5 June 2020

Sale in brick-and-mortar shops dropped and in online shops strengthened

Retail trade – April 2020

In April, sales adjusted for calendar effects decreased in real terms (at constant prices) by 10.9%, year‑on‑year (y-o-y). Non-adjusted sales dropped by 10.6%, y-o-y. Seasonally adjusted sales in retail trade decreased by 4.8%, month-on-month (m-o-m).

Seasonally adjusted sales in retail trade, except of motor vehicles1) decreased in real terms (at constant prices) by 4.8%, m-o-m, in April. Sales for sale of automotive fuel dropped by 2.3%, sales for sale of food decreased by 3.7%, and sales for sale of non-food goods decreased by 6.4%.

Sales in retail trade adjusted for calendar effects decreased by 10.9%2), y-o-y (there was the same number of working days in April 2020 as in April 2019). Sales for sale of food dropped by 3.4%2), sales for sale of non-food goods decreased by 15.3%, and sales for sale of automotive fuel decreased by 17.2%.

Non-adjusted sales in retail trade decreased by 10.6%2), y-o-y. Sales for sale of food decreased by 2.8%2), sales for sale of non-food goods decreased by 15.3%, and sales for sale of automotive fuel dropped by 17.2%, y-o-y.

Complete or partial shutdowns of stores in April limited sale in stores with non-food goods as well as in food stores. The most significant year-on-year sales decrease in specialised stores with non-food goods occurred in stores with clothing, footwear and leather goods (drop by 81.1%) and in stores with cultural and recreation goods (drop by 55.1%). Sales decreased also in retail sale in specialised stores with information and communication equipment (drop by 28.3%), in stores with dispensing chemist, medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles (drop by 11.2%), and in retail sale of other household equipment in specialised stores (drop by 9.6%). Sales in retail sale of food, beverages and tobacco in specialised stores recorded a more significant decrease (drop by 40.9%) than non-specialised stores with food, beverages or tobacco predominating (drop by 0.4%). On the contrary, sales for sale of goods via mail order houses or via Internet3) significantly increased (+47.5%).

The price deflator in retail trade, except for motor vehicles and motorcycles related to the corresponding period of the previous year (VAT excluded) was 101.0%. It was influenced mainly by higher prices of food, clothing, footwear and leather goods, dispensing chemist, medical and orthopaedic goods, cosmetic and toilet articles, and other household equipment. On the other hand, prices decreased in cultural and recreation goods, information and communication equipment, and automotive fuel.

**Seasonally adjusted** sales for **sale and repair of motor vehicles4)** decreased **in real terms (at constant prices)** by 20.0%, **m-o-m**, and sales **adjusted for calendar effects** decreased by 43.4%, **y-o-y**. **Non-adjusted** sales decreased by 43.4%, **y-o-y**; sales for repair of motor vehicles decreased by 32.2%, y‑o‑y, and sales for sale of motor vehicles (including spare parts) decreased by 46.4%, y‑o-y.

International comparison of retail sales development in Member States of the EU is available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/short-term-business-statistics/publications/news-releases>.

We note that with regards to extraordinary measures in retail trade related to the Covid-19 disease, previously released data may undergo a significant revision. The eventuality of a revision is owing to the fact that part of the data, which is typically modelled based on VAT tax returns for the previous periods, had to be estimated.

We express our great thanks to all enterprises, which have provided the CZSO with data in this difficult situation and thus enabled the CZSO to process the results.

Notes:

*All data in the text of the News Release are at constant prices.*

*Enterprises are classified to the economic activity according to their principal (prevailing) activity, which is such an activity, from which the enterprise gets the highest value added.*

*Data for January to March 2020 have been revised according to the CZSO revision policy. Data for April 2020 are preliminary. Final data for all months of 2020 will be published in March 2021.*

*1) CZ-NACE 47 – retail trade, except of motor vehicles and motorcycles.*

*2) The difference between the development of adjusted and non-adjusted sales for sale of food was caused mainly by a different number of the above average and average selling days (as for the volume of sale).*

*3) CZ-NACE 4791 – retail sale via mail order houses or via Internet.*

*4) CZ-NACE 45 – wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.*

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*Method of data acquisition: direct survey of the CZSO (*SP 1–12*)*

*End of data collection: 28 May 2020*

*End of data processing: 2 June 2020*

*Related outputs: Base indices and y-o-y indices since 2000 and 2001, respectively, are available in time series (*[*https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/sales\_indices\_monthly\_retail\_trade\_hotels\_and\_restaurants\_time\_series*](https://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/sales_indices_monthly_retail_trade_hotels_and_restaurants_time_series)*).*

*Next News Release will be published on: 8 July 2020*

Annexes:

Table 1 Retail trade and sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (year-on-year indices, non‑adjusted data)

Table 2 Sales in main assortment types of stores (year-on-year changes, decomposition of increase – year-on-year)

Table 3 Retail trade and sale and repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (year-on-year indices, adjusted for calendar effects)

Chart: Sales in retail trade except of motor vehicles and motorcycles – base indices, constant prices

Chart: Sales in retail trade except of motor vehicles and motorcycles – international comparison, seasonally adjusted, constant prices