

## On Retail Trade Turnover in February 2021

**In February 2021, retail turnover continued to decline**

According to the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB), retail turnover has declined for the third consecutive month. In February 2021, retail trade turnover decreased by 9%, compared to the corresponding month last year (unadjusted data at constant prices).

As in previous months, in February 2021, the retail trade turnover of **non-food products** decreased the most - by 21%. It can primarily be attributed to the restrictions on trade in non-food products. Currently, only pharmacies, optical stores, petrol stations, bookshops, and hygiene shops selling at least 70% of the range of products are allowed to be sold in person. The range of goods traded on site in other outlets is limited. The trade turnover of almost all non-food products decreased in February 2021. As in the previous month, the sharpest decline was observed in retail sale of clothing, footwear, and leather goods (by 64%). With the abolition and prohibition of all public events and the closure of cultural and exhibition venues, the decline continued in the category of cultural goods and leisure goods (by 37%). Sales of sporting equipment and games also decreased (by 41%). In February 2021, retail trade turnover increased in retail sale of electrical household appliances trade (by 22%). Also, retail sales of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals and their feed increased slightly as residents prepared for gardening.

By point of sale, retail trade in second-hand shops (by 94%) and retail sale in other venues besides stores, stalls, and markets (by 23%) decreased the most. In February 2021, distance shopping and sales online increased markedly - by 23% (in January - by 6.9%). Also, shopping in stalls and markets increased by 18%.

Retail trade in **food products** also decreased slightly - in February 2021, it decreased by 0.8%, compared to the corresponding month last year.

In February 2021, retail **fuel** turnover at petrol stations was 5.1% higher than a year ago.

The state of emergency has been extended until April 6, 2021 without further extensions envisaged afterwards. Currently, the government plans to allow all traders to resume work after the emergency, except those who operate in supermarkets and do not sell basic necessities. The decision will largely depend on the prevailing epidemiological situation and the success of the control of the Covid-19 virus.

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

