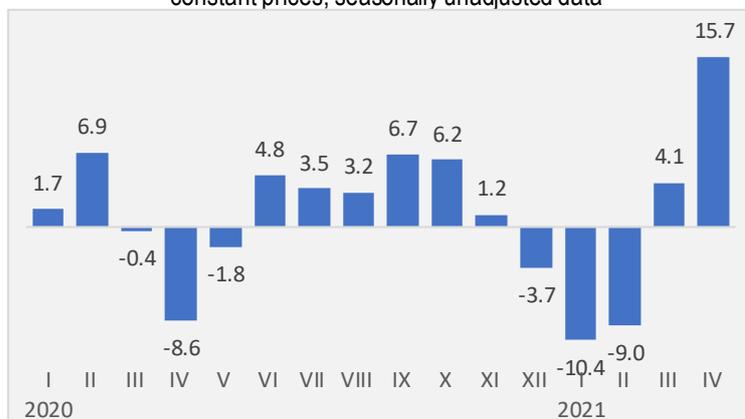


On Retail Trade Turnover in April 2021
In April 2021, retail trade turnover is increasing rapidly

In April 2021, retail trade turnover continued to increase, rising by 15.7%, compared the corresponding month last year (unadjusted data at constant prices). In April 2021, the sharpest increase in recent years was observed. It can primarily be attributed to the low base effect in March and April 2020, when most commodities were almost completely suspended. The increase was also influenced by the easing of trade restrictions. Consequently, in April 2021, compared to March 2021, retail trade turnover increased by 3.9% (seasonally adjusted data).

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



The annual **non-food retail trade turnover** grew by more than ¼, accounting for the largest share of total trade. The situation in non-food trade was positively affected by the lifting of the state of emergency from April 7, 2021. In particular, face-to-face trade restrictions were lifted, all shops within smaller shopping centres and all shops with a separate entrance and not located in a large shopping centre were allowed to operate. Also, street trade remains no longer prohibited. The lifting of restrictions determined the increase in turnover was in all product categories. In April 2021, the largest growth (by almost 60%) was observed in retail trade of information and communication technology equipment in specialized stores and retail trade of watches, jewellery, and other non-classified goods (by 58%). Also, retail sales of clothing, footwear, and leather goods returned to growth. In April 2021, they were almost half as high as a year ago.

By point of sale, the largest increases were observed in retail second-hand stores, which were allowed to resume operations after April 7, 2021. After a decline in previous months, shopping stalls and markets also increased significantly (by 45%). Retail trade outside stores, stalls, and markets (by 12%) and other retail trade outside stores, stalls, and markets (by 71%) also increased. With the resumption of on-site sales on a larger scale, distance shopping declined significantly. In April 2021, mail order or Internet sales increased by merely 7% (in March 2021 - by 47%).

Food retail trade also increased markedly, rising by 7.1%, compared to April 2020.

In April 2021, **retail fuel turnover** at service stations was by 10% higher, compared to April 2020.

The retail situation is anticipated to continue to improve in the coming months. Successfully limiting the future spread of Covid-19 could further reduce existing restrictions, which in turn would have a positive impact on future retail developments. Existing trade facilitation indicates that people are eager to sell their previously postponed purchases and many prefer to shop in person rather than online.