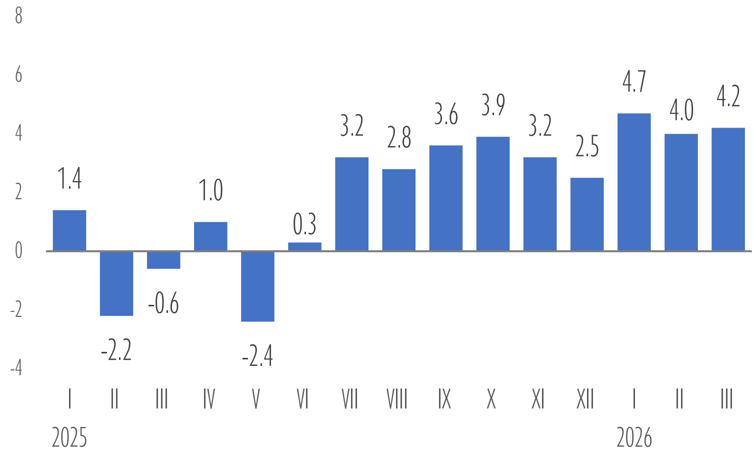
29.04.2026.

On Retail Trade Turnover in March 2026

Rapid growth in retail trade continued in March

TURNOVER OF RETAIL TRADE ENTERPRISES,

percentage changes compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, at constant prices, unadjusted data



In March 2026, retail trade turnover continued to increase rapidly compared with the previous year, maintaining the steady growth trend observed since the beginning of the year. Over the year, the total turnover of retail trade enterprises at constant prices increased by 4.2% according to unadjusted data (3.9% according to calendar-adjusted data). As in previous months, growth was mainly driven by retail trade in non-food products and automotive fuel, while the food segment recorded a slight year-on-year increase. The growth indicators were also partly affected by the relatively low base, as retail trade turnover decreased in March 2025, particularly in the food segment. At the same time, retail trade volume remained broadly unchanged over the month – in March, compared with February, it decreased by 0.1% according to seasonally adjusted data.

Overall, retail trade maintained growth in March, although the data indicate uneven development across segments. Non-food products and fuel remained the main drivers of growth, while signs of stabilisation are gradually strengthening in the food segment following a prolonged decline. Food price dynamics and consumption are also supported by the Memorandum on Food Trade, under which the measures implemented help reduce price pressures and improve purchasing power in basic food categories.

In the coming months, retail trade development may be affected by the high level of uncertainty related to the geopolitical situation in the Middle East and its impact on energy prices. Fluctuations in energy prices may reduce household purchasing power and consequently affect retail trade turnover dynamics. At the same time, it should be taken into account that the sharp rise in fuel prices observed in March is not yet fully reflected in retail trade data, and its impact on consumption may become more pronounced in the coming months.

In March, compared with March of the previous year, retail trade turnover in **non-food products** increased by 5.6%, confirming a broad-based recovery in demand across most product groups. Growth was recorded in almost all segments, and in some groups it followed a decline a year earlier, indicating both a base effect and a gradual improvement in consumption activity. Turnover increased most rapidly in the retail sale of sporting goods and games, by 17.4%, information and communication technology equipment, by 11.8%, and flowers, plants and gardening goods, by 9.7%. A substantial increase was also recorded in the retail sale of hardware and construction materials, by 8.9%, and in the textiles and household goods segment, by 7.6%. More moderate growth was recorded in the retail sale of clothing and footwear, pharmaceutical goods and cosmetic products. At the same time, turnover continued to decline in the segment of books, newspapers and stationery, as well as in the retail sale of second-hand goods and watches and jewellery.

Retail trade turnover in **food products** increased by 0.9% in March compared with the previous year, which was the fastest growth since November 2024 and indicates gradual stabilisation following the decline observed in previous months. The result was also partly affected by the low base, as food retail trade declined substantially in March 2025. Growth continued in non-specialised stores with a broader range of goods, where more stable demand may also have been supported by the availability of lower-priced goods under the memorandum. Meanwhile, turnover in specialised food stores continued to decline, reflecting the concentration of consumer purchases in supermarkets and structural changes in food retail trade.

Prepared by:
Ministry of Economics
Analytical Service

Retail trade turnover of automotive fuel at filling stations increased by 6.7% in March compared with the previous year. Growth was supported by sustained fuel consumption, relatively high mobility and, partly, a lower comparison base. However, the increase in fuel prices observed during the month may intensify cost pressures on consumers and affect fuel consumption volumes in the future.

By type of retail outlet outside stores, dynamics were uneven in March. Turnover in retail trade at stalls and markets decreased by 6.4%, while other retail trade outside stores increased by 10.5%, and internet retail trade recorded more moderate growth of 1.9%. The decline continued in the stalls and markets segment, although it was smaller than a year earlier, while growth in other retail trade outside stores was supported by a lower comparison base and a recovery in activity in this segment.

Overall, retail trade turnover increased in January–March of this year. Compared with the corresponding period of 2025, it was 4.4% higher. This was mainly driven by increases in retail trade turnover in non-food products and automotive fuel, by 6.2% and 8.1%, respectively, while retail trade turnover in food products decreased by 0.3%.

Prepared by:
Ministry of Economics
Analytical Service