feed.

Retail sales at stalls and markets decreased by a third. Sales in second-hand shops decreased by almost 9%. Residents also shopped less in online stores.

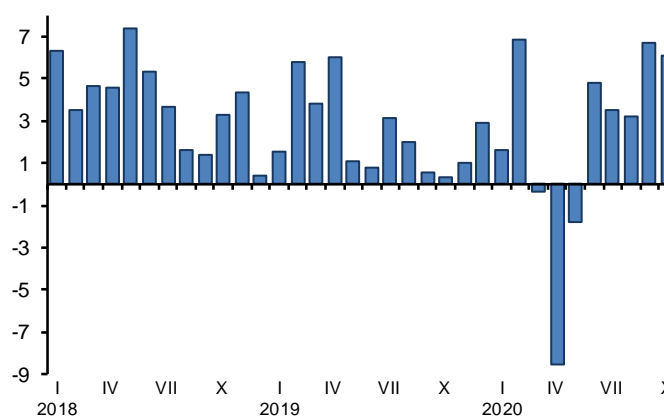
The largest growth was observed in the food category - in October 2020, retail trade turnover was 7.6% higher, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Fuel retail trade turnover is still increasing; in October 2020, it was 16% higher, compared to October 2019, providing the largest contribution to the overall retail trade turnover.

In January-October 2020, the retail trade turnover was 2.2% higher than in the corresponding period of 2019.

Following the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in April and May 2020, retail showed positive signs - the assessment of business activity and the volume of orders placed with suppliers in the coming months improved significantly. However, with the onset of the second wave of the pandemic, business sentiment indicators (especially in terms of business activity in the coming months) have become more pessimistic.

Turnover of retail trade enterprises,
Changes against the corresponding period last year (as per cent), at constant prices, seasonally unadjusted data



The future situation in the sector will be primarily determined by the progress achieved to curb the spread of the Covid-19 virus, which will affect public and private spending patterns. As morbidity rates rise and national restrictions increase, consumer activity is also expected to decline, and residents will become more cautious in planning their purchases.