

On Retail Turnover in March 2025

Food prices and caution consumption affected retail turnover in March

In March 2025, more cautious consumer behaviour with regard to spending affected retail turnover. Over the year, total turnover of retail enterprises at constant prices decreased by 0.8% (according to unadjusted data), mainly influenced by the high base of food retail turnover, as well as rising food prices, which continue to affect consumers' purchasing power. A decline in retail turnover was also observed on a month-on-month basis. In March, compared with February, retail turnover decreased by 0.2% (seasonally adjusted data), driven by a decline in the food and fuel product groups.

Over the year, retail turnover declined sharply for food products, decreased more moderately for fuel, while retail turnover for non-food products increased.

In March, compared with March of the previous year, retail turnover of **non-food products** increased by 3.2%. It increased in all major non-food product groups, except for the retail trade of books, newspapers, stationery, audio and video recordings, where turnover decreased by 4.3%, the retail trade of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilisers, pets and pet food (a decrease of 1.1%), and the retail trade of clothing, footwear and leather goods (a decrease of 0.7%). Meanwhile, retail turnover in March, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, increased most rapidly in the retail trade of watches, jewellery and other new goods not elsewhere classified (by 23.2%) and in the retail trade of household electrical appliances in specialised stores (by 13.0%). More moderate growth was recorded in the retail trade of pharmaceutical and medical goods (by 6.8%), cosmetics and toilet articles (by 4.5%), textiles, carpets, floor coverings, wallpapers, furniture, lighting equipment and other household goods (by 4.2%), metal goods, tools, building materials and sanitary equipment (by 4.1%), information and communication technology equipment (by 2.2%) and sporting goods and games (by 1.3%).

By type of retail outlet, the decline in turnover in March, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, continued in retail trade at stalls and markets (by 7.1%), and turnover also continued to decrease in other retail trade outside shops, stalls and markets – by 2.6%. For the second consecutive month, turnover declined in retail trade via mail order or the internet (by 1.5%).

Food retail turnover decreased significantly on a year-on-year basis – by 6.1%, largely due to the high base in March of the previous year, when food retail turnover increased by 4%, which was the fastest increase in food retail turnover since January 2022. Food prices also continue to rise, which affects food retail turnover.

Fuel retail turnover at petrol stations decreased in March – by 1.0% compared with March 2024, despite lower fuel prices compared with March of the previous year, indicating a decline in consumer activity.

Overall, in January–March of this year, retail turnover was 0.5% lower than in January–March 2024, largely driven by a decline of 5.5% in food retail turnover due to rising food prices. Non-food retail turnover increased by 1.6%, while fuel retail turnover remained unchanged.

In the coming months, consumer activity could be supported by rising wages and pension amounts following tax changes, as well as by declining interest rates and price stabilisation. However, the high level of food prices will continue to put pressure on household budgets; therefore, growth in consumption is likely to be gradual and uneven.

