

On Retail Trade Turnover in August 2021

In August 2021, retail sales continued to increase

In August 2021, according to the latest data published by the CSB, retail trade turnover increased by 4%, compared to August 2020 (unadjusted data at constant prices). After a gradual easing of Covid-19 restrictions in the spring, retail sales have risen for the sixth consecutive month.

Overall, in January-August 2021, retail trade turnover increased by 2.7%. Retail trade of non-food products increased by 3%. Also, retail trade of fuel rose by 8.1%. However, retail trade in food products remained essentially unchanged (i.e., a decline by 0.1%).

In August 2021, the annual retail trade turnover of **non-food products** increased significantly (by 10.8%), providing the largest contribution to the growth of total trade. The increase was observed in all product categories. Retail trade in household electrical appliances in specialized stores grew most rapidly (by 20%). After a prolonged decline, retail sale of sporting goods and games (by 20%) and retail sale of cultural and recreational goods in specialized stores (by 17%) also increased. The future situation could be affected by the newly introduced autumn safety measures to limit the spread of Covid-19, which stipulates that from October 11, 2021 indoor events and services will have to be organized in at least a partially safe environment (if both employees and customers have been vaccinated against Covid-19; have recovered from the disease; or can confirm a negative Covid-19 test).

In August 2021, the population increasingly used shopping opportunities on the mail or on the Internet, which increased by 43%, compared to the corresponding month last year. Retail sales outside stores, stalls, and markets also increased significantly (by 35%). However, a decrease was observed in other retail trade outside stores, stalls, and markets (by 9%). Also, sales of second-hand goods declined by 6%.

In August 2021, the retail trade turnover of **food products** was 3.9% lower than in August 2020.

In August 2021, the retail turnover of **fuel** at petrol stations decreased by 3.4%, compared to the corresponding month last year.

With the increase in morbidity rates, in August 2021, compared to the previous three months, the retail confidence indicator declined, and the entrepreneurs' assessment of the activity of their companies and the expected employment for the following three months declined. At the same time, the attitude of entrepreneurs remained positive regarding the changes in the sales prices of goods in the following three months. The consumer confidence indicator also declined in July and August 2021. The future retail situation will continue to depend on the further development of the Covid-19 pandemic and the related restrictions.

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

