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Monthly survey on retail trade 2021Apr

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Turnover in retail trade declined in April, though less than in November 2020

Total industrial goods and food sales: M/M-1 change (%)

Note: April and March 2021 are on comparison seasonally and working-day adjusted volume terms. The chart is layered on PDF on document. 1 Sector is classified according to the relative weight of the products included in the total aggregate of retail trade (see methodology) retail-trade-april-2021.pdf

[COM_DET_2236_en-retail-trade-april-2021.pdf \(PDF, 178 Ko\)](#)

Against the backdrop of the strengthening of health measures, turnover in retail trade fell in April compared to March, declining by 7.1% month-on-month (adjusted for seasonal and working-day variations). The steep 25.7% drop in industrial goods sales was not offset by the 2.1% month-on-month growth in food sales. The sharpest falls in sales were in furniture, perfumery-hygiene and footwear, which declined by 46.8%, 45.4% and 41.2% respectively. Sales held steady in newspapers, automotive equipment and pharmaceuticals, which were up by 1.3%, 0.3% and 0.2% respectively.

The impact of the current lockdown is less pronounced than the previous ones'. Taking a benchmark pre-crisis month (January 2020 here), sales dropped by 7.6 % in April 2021 against respectively 24.4 % and 33.8 % drops in November 2020 and April 2020.

In terms of distribution channels, sales of small shops decreased by 9.9% while those of large general retailers were relatively stable compared to March, inching up by 0.5%. Final data for distance selling are not yet available for April; however, distance selling continued to post strong growth in March, climbing by 28.1% year-on-year, after 46.6% in February.