

## On Retail Trade Turnover in January 2021

### In January 2021, retail sales have declined

As the restrictions endure, the situation in the retail sector is deteriorating. In January 2021, retail trade turnover decreased by 10.4%, compared to the corresponding month last year (according to unadjusted data at constant prices).

In January, the retail trade turnover of **non-food products** decreased the most - by 1/4. On an annual basis, the retail trade turnover of almost all non-food products declined. It can primarily be attributed to the ban on the operation of most non-food

outlets. As in the previous month, the sharpest decline was observed in retail sale of clothing, footwear, and leather goods (by 64%). Also, retail trade of books, newspapers, stationery, audio, and video recordings (by 44%) and retail sale of watches and jewellery (by 56%) declined. With the abolition and prohibition of all public events and the closure of cultural and exhibition venues, the decline continued in the category of cultural goods and leisure goods (by 29%). Trade in sporting goods and games also declined. In January 2021, retail trade turnover increased in household electrical goods (by 19%). Retail sales of flowers, plants, seeds, fertilizers, pet animals and their feed also increased slightly.

Retail trade in second-hand goods stores (by 90%) and retail sale at stalls and markets (by 23%) decreased significantly. In January 2021, sales in online stores increased slightly (by 7%). However, the habits of the population to shop on the Internet are not changing rapidly; therefore, no significant increase in distance shopping has been observed.

Retail trade in **food products** also decreased slightly; in January 2021, it was 0.4% lower than in January 2020.

**Fuel** retail trade turnover still remains positive - in January 2021, it was 11.8% higher, compared to the corresponding month last year. It can be partly be attributed to the restrictions imposed on travel abroad.

Future outlook remains highly uncertain and crucially depends on the success to control the spread of Covid-19 virus and, consequently, on the duration of trade restrictions, which are particularly severe for non-food trade. Currently, the emergency situation has been extended until April 6, 2021. As of February 8, 2021, certain outlets are entitled to operate without product group restrictions. However, most non-food stores are still closed. If after the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic positive signs in the sentiment of entrepreneurs in the retail sector were observed, the most recent indicators of entrepreneurial sentiment have slightly deteriorated (i.e., especially in assessing the activity of enterprises in the last 3 months, as well as in assessing the future performance of enterprises). In such circumstances, state support for enterprises and the ability of entrepreneurs to adapt to the current situation are crucial.

#### TURNOVER OF RETAIL ENTERPRISES

changes against the corresponding month last year, at constant prices, seasonally unadjusted data, as per cent

