

## On Retail Trade Turnover in February 2022

## In February 2022, a positive increase in retail trade has been observed

Since in February services could be provided at any point of sale indoors in an epidemiologically safe environment, i.e. the "green" security regime, it has had a positive effect on retail trade turnover. In February 2022, retail trade turnover was 9.4% higher than a year ago (unadjusted data at constant prices). As in January, the increase was due not only to the reduction of trade restrictions, but also to the low base in the first months of 2021, when strict trade restrictions were in force and mainly grocery stores were open.

In February 2022, the retail trade turnover of **non-food products** increased by 23% annually, accounting for the largest share of retail sales. Trade turnover increased significantly in almost all product categories, except retail sale of electrical household appliances in specialized stores (down 12%), retail sale of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals and pet food (down 6.5%), and information and communication technology retail sale of equipment (down 5.5%). Trade in clothing and footwear increased most rapidly (by 138%). Also, retail sale of watches, jewellery, and other articles not elsewhere classified (by 95%), trade in sports goods and games (by 50%), and trade in cultural goods (by 41%) increased markedly.

In the breakdown by point of sale, the most rapid growth was observed in retail trade of second-hand goods (by 792%), which, similarly to January, can be explained by the low base at the beginning of the previous year. A similar situation is anticipated in March. In February 2022, other retail sale outside stores, stalls, or markets and retail sale outside stores, stalls, or markets decreased by 10%. Due to the lifting of the restrictions, residents made more active use of on-site shopping. February was the first month since December 2020 that shopping in the mail order or online stores has declined.

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In February 2022, the retail trade turnover of **food products** increased by merely 0.8%, compared to the corresponding month last year.

In February 2022, the retail turnover of **fuel** at petrol stations he remained essentially unchanged, decreasing by 0.4%, compared to February 2021.

Overall, in January-February 2022, the retail trade turnover increased by 12.6%, compared to the corresponding period last year.

Most trade restrictions have been lifted since March 1, 2022. Covid-19 containment measures stipulate that all sales outlets are accessible to all and that 15 m<sup>2</sup> of public indoor space is set aside for one visitor on the premises of sales outlets.

In the coming months, retail sales will be greatly affected the current geopolitical situation and the war in Ukraine. This, in turn, will affect the global energy market and raise concerns about rising prices, which could lead to more people spending more on basic goods and food and being more cautious about making larger purchases.

