



# SYNTHESIS INE @ COVID-19

June. 15 . 2021

Statistics Portugal makes available the weekly report for monitoring the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report covers the press releases concerning:

- Transport activities – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021, published on June 07;
- New housing construction cost index – April 2021, published on June 07;
- Business turnover, employment, wages and hours worked indices in industry – April 2021, published on June 08;
- Main aggregates of General Government, statistics of public expenditure – 2020, published on June 08;
- Construction: building permits and completed buildings – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2021, published on June 09;
- Indices of production, employment and wages in construction – April 2021, published on June 09;
- International trade statistics – April 2021, published on June 09;
- Business turnover, employment, wages and hours worked indices in services – April 2021, published on June 11.

For further details, see the links available throughout this press release.

## Results worsened in passenger transport

The worsening of the pandemic crisis at the beginning of this year determined that, in general, the reduction of passengers, in year-on-year terms, in the various means of transport, was accentuated in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, national airports recorded the following movement:

- Landed commercial aircraft: 13.4 thousand (-66.4%, compared to -56.4% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020);
- Passengers handled (embarked, disembarked, and direct transits): 1.5 million (-84.4%, compared to -76.6% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020);
- Cargo and mail: 38,5 thousand tonnes (-21,7%, compared to -26,1% in the previous quarter).



Year-on-year growth rate (%) of landed aircrafts, passengers and cargo/mail in national airports



The light railway transport recorded a 65.6% reduction in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, to 20.3 million passengers carried (-54.7% in the previous quarter). The Sul do Tejo light railway system, with 2.0 million passengers, registered the smallest reduction: -47.0%.

It should be noted that in this quarter the pandemic situation worsened and measures to fight the COVID-19 pandemic were intensified, with the interruption of classroom teaching activities and the obligation to home confinement.

The inland waterway transport of passengers continued to decline, registering a reduction of 58.8% (-48.4% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020), reaching 1.8 million passengers, mirroring the influence of the measures taken to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Maritime, rail and road transport of goods evolved as follows in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year:

- -3.6% in national maritime ports (-2.4% in the previous quarter);
- -2.4% by rail (-3.3% in the previous quarter);
- +8.3% in road freight (-11.8% in the previous quarter).

More information available at:  
[Transport activities – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021](#)  
 (7 June 2021)

## Housing construction costs increased by 5.9% year-on-year

It is estimated that, in April 2021, the following year-on-year rates of change have been recorded:

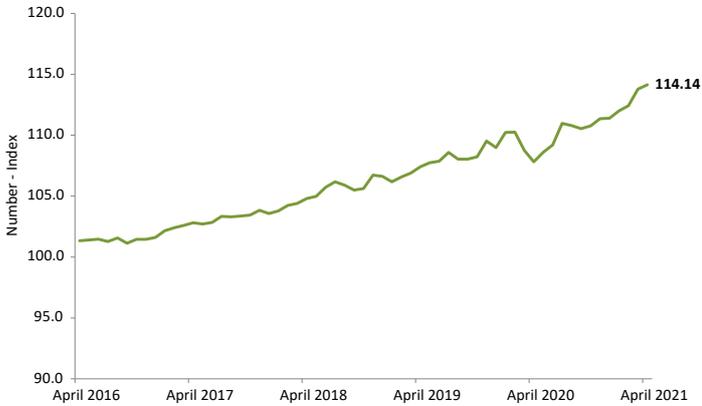
- Construction costs index for new housing: +5.9% (+4.6% in the previous month);
- Prices of construction materials: +3.7% (+2.6% in the previous month);
- Labour costs: +9.0% (+7.4% in the previous month).



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Construction Costs Index for New Housing  
(100=2015)



Construction Costs Index for New Housing  
(year-on-year rate of change)



Compared with the previous month, the estimated rates of change for April 2021 were:

- Construction costs index for new housing: +0.3% (+1.2% in the previous month);
- Prices of construction materials: +0.8% (+0.0% in the previous month);
- Labour costs: -0.4% (+2.9% in the previous month).

More information available at:  
[New housing construction cost index – April 2021](#)  
(7 June 2021)

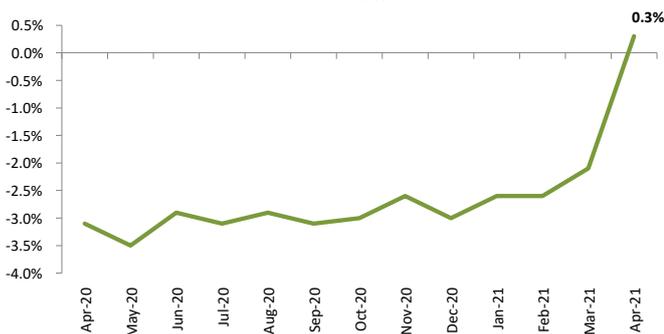
## The Industry turnover accelerated to 54.1%

In April 2021, the Industry Turnover Index (ITI) recorded a year-on-year rate of change of 54.1% (16.6% in the previous month).

All the groupings accounted for steep year-on-year increases in April:

- Intermediate goods: 44.5% (16.9% in March);
- Investment goods: 185.8% (33.7% in March);
- Consumer goods: 40.5% (9.4% in March);
- Energy: 36.0% (14.0% in March).

Industry Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total



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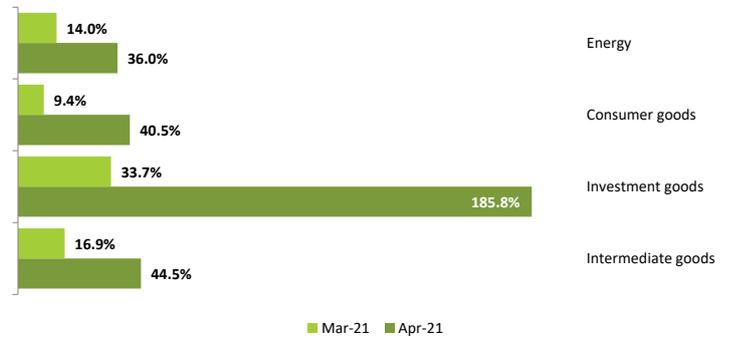
## Industry Turnover Index - Major industrial groupings (year-on-year rate of change)

In April, concerning the type of market, the sales in Industry accounted for the following year-on-year rates of change:

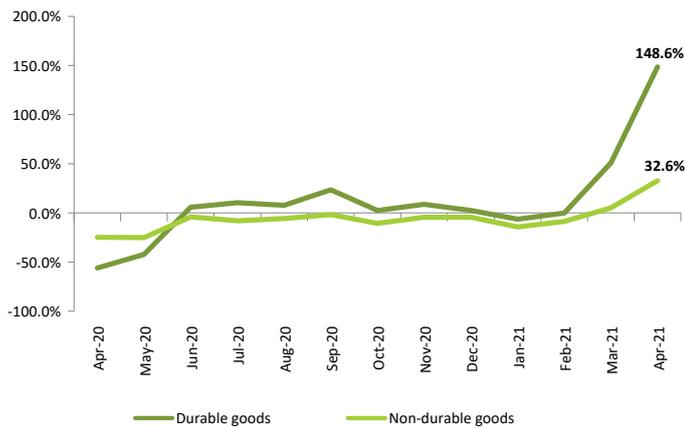
- Domestic market: 36.3% (12.0% in March);
- Non-domestic market: 86.5% (23.4% in March).

The steep increases are due to the comparison with April 2020, a month strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

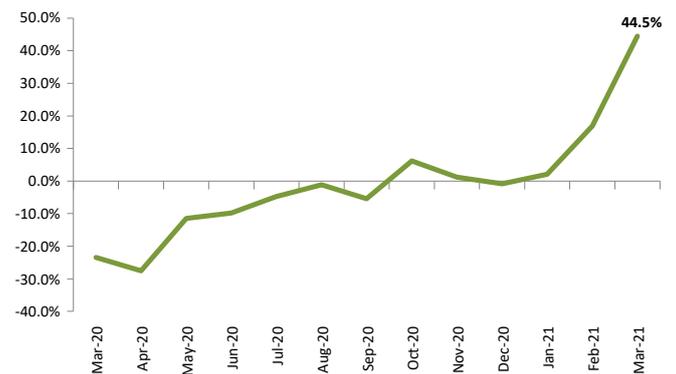
In April 2021, the ITI recorded a month-on-month rate of change of -5.0% (+17.7% in March 2021 and -28.1% in April 2020).



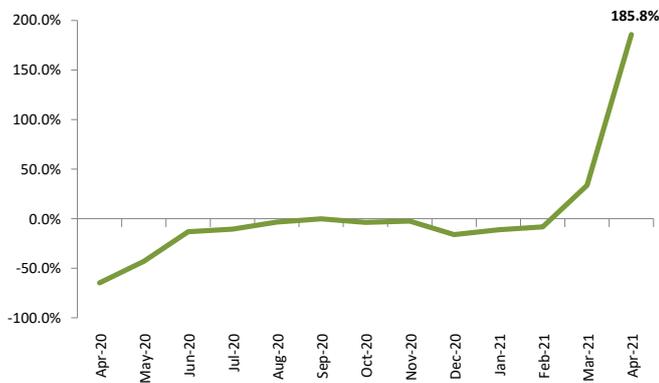
### Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Consumer goods



### Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Intermediate goods



### Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Investment goods



### Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Energy



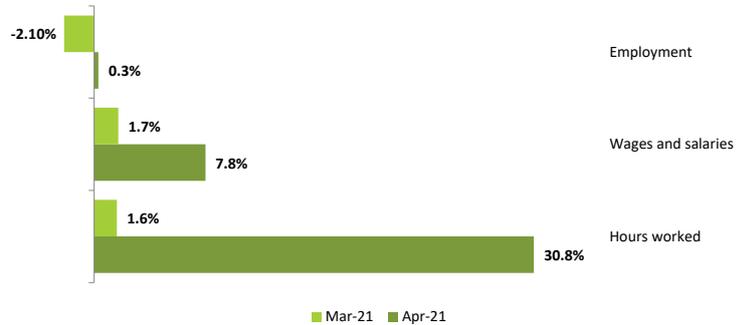
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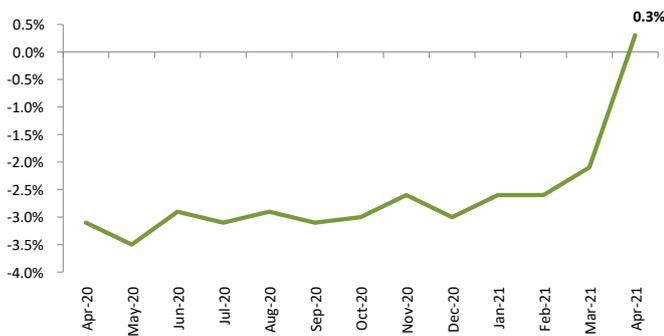
## Employment, Wages, and Hours worked Index (year-on-year rate of change)

In March 2021, the following year-on-year rates of change, concerning Industry, were also recorded:

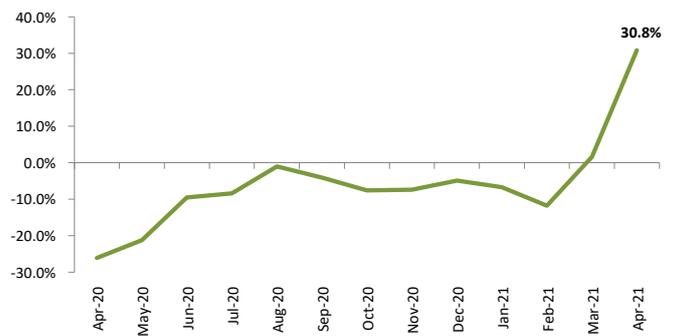
- Employment: 0.3% (-2.1% in March);
- Wages and salaries: 7.8% (1.7% in March);
- Hours worked: 30.8% (1.6% in March).



## Industry Employment Index (year-on-year rate of change) Total



## Industry Employment Index (year-on-year rate of change) Hours worked



Note: Index adjusted of calendar effects

More information available at:  
[Business turnover, employment, wages, and hours worked indices in Industry – April 2021](#)  
 (8 June 2021)

## General government expenditure close to EUR 100 billion in 2020

In 2020, government expenditure reached EUR 98.1 billion, corresponding to 48.4% of GDP (+5.9 percentage points (p.p.) compared to 2019). This amount of expenditure was significantly lower than the average for all countries in the Euro area (-5.1 p.p.).

Compared to 2019, government expenditure increased by 7.8% in nominal terms, largely due to economic policy measures taken to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Social benefits were the most relevant economic item, representing 19.8% of GDP. The compensation of employees and intermediate consumption weighed 11.7% and 5.6%, respectively.

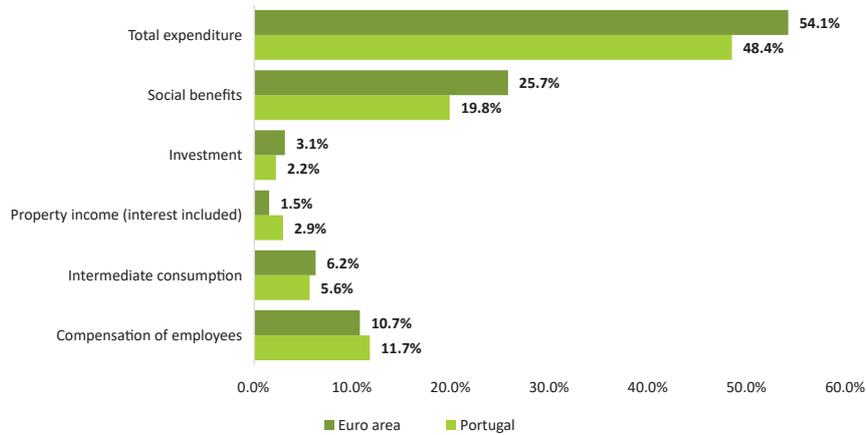


As a result of the economic policy measures taken in 2020 to lessen the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, expenditure on subsidies, current transfers, and capital transfers increased by EUR 4.7 billion, compared to the previous year (rate of change of +58.9%).

The investment increased by 16.3% (EUR +633 million compared to 2019) and property income (which mainly corresponds to interest paid) decreased by EUR 546 million (-8.6%).

Comparing with the Euro area, Portugal has a greater share, concerning GDP, in expenditure on compensation of employees (11.7% vs. 10.7% in the Euro area) and property income (2.9% vs. 1.5%). Regarding expenditure on social benefits, intermediate consumption, and investment, the average for the group of countries in the Euro area recorded greater shares than Portugal.

Government expenditure items in Portugal and the Euro area (% of GDP)

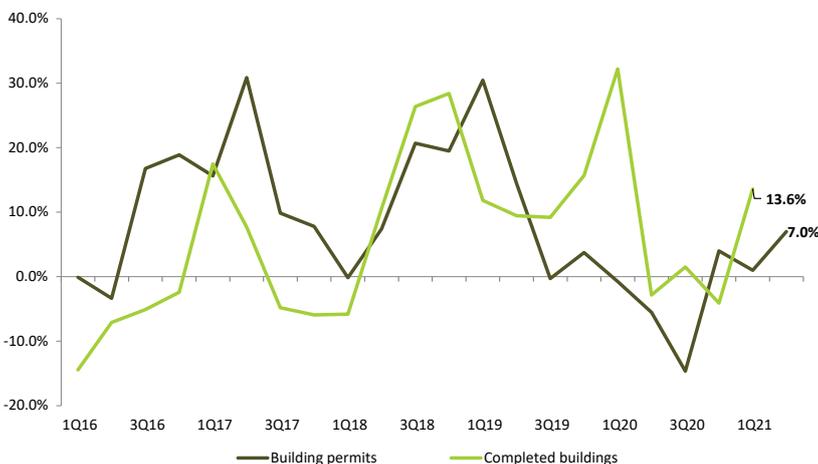


More information available at:

[Main aggregates of General Government, statistics of public expenditure – 2020](#)  
(8 June 2021)

## The number of building permits foresees positive perspectives for construction

Permits and completed buildings  
(monthly year-on-year rates of change)



In the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, compared with the same quarter of the previous year:

- Building permits (6.5 thousand) increased by 7.0% (+1.0% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020);
- Building permits for new constructions grew by 8.4% (+3.4% in the previous quarter);
- Renovation permits increased by 1.5% (-6.3% in the previous quarter);
- Completed buildings (3.7 thousand) decreased by 13.6% (-4.1% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020).

Compared to the previous quarter, the number of building permits registered an increase of 11.6% (-2.4% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020) and that of completed buildings increased by 0.4% (+1.0% in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020).

In a monthly analysis, after the year-on-year decreases observed in January and February, the building permits grew by 43.6% in March and 64.1% in April. When compared to the same months of 2019, this growth is also relevant, with increases of 25.9% in March and 25.7% in April.

Of the total number of building permits in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, 73.2% were new constructions, of which 80.2% were for family housing.

Of the total number of completed buildings in this period, 80.5% were new constructions, of which 79.5% were meant for family housing.



More information available at:

[Construction: building permits and completed buildings – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021](#)  
(9 June 2021)

## Production in construction increased by 3.2%

Index of Production in Construction  
(year-on-year rate of change)



The Index of Production in Construction increased by 3.2% year-on-year in April 2021 (-1.2% in the previous month), with the following performances of its segments:

- Building construction: +1.2% (-2.3% in March);
- Civil engineering: +6.2% (+0.5% in March).

This outcome mirrors, to a large extent, a base effect, given that April 2020 was already a month affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Indices of employment, wages and salaries in Construction  
(year-on-year rate of change)



In April 2021, the indices of wages and salaries in Construction recorded:

- Year-on-year rates of change of 3.0% and 14.7% respectively (rate changes of +0.5% and +6.7% in March, in the same order);
- Compared to March, the employment index recorded a nil change (-2.5% in April 2020), while that of wages and salaries decreased by 1.7% (rate of change of -8.5% in the same period of 2020).

More information available at:

[Indices of production, employment, and wages in Construction – April 2021](#)  
(9 June 2021)

## Exports and imports of goods increased by 82.4% and 60.4% respectively

In April 2021, in year-on-year terms:

- Exports and imports of goods registered rates of change of +82.4% and +60.4%, respectively (+28.7% and +13.0% in the previous month, in the same order);
- The increases in exports and imports of *Transport equipment* (+377.5% and +256.5%) and *Industrial supplies* (+55.2% and +58.7%, in the same order) are noteworthy;
- Excluding *Fuels and lubricants*, exports and imports increased by 82.1% and 60.1% respectively (+28.1% and +15.8% in the previous month, in the same order);



Exports - Total  
(year-on-year rate of change)



Imports - Total  
(year-on-year rate of change)



- The deficit of trade balance in goods reached EUR 1,255 million, i.e. an increase compared with the deficit of EUR 1,185 million recorded in the same month of 2020;
- Excluding *Fuels and lubricants*, the trade balance was EUR -890 million, corresponding to a decrease in the deficit of EUR 47 million.

It should be noted that these year-on-year rates of change, in April, are compared with the month of 2020 in which the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was felt most intensely, corresponding to the month with the lowest absolute values and with the greatest year-on-year decreases of the entire pandemic period.

In the quarter ended April 2021, exports of goods increased by 31.0% and imports grew by 15.8% compared to the quarter ended April 2020 (+6.1% and -5.0%, in the same order, in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021).

More information available at:  
[International trade statistics – April 2021](#)  
(9 June 2021)

## Services turnover accelerated to 43.6%

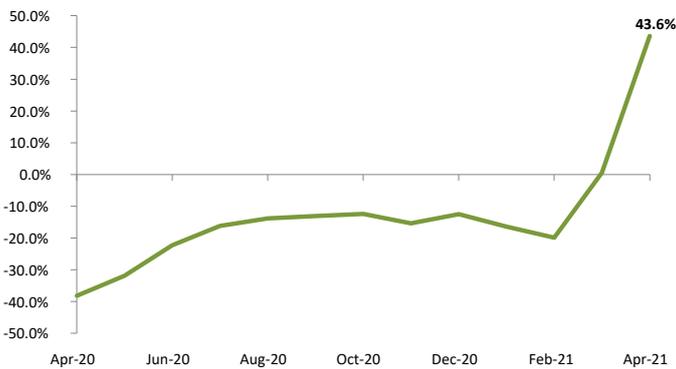
In April 2021, the Services Turnover Index registered a nominal year-on-year rate of change of +43.6% (+43.1 percentage points (p.p.) than in the previous month). This evolution reflects, to a large extent, a base effect, since April 2020 was strongly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The remaining indices concerning services presented the following year-on-year rates of change in April:

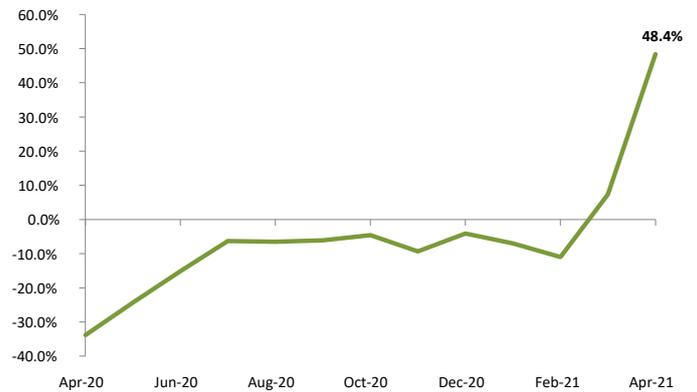
- Employment: -3.4% (-8.9% in March);
- Wages and salaries: +4.6% (-5.2% in March);
- Hours worked (calendar effect adjusted): +18.5% (-14.1% in March).



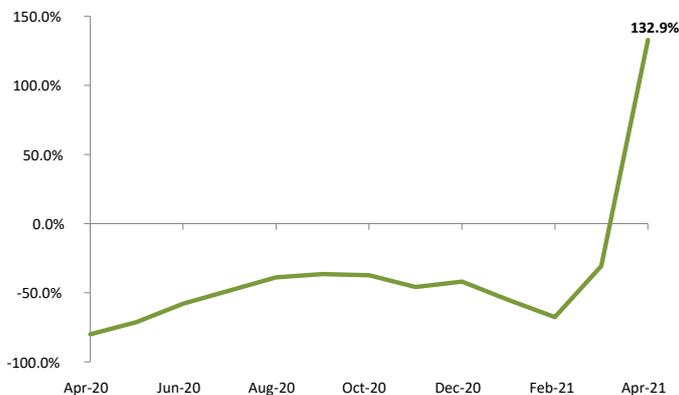
Services Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total



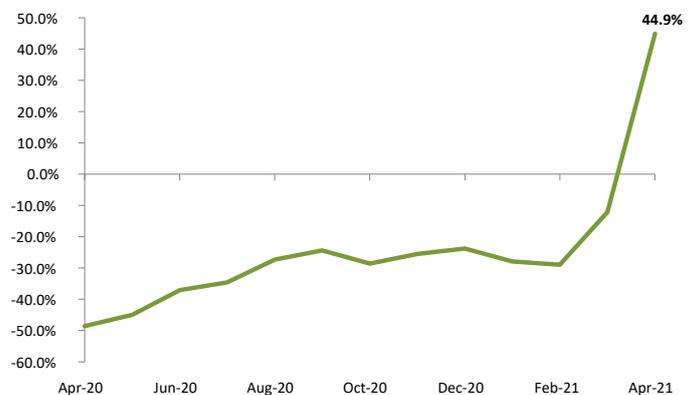
Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Wholesale trade, trade and repair of vehicles and motorcycles



Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Accommodation and food services



Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Transportation and storage



More information available at:

[Business turnover, employment, wages, and hours worked in services – April 2021](#)  
(11 June 2021)

The series “INE@COVID-19 Synthesis” began in April 2020, with the purpose of making available an aggregation of some of the most relevant official statistical findings released each week, taking into account the pandemic situation that was then declared in Portugal.

Statistics Portugal intends to continue to contribute this way to the monitoring of the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by decision makers in public and private bodies and also by the general public.

The same intention also led to the creation of the “Special INE COVID-19” area in Statistics Portugal’s portal, which also includes other aggregated contents under the same theme.

Press releases between 14-06-2021 and 18-06-2021:

Press releases	Reference period	Release date
Resident population estimates	2020	14 June 2021
Consumer price index	May 2021	14 June 2021
Tourism activity	April 2021	14 June 2021
Interest rates implied in housing loans	May 2021	17 June 2021
Household Finance and Consumption Survey	2020	18 June 2021
Industrial production price index	May 2021	18 June 2021