

## On retail trade turnover in February 2025

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In February 2025, retail trade turnover decreased following growth in the previous five months. On an annual basis, total retail trade enterprise turnover at constant prices contracted by 2.0% (unadjusted data), primarily influenced by the number of days (leap year) in February 2024 and rising food prices. The decline in retail trade volume is also evident monthly. In February, compared to January, retail trade turnover contracted by 1.0% (seasonally adjusted data), driven by reductions in both food and non-food product categories.

During the year, retail turnover declined sharply for food products, declined more moderately for non-food products, while retail turnover for fuel rose sharply.

In February, compared with February of the previous year, the retail turnover of non-food products decreased by 2.6%. It decreased in all major non-food product groups except for the trade of information and communication technology equipment, where turnover increased by 6.9%, the trade of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pets and pet food (an increase of 5.3%), retail trade of sporting goods and games (an increase of 1.5%), retail trade of household electrical appliances in specialized stores (an increase of 1.3%) and the retail trade of metal products, tools, construction materials and plumbing supplies (an increase of 0.9%). Meanwhile, in February, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, the retail turnover decreased most rapidly in the trade of clothing, footwear and leather goods (by 12.2%), the trade of textiles, carpets, floor coverings, wallpapers, furniture, lighting equipment and other household items (by 12.0%) and the trade of books, newspapers, stationery, audio and video recordings (by 11.1%). A more moderate decline was observed in the trade of pharmaceutical and medical supplies (by 2.5%) and in the trade of cosmetics and toiletries (by 2.1%), while the retail turnover of watches, jewellery and other unclassified new goods remained unchanged.

By type of retail outlet, the decline in turnover in February, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, continued in retail trade at stalls and markets (by 6.7%), and also continued in other retail trade outside shops, stalls and markets (by 2.4%). After an increase in the previous seven months, turnover decreased in retail trade by post or via the internet (by 5.8%).

The retail turnover of **food products** decreased significantly on annual basis (by 4.3%), largely due to the high base in February of the previous year. Food prices also continue to rise, which affects the turnover of food products.

**Fuel** retail trade turnover at filling stations increased sharply in February – by 4.0% compared to February 2024, largely due to lower fuel prices than in February of the previous year.

Overall, in January-February of this year, retail trade turnover was 0.3% lower than in January-February 2024.

Considering current tax changes, both employee remuneration and pension amounts after tax payment are increasing, which overall could enhance purchasing activity and private consumption in the coming months. Price stabilization and interest rate reductions will also ease household financial situations and promote purchasing power growth.

