

April, 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates March 2015

### Unemployment rate estimated for March: 13.5%

The provisional unemployment rate estimated for March 2015 was 13.5%, down 0.1 percentage points from the definitive estimate for February 2015.

The provisional unemployed population estimated for March 2015 was 692.6 thousand people, down 1.0% from the definitive estimate for February 2015 (less 6.8 thousand people). The estimate of provisional employed population was 4,440.1 thousand people, 0.1% more than in the previous month (more 6.3 thousand people).

The unemployment rate developments for the most recent months were characterized by some instability (alternating between monthly increases and decreases of small relative size), which may result from a yet undefined trend in the labour market.

In these estimates, it was considered the population aged 15 to 74 and the values were seasonally adjusted.

#### Introductory note

In the present Press Release, we proceed with the dissemination of the monthly estimates of the employed and unemployed population (and corresponding rates) for March 2015.

The monthly estimates refer to centred moving quarters, where the reference month corresponds to the central month of each moving quarter (see note 1 at the end of the Press Release). In fact, the reference month of the present Press Release (March 2015) corresponds to the central month of the quarter consisting of the months from February to April 2015.

The estimates for March 2015 are provisional, since they correspond to a moving quarter where for the first two months the Labour Force Survey data collection

process has been already completed (February and March 2015) and for the third month a forecast was done (April 2015) based on time series models. In the next Press Release, the final figures for the moving quarter centred in March will be published.

The estimates reported in the present Press Release concerning February 2015 and the previous months are definitive.

Unless otherwise stated, the data series are seasonally adjusted, having been decided to highlight, in the analysis, the comparison with the more recent periods. The original data series, not seasonally adjusted, are available in Tables 1 and 2 of the annex and at the Statistics Portugal Portal.

The indicators analyzed refer to persons aged 15 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release), which differs from the criterion adopted at the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases (people aged 15 and over, in line with the concepts of the International Labour Organization in force).

### Employed population and employment rate

In February 2015, the employed population was estimated to be 4,433.8 thousand people, increasing by 0.4% from the previous month (18.3 thousand). This pattern occurs after a period of five consecutive months of continued employment decreases (from September 2014 to January 2015).

In March 2015, the provisional estimate for the employed population was 4,440.1 thousand people, which is up 0.1% from the previous month (6.3 thousand).

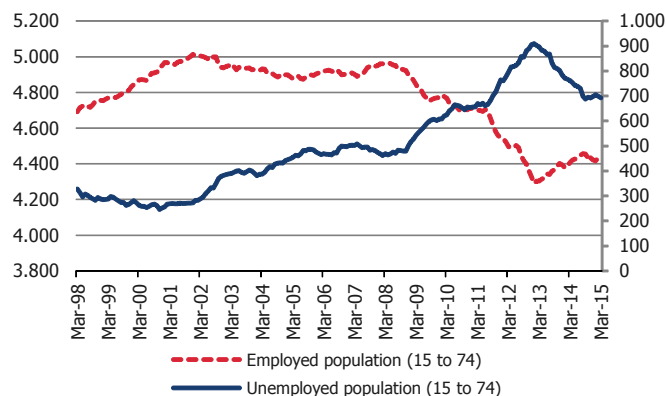
This employed population development was observed for adults (25 to 74 years old) (0.3%; 12.4 thousand), for men (0.2%; 3.5 thousand) and for women (0.1%; 2.8 thousand). For young people (15 to 24 years old) there was a change of opposite sign (-2.4%, corresponding to 6.0 thousand people).

The employment rate stood at 56.7%, increasing by 0.1 percentage points (p.p.) from the previous month level.

The employment rate of men (60.6%) exceeded that of women (53.1%) by 7.5 p.p.. Both increased from the previous month, by 0.2 p.p. and 0.1 p.p., respectively.

The employment rate of adults was 62.4% and that of young people was 21.9%. The former was up 0.2 p.p. from last month level and the latter was down 0.6 p.p..

**Figure 1: Employed and unemployed population**  
(seasonally adjusted data; thousands)



### Unemployed population and unemployment rate

In February 2015, the unemployed population was estimated to be 699.4 thousand people, decreasing by 0.9% from the previous month (6.0 thousand). This change occurs after a period of two consecutive months of continued unemployment increase (December 2014 and January 2015).

In March 2015, the provisional estimate for the unemployed population was 692.6 thousand people, decreasing by 1.0% from the previous month (6.8 thousand).

In this month, the unemployed population decreased in all groups considered: women (1.4%; 5.1 thousand), adults (0.7%; 4.3 thousand), young people (2.0%; 2.5 thousand) and men (0.5%; 1.8 thousand).

In February 2015, the unemployment rate stood at 13.6%, down 0.2 p.p. from the previous month. This behaviour, as for the unemployed population, occurs after a period of two consecutive months of continued unemployment increases (December 2014 and January 2015).

The unemployment rate development for the most recent months was characterized by some instability, alternating between monthly increases and decreases of small relative size, which may result from a still undefined trend in the labour market. In particular, there were increases in December 2014 and January 2015 and decreases in November 2014 and February 2015.

In March 2015, the provisional estimate for the unemployment rate was 13.5%, down 0.1 p.p. from the previous month, for which contributed the already mentioned decrease in the unemployed population and increase in the employed population.

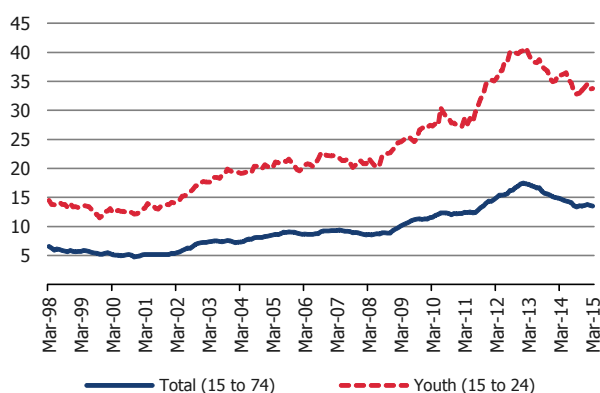
In this month, the unemployment rate of women (14.1%) exceeded that of men (12.9%) by 1.2 p.p.. Both decreased from the previous month (0.2 p.p. and 0.1 p.p., respectively).

The youth unemployment rate stood at 33.8%, having increased 0.1 p.p. from the previous month. The adults' unemployment rate stood at 11.9% and decreased by 0.2 p.p. from the previous month.

In February 2015, the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 14.0%, down 0.1 p.p. from the previous month. This change was observed after a period of four months of consecutive increases, from October 2014 to January 2015.

In March, the provisional estimate for the not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 13.7%, down 0.3 p.p. from the previous month level and 1.3 p.p. from March 2014.

**Figure 2: Total and youth unemployment rate**  
(seasonally adjusted data; %)



**Table 1: Employed population and employment rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)**

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Mar 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015 (p)	Mar 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015 (p)
	Thousands									
<b>Employed population (15 to 74)</b>	<b>4,407.4</b>	<b>4,420.8</b>	<b>4,415.5</b>	<b>4,433.8</b>	<b>4,440.1</b>	<b>4,394.7</b>	<b>4,397.6</b>	<b>4,388.0</b>	<b>4,407.3</b>	<b>4,426.2</b>
Men (15 to 74)	2,250.0	2,259.8	2,254.1	2,270.1	2,273.6	2,238.0	2,245.9	2,236.1	2,251.1	2,261.6
Women (15 to 74)	2,157.4	2,161.0	2,161.4	2,163.7	2,166.5	2,156.7	2,151.7	2,151.9	2,156.2	2,164.6
Youth (15 to 24)	244.9	243.6	244.8	247.8	241.8	241.2	239.6	240.6	242.2	236.9
Adults (25 to 74)	4,162.5	4,177.2	4,170.6	4,185.9	4,198.3	4,153.5	4,158.0	4,147.4	4,165.1	4,189.3
<b>%</b>										
<b>Employment rate (15 to 74)</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>56.6</b>	<b>56.7</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>56.1</b>	<b>56.0</b>	<b>56.2</b>	<b>56.5</b>
Men (15 to 74)	59.6	60.2	60.0	60.4	60.6	59.3	59.9	59.5	59.9	60.2
Women (15 to 74)	52.6	52.9	52.9	53.0	53.1	52.6	52.6	52.7	52.8	53.1
Youth (15 to 24)	22.2	22.2	22.2	22.5	21.9	21.8	21.8	21.8	22.0	21.5
Adults (25 to 74)	61.5	62.0	61.9	62.2	62.4	61.4	61.7	61.6	61.9	62.2

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

**Table 2: Unemployed population and unemployment rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)**

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Mar 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015 (p)	Mar 2014	Dec 2014	Jan 2015	Feb 2015	Mar 2015 (p)
	Thousands									
<b>Unemployed population (15 to 74)</b>	<b>762.4</b>	<b>697.1</b>	<b>705.4</b>	<b>699.4</b>	<b>692.6</b>	<b>775.5</b>	<b>708.9</b>	<b>719.0</b>	<b>718.5</b>	<b>704.3</b>
Men (15 to 74)	392.4	345.6	350.2	337.9	336.1	400.7	351.9	359.0	347.4	343.2
Women (15 to 74)	369.9	351.4	355.2	361.6	356.5	374.9	357.0	360.0	371.0	361.0
Youth (15 to 24)	138.0	125.5	129.1	125.8	123.3	137.9	129.4	132.5	129.4	122.9
Adults (25 to 74)	624.4	571.6	576.3	573.6	569.3	637.7	579.5	586.5	589.1	581.3
<b>%</b>										
<b>Unemployment rate (15 to 74)</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>13.7</b>
Men (15 to 74)	14.9	13.3	13.4	13.0	12.9	15.2	13.5	13.8	13.4	13.2
Women (15 to 74)	14.6	14.0	14.1	14.3	14.1	14.8	14.2	14.3	14.7	14.3
Youth (15 to 24)	36.0	34.0	34.5	33.7	33.8	36.4	35.1	35.5	34.8	34.2
Adults (25 to 74)	13.0	12.0	12.1	12.1	11.9	13.3	12.2	12.4	12.4	12.2

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes: (p) - Provisional estimates.

## 1. PRESENTATION NOTE OF THE MONTHLY RELEASE OF LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES

### BRIEF SYNTHESIS

With the release of the results for October 2014, Statistics Portugal initiated a monthly release of Labour Force Survey estimates for the main labour market indicators in addition to the usual quarterly estimates releases (for more information, see detailed note previously disclosed, only available in Portuguese). In the present Press Release, we proceed with the dissemination of the monthly estimates for March 2015.

With this initiative, Statistics Portugal intends to provide to users monthly updated information on labour market recent developments, allowing, at the same time, a more complete reading picture than that provided so far by Eurostat in its monthly releases of the unemployed population and unemployment rate estimates for Portugal. With this dissemination, Statistics Portugal satisfies also a specific requirement from the PEEIs (Principal European Economic Indicators).

Taking advantage of the continuous nature of the Labour Force Survey collection process (see the "Technical note", below), it is possible to monthly obtain estimates related to successive sets of three months (moving quarters), assuring consistency with the quarterly released estimates. The use of data collected exclusively from the Labour Force Survey leads to revisions of smaller size than those arising from models that also use administrative data (registered unemployment).

The monthly estimates refer to *centred* moving quarters, where the reference month corresponds to the central month of each moving quarter. In fact, the reference month of the present Press Release (March 2015) corresponds to the central month of the quarter consisting of the months from February to April 2015.

In consequence, the monthly changes are calculated on values that contain common months. The comparison of moving quarters without common months should be done in relation to reference months three months earlier.

The option for disseminating centred moving quarters series aimed at avoiding delays in the detection of turning points in the economic cycle that arise from the use of simple moving averages, but it implies that the estimates for the latest released moving quarter are provisional (see "Revisions" section, below).

As estimates of centred moving quarters, the values (not seasonally adjusted) of the reference months February, May, August and November of each year correspond to the estimates of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> natural quarters, respectively, whose results are released and analyzed with greater detail in the quarterly release of Labour Force Survey estimates.

#### Information available

The data series selected for monthly releases refer to both employed and unemployed population, by sex and age group, and to the corresponding rates. In relation to these data series, it should be noted the following:

- For the purpose of creating long monthly data series needed for subsequent adjustment of seasonality, the two latest data series of the Labour Force Survey (from 1998 to 2010; from 2011 onwards) were previously linked.
- The data series analyzed in this Press Release are seasonally adjusted, having been decided to highlight, in the analysis, the comparison with the more recent periods. As agreed, Eurostat began to use these estimates in its unemployment monthly releases. The original data series (not seasonally adjusted; as in the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases), are available in Tables 1 and 2 of the annex and at the Official Statistics Portal.
- The indicators analyzed in this Press Release were calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 15 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release), which differs from the criterion adopted at the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases (people aged 15 and over, in line with the concepts in force of the International Labour Organization).

The back series for all the released and analyzed indicators in this Press Release, since February 1998 (quarter from January to March 1998), are available at the Statistics Portugal Portal.

*(to be continued)*

(continuation)

## Revisions

The monthly released data are subject to revisions. The revisions come, on one hand, from the updating of the seasonally adjusted data series whenever a new observation is added and, on the other hand, from the definitive estimates then obtained for the last month (moving quarter).

The estimates for the latest month (moving quarter) are provisional, since this quarter is composed of two months for which the data collection process from the Labour Force Survey has been completed and of one month for which a forecast was done based on time series models (state space models for exponential smoothing). In the next Press Release, the collection process for the three months of that quarter will have already been concluded, hence the corresponding estimates will be reviewed and their definitive value will be published.

The impact of those revisions, measured by the difference between the estimates now released for February 2015 (definitive estimates) and the ones for that month published in the last Press Release, is the following:

Revision of February 2015 estimates - main indicators			
	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data	Not seasonally adjusted data
Employed population (15 to 74)	Thousands	33.9	33.2
Unemployed population (15 to 74)		- 20.2	- 20.5
Employment rate (15 to 74)		0.5	0.4
Unemployment rate (15 to 74)	p.p.	- 0.5	- 0.5
Youth unemployment rate (15 to 24)		- 1.3	- 1.5
Adults' unemployment rate (25 to 74)		- 0.3	- 0.3



## 2. TECHNICAL NOTE

The main purpose of the Labour Force Survey is to characterise the population in terms of the labour market. It is a quarterly sample survey, addressed to families occupying the same dwelling in the national territory, which makes available quarterly and annual data.

Most of the characteristics observed in this survey report to the situation in one pre-defined week (from Monday to Sunday), known as *reference week*. Reference weeks are uniformly distributed throughout the quarters and years. The interviews usually take place in the week following the reference week. These characteristics allow to monthly obtain estimates for three months periods without decreasing the estimates precision.

The information is obtained directly, through computer-assisted interview, by using a mixed data collection mode: the initial interview is done face-to-face by an interviewer visiting the household and the other five interviews are done by telephone, if certain requirements are met. Published data were calibrated by using the population estimates calculated from the final results of Census 2011.

### Concepts

**Unemployed:** person aged 15 and 74 who, during the reference period, was simultaneously in the following situations:

- without work, i.e. was not in paid employment or self-employment;
- seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period (reference period or the three previous weeks) to seek paid employment or self-employment; and
- currently available for work, i.e. was available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period.

**Employed:** person aged 15 and over who, during the reference period, was in one of the following situations:

- did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, including a familiar gain in money or gender;
- was not working but had jobs from which was temporarily absent;
- had a business, but was temporarily not working for a specific reason;
- was in a pre-retirement situation while working.

**Unemployment rate:** ratio between the unemployed population and the labour force.

$U.R. (\%) = (\text{Unemployed population} / \text{Labour force}) \times 100$

**Employment rate (15 and over):** ratio between the employed population and the working age total population (15 and over).

$E.R. (\%) = (\text{Employed population} / \text{Total population 15 and over}) \times 100$

For the selected indicators monthly disseminated, it was considered the age subgroup of those aged 15 to 74 (see Note 1).

For a more detailed definition on the concepts and the methodological characteristics of the Labour Force Survey, see the quarterly publication "Employment Statistics", available only in Portuguese, at [http://www.ine.pt/portal/page/portal/PORTAL\\_INE/Publicacoes](http://www.ine.pt/portal/page/portal/PORTAL_INE/Publicacoes).

Due to rounding, totals may not correspond exactly to the sum of the parts.

### Next Press Release:

2 June 2015: "Employment and Unemployment Statistics – April 2015".

3 June 2015: Eurostat News Release.