

14th February 2011

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

4th Quarter 2010

Gross Domestic Product up by 1.2% in real terms in the 4th quarter 2010

The Flash Estimate of the Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) points to a year on year growth rate of 1.2% in volume in the 4th quarter 2010 (1.3% in the previous quarter). Comparing with the previous quarter, the Portuguese GDP diminished 0.3%.

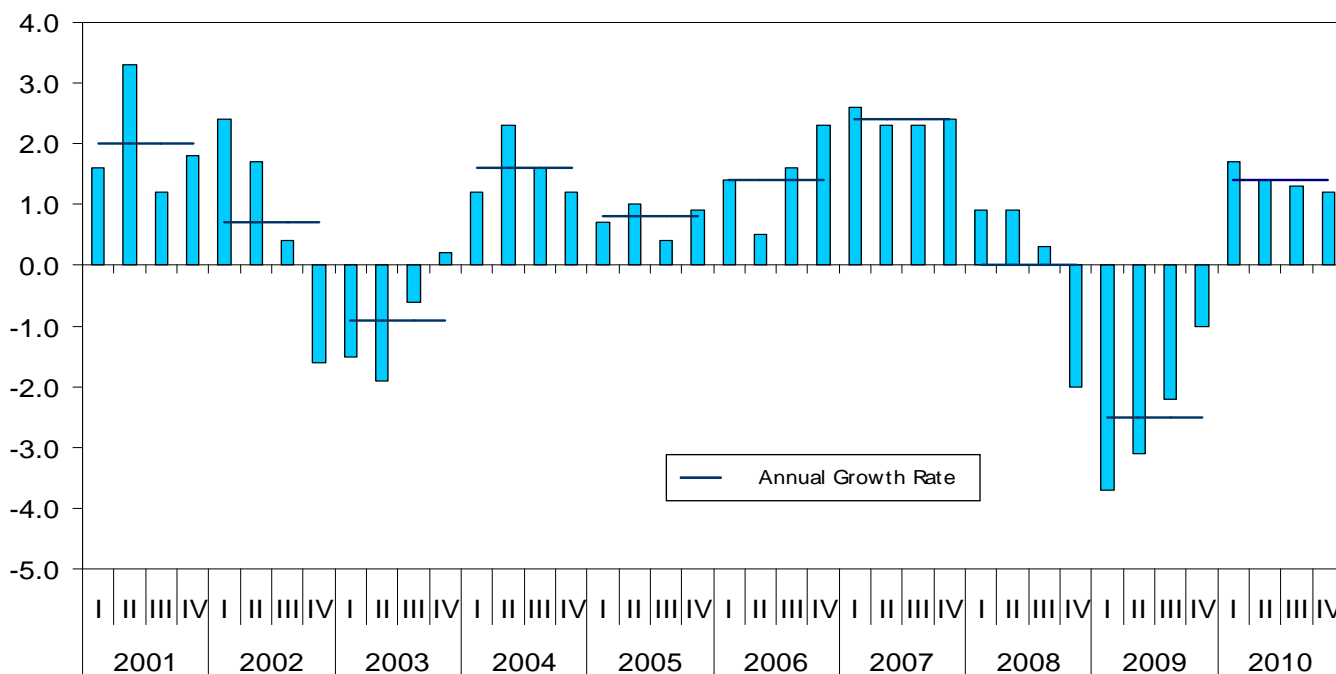
The contribution of Exports of Goods and Services for the GDP year on year change rate remained strong in the 4th quarter although it was slightly lower than the observed in the previous quarter. The Final Consumption Expenditures of Resident Households decelerated, despite the stronger growth of the motor vehicles component, while Investment diminished less intensely when compared with the 3rd quarter.

According to the preliminary estimate, Portuguese GDP was up by 1.4% in real terms in 2010.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain-linked volume data (reference year=2006)

Year on year quarterly change rate, %



This flash estimate includes revisions in the data, particularly on the deflators of the imports of goods and, to a larger extent, of exports. This new information implied a downward revision of 0.1 p.p. in the year on year and in the quarter on quarter GDP growth rates for the 3rd quarter.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Year on Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)								
	4Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10
Flash 4Q 2010	-2.0	-3.7	-3.1	-2.2	-1.0	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2
QNA 3Q 2010	-2.0	-3.7	-3.1	-2.2	-1.0	1.7	1.4	1.4	
Flash 3Q 2010	-2.0	-3.7	-3.0	-2.2	-1.0	1.7	1.4	1.5	

	Quarter on Quarter Growth Rate (%)								
	4Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10
Flash 4Q 2010	-1.4	-1.6	0.6	0.2	-0.2	1.1	0.2	0.2	-0.3
QNA 3Q 2010	-1.4	-1.6	0.6	0.2	-0.2	1.1	0.2	0.3	
Flash 3Q 2010	-1.4	-1.6	0.6	0.2	-0.2	1.1	0.2	0.4	

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days); QNA - Quarterly National Accounts (70 days)

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	2008	2009	2010
Flash 4Q 2010	0.0	-2.5	1.4
QNA 3Q 2010	0.0	-2.5	

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts (70 days)

2008, 2009 and 2010: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 4th quarter 2010 will be published in 11th March 2011.

Methodological information about the flash estimate

Flash estimates for GDP constitutes the first synthetic indication on the quarterly behavior for the Portuguese economy and does not replace the main estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (also designated as current estimates), more accurate and detailed, which is published 70 days after the end of the reference quarter.

These flash estimates are calculated using the same methodology, and preferably the same basic information, compared to the Quarterly National Accounts current estimate. The percentage of basic information available for flash estimates is over 80%. Methods for imputation and forecasting are used in those cases where basic information is not complete, selected after a series of tests performed over a large sample. One must take into consideration that these flash estimates are eventually subject to larger revisions (when compared to current estimates), although the percentage of basic information available is high.

In the real time tests carried out from 2nd quarter 2005 onwards, the mean absolute error for the flash estimate was 0.1 percentage points for both year-on-year quarterly growth rate and quarter-on-quarter growth rate, when compared to the current estimate. However, it must be stressed that in the current economic juncture, characterized by significant price decelerations or even reductions, the difficulty in measuring the behaviour of main macroeconomic aggregates is particularly high, mainly in splitting the nominal change of exports and imports in price and volume changes. It should be reminded that when this estimate is produced the usual information on external trade deflators used in the Quarterly National Accounts compilation is not available.

This press release only includes information on quarter-on-quarter and year-on-year quarterly growth rates in real terms.

Growth rates included in this press release are calculated from chain linked volume data (2006=100). Data is seasonally adjusted.