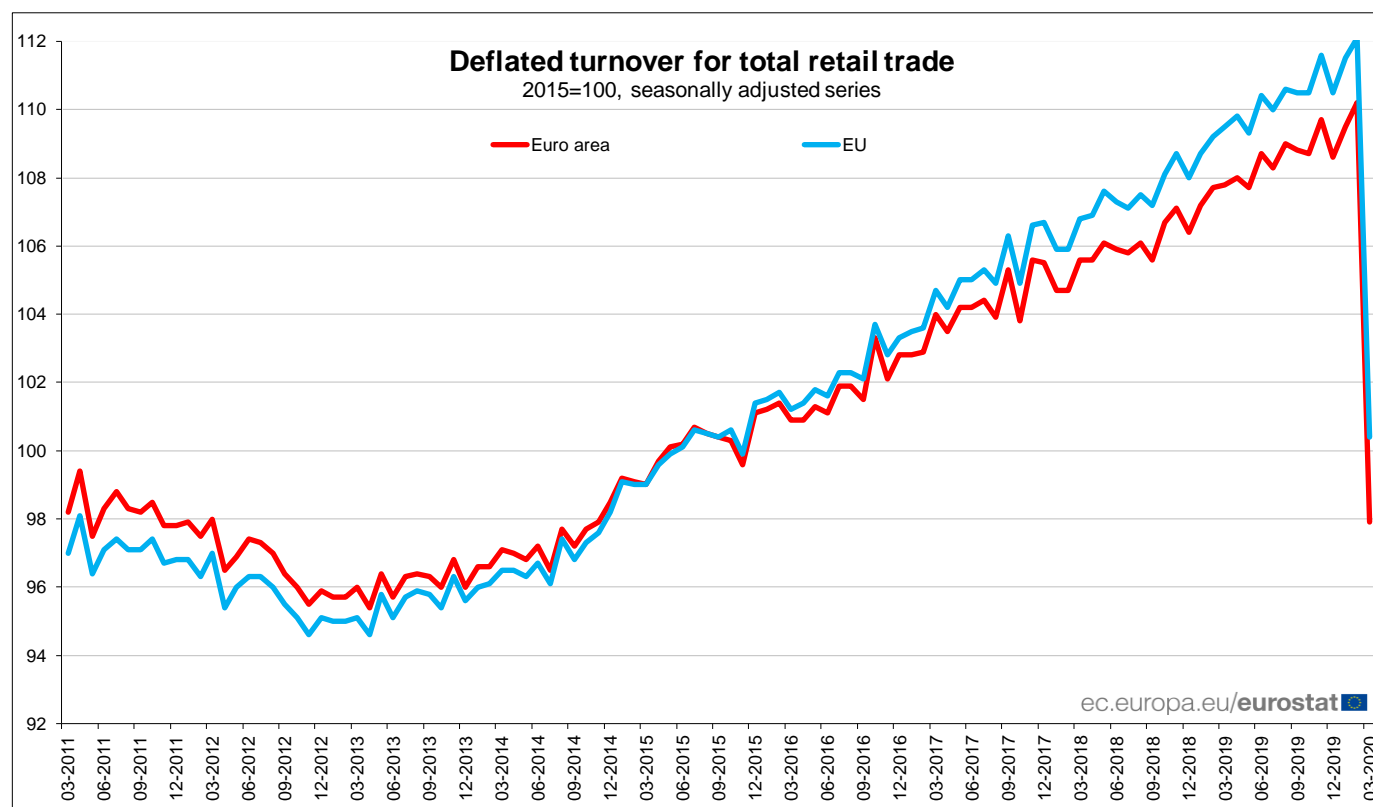## March 2020 compared with February 2020

Volume of retail trade down by 11.2% in euro area

Down by 10.4% in EU

In March 2020, the COVID-19 containment measures widely introduced by Member States had a significant impact on retail trade, as the seasonally adjusted volume of retail trade decreased by 11.2% in the **euro area** and by 10.4% in the **EU**, compared with February 2020, according to estimates from **Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union**. In February 2020, the retail trade volume increased by 0.6% in the **euro area** and by 0.5% in the **EU**.

In March 2020 compared with March 2019, the calendar adjusted retail sales index decreased by 9.2% in the **euro area** and by 8.2% in the **EU**.

Deflated turnover for total retail trade
2015=100, seasonally adjusted series

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Monthly comparison by retail sector and by Member State

In the **euro area** in March 2020, compared with February 2020, the volume of retail trade decreased by 23.1% for non-food products and by 20.8% for automotive fuels, while food, drinks and tobacco increased by 5.0%. In the **EU**, the volume of retail trade decreased by 21.3% for non-food products and by 19.3% for automotive fuels, while food, drinks and tobacco increased by 4.7%.

Among Member States for which data are available, the largest decreases in the total retail trade volume were registered in **Bulgaria** (-18.1%), **France** (-17.4%) and **Luxembourg** (-16.4%). An increase was observed in **Ireland** (+0.1%).

Annual comparison by retail sector and by Member State

In the **euro area** in March 2020, compared with March 2019, the volume of retail trade decreased by 21.7% for non-food products and by 21.3% for automotive fuels, while food, drinks and tobacco increased by 8.3%. In the **EU,** the volume of retail trade decreased by 20.1% for automotive fuels and by 19.5% for non-food products, while food, drinks and tobacco increased by 8.1%.

Among Member States for which data are available, the largest annual decreases in the total retail trade volume were registered in **France** (-16.0%), **Slovenia** (-15.1%) and **Bulgaria** (-14.6%). The highest increases were observed in **Hungary** (+3.5%), **Romania** (+3.1%) and **Ireland** (+3.0%).

Geographical information

The **euro area** (EA19) includes Belgium, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland.

The **European Union** (EU27) includes Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden.

Methods and definitions

The **index of the volume of retail trade** measures the evolution of the turnover in retail trade, adjusted for price changes (deflated), i.e. the evolution of the total amount of goods sold, based on data adjusted for calendar and seasonal effects.

Seasonally adjusted euro area and EU series are calculated by aggregating the seasonally adjusted national data. Eurostat carries out the seasonal adjustment of the data for those countries that do not adjust their data for seasonal effects.

Missing observations from Member States for recent months are estimated for the calculation of the euro area and the EU aggregates.

Data collection for volume of retail trade has in many countries been affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The data in this release are, for several Member States, based on fewer statistical observations than usual or alternative sources. For missing data, imputation and estimation methods were applied. Information on the compilation of short-term business statistics during the COVID-19 crisis can be found here.

Revisions and timetable

Data of previous months have been revised compared to those issued in the News Release 55/2020 of 3 April 2020. The monthly percentage change for February 2020 has been revised from +0.9% to +0.6% in the euro area and from +0.8% to +0.5% in the EU. The annual percentage change was revised from +3.0% to +2.5% in the euro area and from +3.2% to +2.9% in the EU.

For more information

Eurostat database section on short-term business statistics
Eurostat Statistics Explained article on the index of retail trade (available next week)
The weights of the Member States in the EU and euro area aggregates
(See file NEWS_RELEASE_WEIGHTINGS_2015)
Eurostat €-indicators release calendar
European Statistics Code of Practice

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Volume of retail trade
% change compared with the previous month*

	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20
Euro area						
Total retail trade	-0.1	0.9	-1.0	0.8	0.6	**-11.2**
Food, drinks, tobacco	0.5	0.5	-0.9	0.8	2.5	**5.0**
Non-food products (except automotive fuel), of which:	-0.4	1.3	-1.1	0.9	-0.4	**-23.1**
Textiles, clothing, footwear	-0.6	1.7	-2.6	0.0	-1.1	**-38.9**
Electrical goods and furniture	-0.3	1.5	-1.2	1.7	0.8	**-17.8**
Computer equipment, books and other	0.2	1.1	-1.4	1.4	-0.6	**-16.4**
Pharmaceutical and medical goods	0.2	1.1	-1.3	1.5	0.1	**-0.5**
Mail orders and internet	-3.3	1.9	0.7	-0.3	3.6	**2.6**
Automotive fuel in specialised stores	0.3	-1.2	-0.3	2.0	-1.2	**-20.8**
EU						
Total retail trade	0.0	1.0	-1.0	0.9	0.5	**-10.4**
Food, drinks, tobacco	0.6	0.5	-0.9	0.9	2.2	**4.7**
Non-food products (except automotive fuel), of which:	-0.3	1.5	-1.1	1.0	-0.3	**-21.3**
Textiles, clothing, footwear	-0.6	1.8	-2.5	0.3	-0.7	**-40.0**
Electrical goods and furniture	-0.1	1.8	-1.2	1.7	0.3	**-16.1**
Computer equipment, books and other	0.3	1.1	-1.6	1.5	-0.4	**-16.0**
Pharmaceutical and medical goods	0.1	1.4	-1.4	1.3	0.6	**0.2**
Mail orders and internet	-2.6	1.9	0.8	-0.1	3.5	**2.2**
Automotive fuel in specialised stores	0.3	-1.2	-0.1	1.8	-1.0	**-19.3**

Source dataset: sts_trtu_m

Total retail trade	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20
Euro area	-0.1	0.9	-1.0	0.8	0.6	**-11.2**
EU	0.0	1.0	-1.0	0.9	0.5	**-10.4**
Belgium	0.6	2.7	-2.3	-0.2	2.6	**-5.5ᵘ**
Bulgaria	0.1	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.9	**-18.1**
Czechia	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.1	**c**
Denmark	-0.5	0.1	-0.2	0.3	0.4	**-1.3**
Germany	-0.7	1.7	-1.5	1.4	0.8	**-5.6**
Estonia	0.1	1.7	-2.0	1.5	4.3	**-2.8**
Ireland	-0.6	-0.4	1.2	0.1	-0.7	**0.1**
Greece	-0.5	-0.6	-2.6	3.2	-1.4	**c**
Spain	-0.1	0.7	-1.2	0.6	0.5	**-14.4**
France	0.2	1.1	-1.2	0.7	-0.3	**-17.4**
Croatia	0.3	1.3	0.3	2.1	-0.2	**-8.5**
Italy	0.2	-0.5	0.4	c	c	**c**
Cyprus	0.6	1.6	-0.6	-0.6	0.9	**c**
Latvia	0.3	2.8	-0.4	0.0	3.5	**-5.9**
Lithuania	-0.1	1.0	0.0	0.9	1.4	**-10.4**
Luxembourg	0.5	0.5	-0.5	1.1	0.5	**-16.4**
Hungary	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.8	**-0.2**
Malta	-0.3	-0.1	1.0	-1.1	0.8	**-1.2**
Netherlands	-0.1	0.3	0.7	-1.0	1.2	**c**
Austria	0.0	0.8	-0.5	-0.1	1.6	**-15.3**
Poland	1.2	2.4	-2.0	0.5	-0.2	**-9.1**
Portugal	2.8	1.5	-1.3	2.3	3.7	**-11.8**
Romania	0.9	1.0	0.8	3.7	-0.9	**-3.6**
Slovenia	0.6	0.2	-2.1	2.0	-1.3	**-13.5**
Slovakia	0.8	-0.1	-0.5	2.0	1.3	**-6.4**
Finland	-0.8	-0.2	-0.6	1.2	0.7	**-5.1**
Sweden	0.2	0.6	-1.2	0.8	0.2	**-2.3**
United Kingdom	0.3	-1.9	0.7	0.7	-0.9	**-3.6**
Norway	-1.0	1.1	-2.2	0.5	2.0	**-0.9**
Switzerland	0.8	0.7	-0.7	-0.3	0.3	**-6.2**

* Calendar and seasonally adjusted
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u Unreliable   Source dataset: sts_trtu_m

Volume of retail trade

% change compared with the same month of the previous year*

	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20
Euro area						
Total retail trade	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.5	**-9.2**
Food, drinks, tobacco	0.4	1.6	-0.4	1.0	3.7	**8.3**
Non-food products (except automotive fuel), of which:	3.0	3.7	3.9	3.2	2.2	**-21.7**
Textiles, clothing, footwear	0.2	1.5	-0.7	-0.7	-3.3	**-41.7**
Electrical goods and furniture	2.1	3.0	2.8	3.7	3.4	**-15.6**
Computer equipment, books and other	4.0	5.8	4.0	3.8	1.8	**-14.3**
Pharmaceutical and medical goods	3.6	4.0	3.3	3.7	3.2	**3.7**
Mail orders and internet	6.2	5.3	13.7	7.5	9.6	**11.0**
Automotive fuel in specialised stores	0.5	-1.4	-1.1	-0.1	-2.0	**-21.3**
EU						
Total retail trade	2.1	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.9	**-8.2**
Food, drinks, tobacco	0.7	1.6	-0.1	1.2	3.6	**8.1**
Non-food products (except automotive fuel), of which:	3.5	4.2	4.1	3.9	2.9	**-19.5**
Textiles, clothing, footwear	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.4	-1.7	**-41.6**
Electrical goods and furniture	3.3	4.6	4.6	4.9	3.7	**-14.0**
Computer equipment, books and other	3.8	5.4	3.3	3.5	1.8	**-14.2**
Pharmaceutical and medical goods	3.3	4.2	3.2	3.5	4.1	**5.0**
Mail orders and internet	7.1	5.8	14.1	8.6	10.8	**11.9**
Automotive fuel in specialised stores	1.4	-0.9	-0.5	0.2	-1.4	**-20.1**

Source dataset: sts_trtu_m

Total retail trade	Oct-19	Nov-19	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	Mar-20
Euro area	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.5	**-9.2**
EU	2.1	2.7	2.2	2.5	2.9	**-8.2**
Belgium	0.3	2.4	0.5	1.8	3.4	**-3.1ᵘ**
Bulgaria	2.6	3.7	5.8	3.4	5.5	**-14.6**
Czechia	4.6	3.9	4.1	4.8	3.9	**c**
Denmark	0.8	-0.3	0.0	1.3	1.4	**-2.1**
Germany	2.0	3.5	2.2	2.5	2.6	**-3.1**
Estonia	4.3	4.4	3.2	3.3	8.1	**2.9**
Ireland	4.1	2.3	5.8	3.5	0.8	**3.0**
Greece	7.2	3.7	-1.5	6.2	3.5	**c**
Spain	2.6	3.1	1.3	1.7	2.0	**-13.1**
France	1.4	3.4	2.5	2.5	1.2	**-16.0**
Croatia	2.6	3.9	4.0	5.1	3.4	**-5.1**
Italy	1.0	-0.6	0.7	c	c	**c**
Cyprus	6.1	6.7	5.6	5.5	5.7	**c**
Latvia	0.1	1.7	2.5	1.6	4.8	**-1.7**
Lithuania	3.8	4.7	4.0	5.2	7.0	**-5.7**
Luxembourg	3.7	4.1	1.2	3.8	5.3	**-12.7**
Hungary	6.2	7.2	6.3	7.6	11.2	**3.5**
Malta	5.4	4.7	7.0	3.4	6.2	**-0.4**
Netherlands	1.9	0.7	3.7	2.0	2.7	**c**
Austria	0.7	2.1	0.7	1.5	2.5	**-12.4**
Poland	4.5	5.9	4.1	5.2	3.0	**-6.8**
Portugal	3.5	4.7	2.7	4.4	9.5	**-5.2**
Romania	6.8	6.6	8.5	11.1	11.3	**3.1**
Slovenia	-5.4	-3.3	-5.7	-0.8	-4.5	**-15.1**
Slovakia	-3.3	-4.0	-2.5	-1.0	3.9	**-3.5**
Finland	3.5	1.6	0.3	2.9	3.3	**-2.7**
Sweden	2.2	1.0	1.9	2.1	2.2	**-1.1**
United Kingdom	2.8	-0.9	2.7	2.5	1.2	**-4.0**
Norway	-0.2	0.7	-0.7	-1.7	2.0	**1.3**
Switzerland	0.3	1.2	0.7	0.2	0.3	**-5.6**

Calendar adjusted
c Confidential

u Unreliable   Source dataset: sts_trtu_m

Deflated turnover indices for total retail trade, calendar and seasonally adjusted

(base year 2015)

	03/19	04/19	05/19	06/19	07/19	08/19	09/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	01/20	02/20	03/20
Euro area	107.8	108.0	107.7	108.7	108.3	109.0	108.8	108.7	109.7	108.6	109.5	110.2	**97.9**
EU	109.5	109.8	109.3	110.4	110.0	110.6	110.5	110.5	111.6	110.5	111.5	112.1	**100.4**
Belgium	99.3	99.0	100.3	100.5	99.3	98.5	98.5	99.1	101.8	99.5	99.3	101.9	**96.3ᵘ**
Bulgaria	117.9	118.0	118.3	118.6	119.7	119.8	119.9	120.0	120.8	121.7	121.8	122.9	**100.7**
Czechia	121.5	121.6	120.5	122.6	122.1	122.4	123.2	123.2	123.4	123.9	125.2	125.3	**c**
Denmark	105.4	104.8	103.4	104.7	104.6	104.6	104.9	104.4	104.5	104.3	104.6	105.0	**103.6**
Germany	110.6	110.1	109.4	111.5	111.0	111.1	111.4	110.6	112.5	110.8	112.4	113.3	**106.9**
Estonia	112.4	112.3	109.7	110.2	111.0	112.1	112.7	112.8	114.7	112.4	114.1	119.0	**115.7**
Ireland	118.7	121.4	120.1	119.7	120.5	121.1	122.5	121.8	121.3	122.7	122.8	122.0	**122.1**
Greece	104.0	101.4	101.5	103.4	102.6	103.9	105.9	105.4	104.8	102.1	105.4	103.9	**c**
Spain	107.4	106.8	108.0	108.1	108.2	108.6	108.6	108.5	109.3	108.0	108.6	109.1	**93.4**
France	111.6	112.3	112.3	112.7	111.4	114.9	112.9	113.1	114.4	113.0	113.8	113.5	**93.8**
Croatia	114.9	113.9	111.1	115.1	113.7	112.5	114.7	115.0	116.5	116.8	119.3	119.1	**109.0**
Italy	99.8	100.3	99.6	100.9	100.8	100.6	100.8	101.0	100.5	100.9	c	c	**c**
Cyprus	121.6	120.3	119.8	120.5	120.8	122.2	122.2	122.9	124.9	124.1	123.4	124.5	**c**
Latvia	113.8	114.8	113.6	113.4	112.8	112.9	111.6	111.9	115.0	114.5	114.5	118.5	**111.5**
Lithuania	124.3	129.4	123.4	125.2	125.0	124.9	125.8	125.7	127.0	127.0	128.1	129.9	**116.4**
Luxembourg	36.3	36.9	36.5	36.9	37.1	37.0	37.1	37.3	37.5	37.3	37.7	37.9	**31.7**
Hungary	123.5	123.9	124.0	124.9	125.8	126.3	127.0	127.8	128.6	129.2	130.1	131.2	**130.9**
Malta	112.9	113.8	112.5	114.1	114.3	114.4	115.4	115.1	115.0	116.2	114.9	115.8	**114.4**
Netherlands	109.6	110.2	110.1	109.9	110.2	109.1	110.4	110.3	110.6	111.4	110.3	111.6	**c**
Austria	103.0	104.4	102.5	103.8	105.1	103.6	103.9	103.9	104.7	104.2	104.1	105.8	**89.6**
Poland	123.7	125.7	123.5	126.5	125.6	125.2	124.7	126.2	129.2	126.6	127.2	126.9	**115.3**
Portugal	116.3	115.6	117.0	115.3	116.4	117.2	114.0	117.2	118.9	117.4	120.1	124.5	**109.8**
Romania	139.6	139.0	138.3	140.4	141.0	141.6	142.9	144.2	145.6	146.7	152.2	150.8	**145.3**
Slovenia	122.0	124.2	121.9	120.8	122.4	121.3	120.8	121.5	121.7	119.1	121.5	119.9	**103.7**
Slovakia	110.6	111.9	110.0	110.9	110.8	109.5	109.9	110.8	110.7	110.1	112.3	113.8	**106.5**
Finland	108.5	109.2	107.9	109.7	109.1	109.9	111.0	110.1	109.9	109.2	110.5	111.3	**105.6**
Sweden	107.2	110.1	106.7	107.2	107.4	108.3	107.9	108.1	108.8	107.5	108.4	108.6	**106.1**
United Kingdom	113.7	112.6	112.0	112.7	113.4	113.0	112.7	113.0	110.9	111.7	112.5	111.5	**107.5**
Norway	102.4	104.3	102.9	102.4	103.2	103.2	103.3	102.3	103.4	101.1	101.6	103.6	**102.7**
Switzerland	98.1	98.5	97.9	99.2	98.9	97.9	97.8	98.6	99.3	98.6	98.3	98.6	**92.5**

c Confidential

u Unreliable   Source dataset: sts_trtu_m

Deflated turnover indices for total retail trade, calendar adjusted
(base year 2015)

	03/17	03/18	03/19	04/19	05/19	06/19	07/19	08/19	09/19	10/19	11/19	12/19	01/20	02/20	03/20
Euro area	101.9	103.5	105.7	105.5	106.6	108.9	108.5	111.0	105.8	109.8	111.3	129.1	104.1	97.9	**96.0**
EU	102.6	104.6	107.3	107.5	108.5	110.9	110.7	112.9	107.9	111.8	113.3	131.0	104.7	99.0	**98.5**
Belgium	100.4	100.3	99.4	98.5	102.0	102.5	101.5	92.0	96.2	100.9	99.8	118.6	98.7	90.5	**96.3ᵘ**
Bulgaria	108.2	109.5	112.4	113.3	118.0	121.2	129.3	130.7	122.7	123.5	124.0	138.0	106.1	101.9	**96.0**
Czechia	107.9	112.8	120.3	118.3	120.7	123.1	118.4	119.0	121.1	125.1	134.3	151.1	113.3	108.4	**c**
Denmark	98.2	100.0	102.2	105.0	107.1	106.8	103.4	105.3	101.0	102.2	110.2	127.1	95.4	90.0	**100.1**
Germany	107.5	107.7	112.0	110.8	108.8	110.9	111.7	107.5	107.9	112.2	118.7	128.1	103.9	101.3	**108.5**
Estonia	102.2	103.8	109.5	109.1	114.1	114.0	117.9	116.6	110.7	113.7	112.4	126.2	104.4	103.0	**112.7**
Ireland	98.6	100.8	108.3	113.8	114.4	115.9	117.1	118.8	118.8	117.5	133.0	168.8	113.7	115.2	**111.5**
Greece	93.6	94.9	99.6	99.3	96.0	105.3	107.9	111.7	107.2	102.2	102.4	114.5	98.2	99.5	**c**
Spain	100.4	102.2	103.8	101.6	105.8	109.5	117.8	107.5	106.1	107.6	108.0	124.8	109.2	96.1	**90.2**
France	101.9	106.4	107.8	109.4	110.6	112.8	96.8	131.3	108.3	114.2	114.2	139.7	109.9	99.8	**90.6**
Croatia	97.3	99.4	107.6	109.4	110.4	123.0	138.1	136.3	119.7	113.2	107.1	123.4	96.8	95.3	**102.1**
Italy	96.7	96.0	95.7	94.4	97.1	100.1	108.9	99.1	99.5	103.6	100.2	121.9	c	c	**c**
Cyprus	99.4	109.0	111.6	116.4	118.2	125.0	131.3	126.2	124.3	122.4	124.0	151.5	110.0	105.1	**c**
Latvia	98.9	105.1	109.1	111.3	115.9	115.4	121.0	121.7	111.4	112.6	111.4	129.9	103.8	102.2	**107.2**
Lithuania	105.9	112.0	120.4	125.9	126.6	127.2	131.8	133.5	125.0	127.7	124.1	145.0	115.8	112.0	**113.5**
Luxembourg	34.2	36.0	36.9	36.4	35.9	37.2	39.2	33.5	35.7	38.8	38.0	43.3	35.3	33.5	**32.2**
Hungary	106.6	114.0	121.3	122.1	122.8	126.4	129.6	131.9	125.8	132.9	132.1	152.6	113.3	115.4	**125.6**
Malta	101.1	103.0	106.3	112.5	112.3	118.2	120.3	115.5	115.7	120.2	115.6	135.4	105.1	102.3	**105.9**
Netherlands	102.0	104.2	107.0	109.4	113.7	112.8	113.2	105.3	107.2	112.1	112.6	128.2	105.3	97.2	**c**
Austria	103.8	104.4	103.7	104.3	100.7	102.6	107.3	101.7	101.0	106.7	105.7	123.0	97.2	95.2	**90.8**
Poland	112.3	117.9	125.2	126.9	124.0	128.1	128.4	127.5	124.7	130.0	125.6	146.0	113.0	110.5	**116.7**
Portugal	100.9	106.4	111.0	108.2	114.3	113.4	125.4	126.8	113.1	116.2	118.7	142.6	111.1	108.4	**105.2**
Romania	115.5	120.5	132.0	137.2	137.2	139.7	147.8	153.3	148.7	150.1	154.7	165.7	130.9	127.3	**136.1**
Slovenia	111.7	112.6	120.6	122.0	119.2	122.4	126.9	124.0	124.1	127.1	119.9	131.4	113.6	105.0	**102.4**
Slovakia	106.9	111.3	110.0	110.2	110.6	113.2	109.9	108.1	108.7	113.9	114.6	126.8	102.5	102.4	**106.1**
Finland	98.4	101.5	103.7	105.1	111.8	115.0	116.6	113.5	108.3	109.3	108.4	132.1	97.9	93.3	**100.9**
Sweden	99.5	103.1	103.8	108.7	110.9	113.7	111.2	110.4	104.5	108.2	111.3	125.0	97.0	91.1	**102.7**
United Kingdom	97.8	101.3	105.6	109.6	109.2	110.0	113.7	109.3	108.1	112.7	122.3	139.7	101.8	102.8	**101.4**
Norway	95.1	96.1	96.0	96.8	108.9	109.1	104.9	107.0	99.2	100.6	107.7	123.6	92.5	87.1	**97.2**
Switzerland	99.5	98.3	97.5	96.1	99.3	99.0	98.7	91.9	92.7	99.5	105.7	120.5	93.5	86.9	**92.0**

c   Confidential

u   Unreliable   Source dataset: sts_trtu_m