

On Retail Trade Turnover in September 2021

In September 2021, steady growth in retail trade turnover was observed

In September 2021, retail trade turnover increased by 4.3%, compared to September 2020 (unadjusted data at constant prices). A similar growth rate has been maintained for the last five months, as retail sales stabilized after the easing of Covid-19 restrictions in the spring.

In January-September 2021, retail trade turnover increased by 2.9%. Retail trade of non-food products rose by 3.6%. Also, retail trade of fuel increased by 7.9%. However, trade in food products remained essentially unchanged, declining by 0.3%.

In September 2021, the retail trade turnover of **non-food products** increased by 7.9% annually, providing the largest contribution to the growth of total trade. The increase was observed in all product categories, except for retail sale of information and communication technology equipment in specialized stores, which declined by 2.2%. The retail trade of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals and their feed in specialized stores grew most rapidly (by almost 1/3). Also, the population purchased more sports goods and games (an increase of 12.6%). Retail sale of clothing, footwear, and leather goods also continued to rise steadily. Retail trade in cultural goods and leisure goods in specialized stores increased by 9.6%. In the non-food category (including sporting and cultural events; and the purchase of related goods), the future situation will be adversely affected by the newly introduced restrictions to curb the spread of Covid-19.

The population continued to actively use shopping opportunities by mail order or on the Internet (an increase of 23.5%), which indicates that the shopping habits of the population are gradually changing. Retail sales outside stores, stalls, and markets increased significantly - by 18%. However, a decline was observed in other retail trade not in stores, stalls, and markets (by 10.6%) and in the category of retail sale of second-hand goods (by 1.4%).

In September 2021, the retail trade turnover of **food products** declined by 1.9%, compared to the corresponding month last year.

In September 2021, the retail trade turnover of **fuel** at petrol stations increased by 7%, compared to September 2020.

In October and November 2021, retail sales will be significantly affected by the emergency situation, as stringent security conditions are set at points of sale with the aim of considerably reducing crowding and contact in public places. During the period from October 21 to November 14, sales will be banned in most non-food stores. The ban will also apply to sporting and cultural events. During this time, the ability of entrepreneurs to adapt to different circumstances the various forms of e-commerce and distance selling will be vitally important.

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

