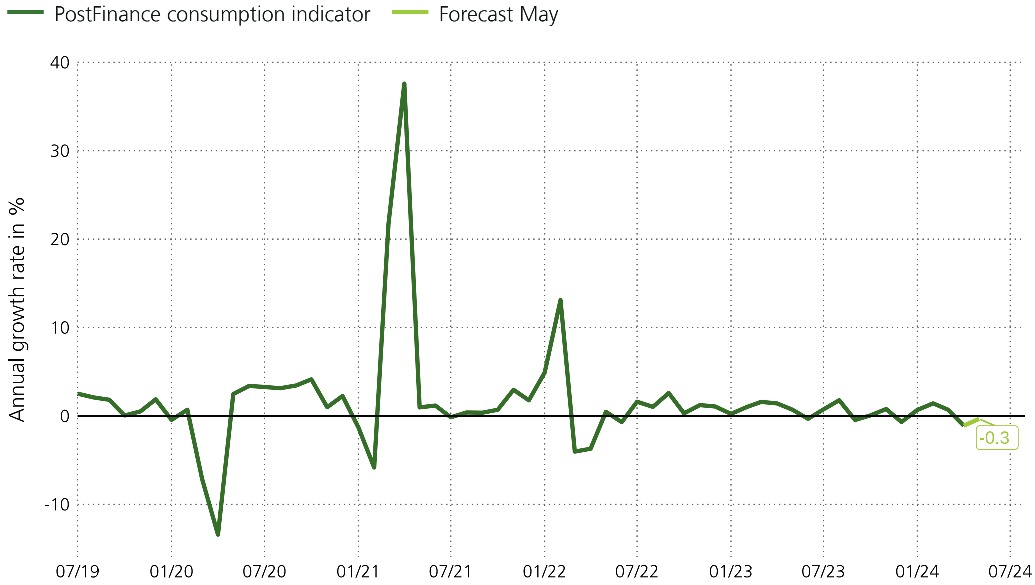
Swiss consumption close to previous year's level again

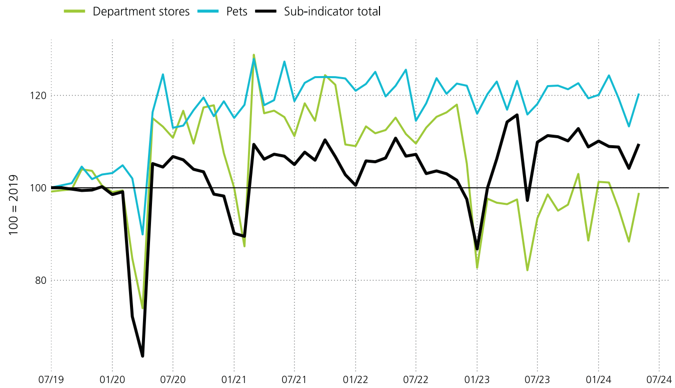
Consumer spending by the Swiss public stabilized in May and, adjusted for calendar effects, was only 0.3 percent below the previous year's level. The significant slowdown in April has not continued. All the sub-indicators for the PostFinance consumption indicator showed slight signs of recovery in May. Spending on travel in particular has risen again. Nevertheless, consumer spending behaviour remains subdued and cannot provide any new impetus for the weakening Swiss economy.

PostFinance consumption indicator



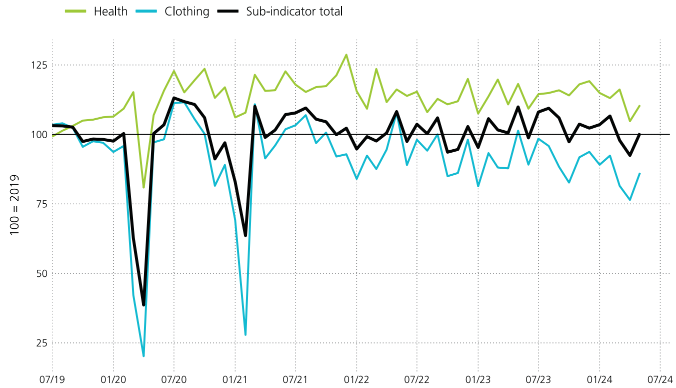
With 2.5 million customers, PostFinance is one of the largest financial institutions in Switzerland. Every month, we analyse our customers' anonymized payment transactions. This enables us to ascertain in almost real time how people in Switzerland spend their money each month. At the same time, the aggregated 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



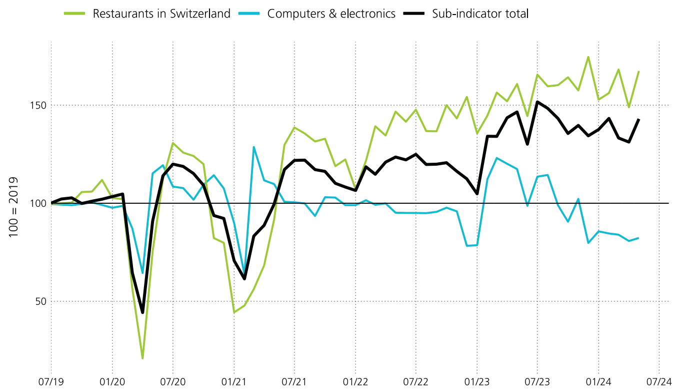
In May, consumer spending on everyday goods rose slightly and returned to the average level of the past 12 months. The increase can be seen both in purchases in department stores and in spending on pets.

“Beauty & wellness” sub-indicator



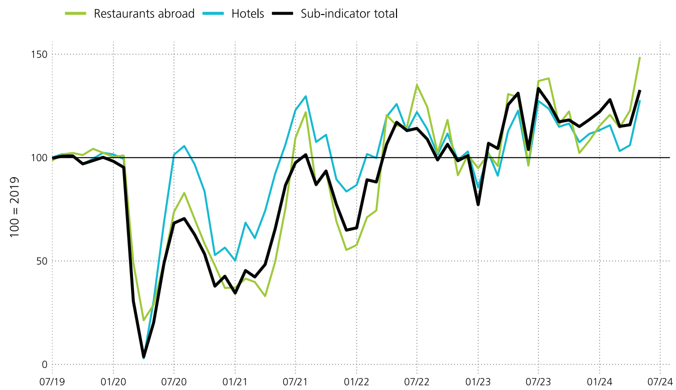
Expenditure in the beauty and wellness sector has increased again recently, but remains within the usual range. In light of the general price increases in recent years, this points to a certain restraint by Swiss consumers.

“Recreation & leisure” sub-indicator



The Swiss public also spent slightly more on leisure activities in May than in the previous month. Visits to Swiss restaurants are especially popular. The computer and electronics sector, however, seems to have reached its limits following the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Travel” sub-indicator



Consumer spending on travel rose most significantly in May. Spending on hotels and international restaurants was noticeably higher than over the course of the year so far.

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