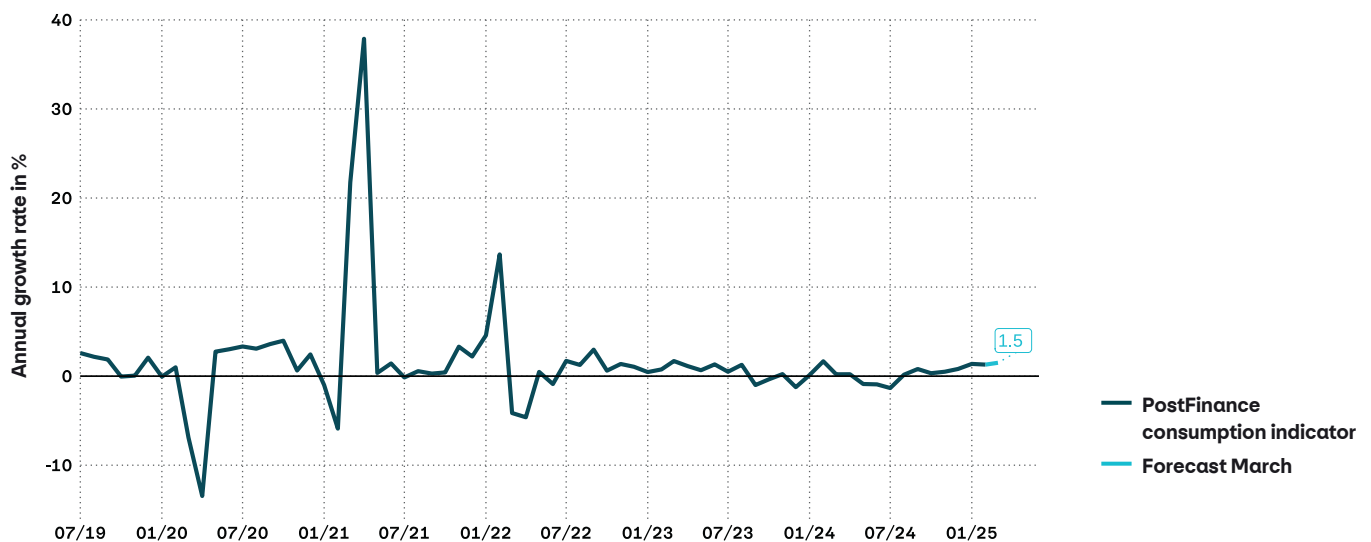


Swiss consumption defies economic concerns

Concerns have risen significantly among Swiss consumers over the past few months. These are mainly focused on the uncertainties surrounding the trade tariffs announced by US President Donald Trump, which have noticeably dampened the expectations of Switzerland's future economic development. Actual spending behaviour has appeared unaffected so far: according to the PostFinance consumption indicator, consumer spending among the Swiss population in March was 1.5 percent above the same period last year. These are welcome signs in times of international headwinds.

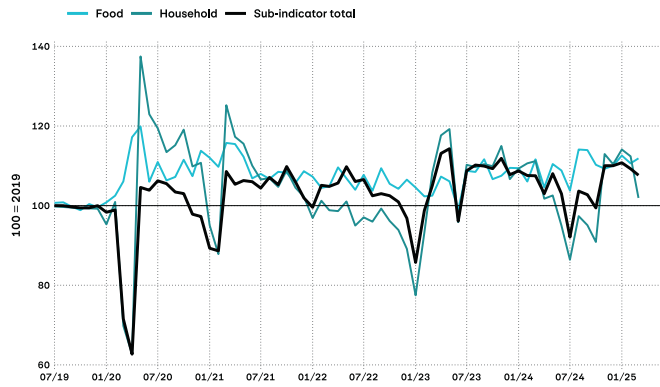
PostFinance consumption indicator



With 2.4 million customers, PostFinance is one of the largest financial institutions in Switzerland. Every month, we analyse our customers' anonymized payment transactions. This enables us to ascertain in almost real time how people in Switzerland spend their money each month. At the same time, the aggregated figures provide meaningful and up-to-date information about economic developments in Switzerland. The PostFinance consumption indicator shows year-on-year consumer spending adjusted for sales and holiday effects. In addition to the main indicator, we have developed seasonally adjusted consumption indicators, that include spending on specific goods and services ("everyday & household", "beauty & wellness", "recreation & leisure" and "travel"). The main indicator is published in annual growth rates, the sub-indicators are presented as indices.

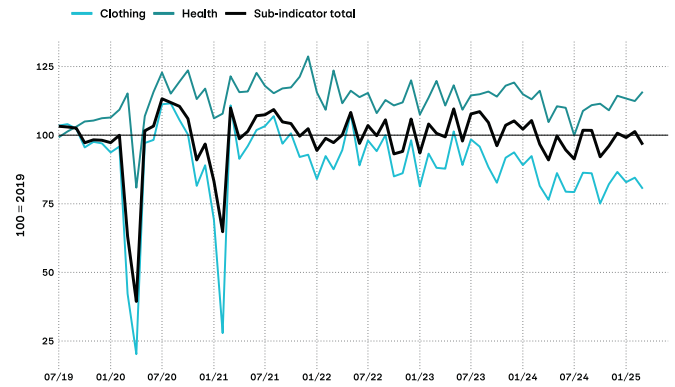


“Everyday & household” sub-indicator



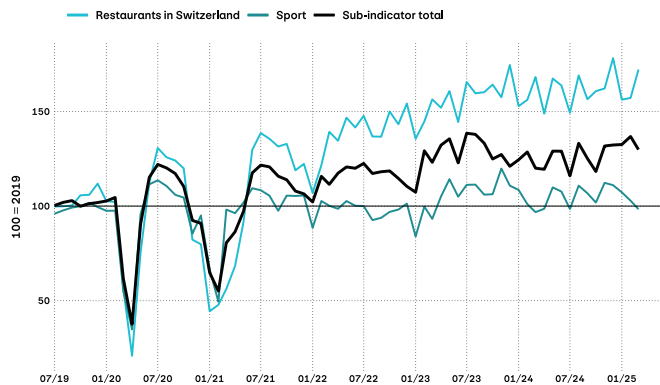
Day-to-day spending has only changed slightly in the last five months. Spending on food remained particularly stable, while it decreased for household items.

“Beauty & wellness” sub-indicator



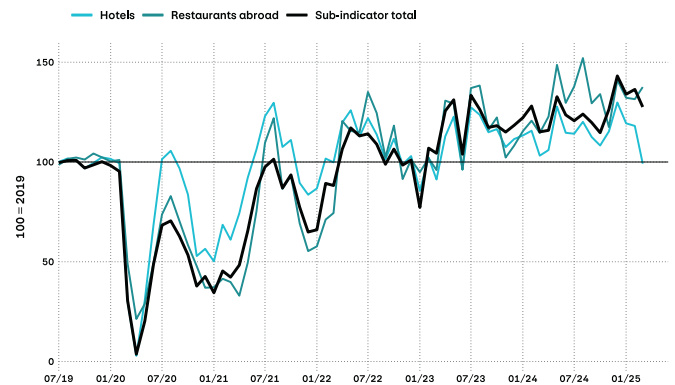
Products and treatments from the “Beauty & wellness” sector were in slightly lower demand in March compared to previous months. The decline in clothing purchases is of particular note. On the other hand, health-related spending increased slightly.

“Recreation & leisure” sub-indicator



Despite a slight decrease, leisure spending remains at a steady level. As before, willingness to spend on restaurant visits remains particularly high. Spending on sporting activities is declining, however.

“Travel” sub-indicator



Swiss people are still travelling a lot, though spending decreased again somewhat in March. This is particularly evident in the number of hotel bookings. There has been no decline in international gastronomy spending.



Beat Wittmann
Head of Investment Office

PostFinance Ltd
Investment Office
Mingerstrasse 20
3030 Bern
Switzerland

postfinance.ch/market-view