

16th August 2011

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

2nd Quarter 2011

Gross Domestic Product down by 0.9% in real terms in the 2nd quarter 2011

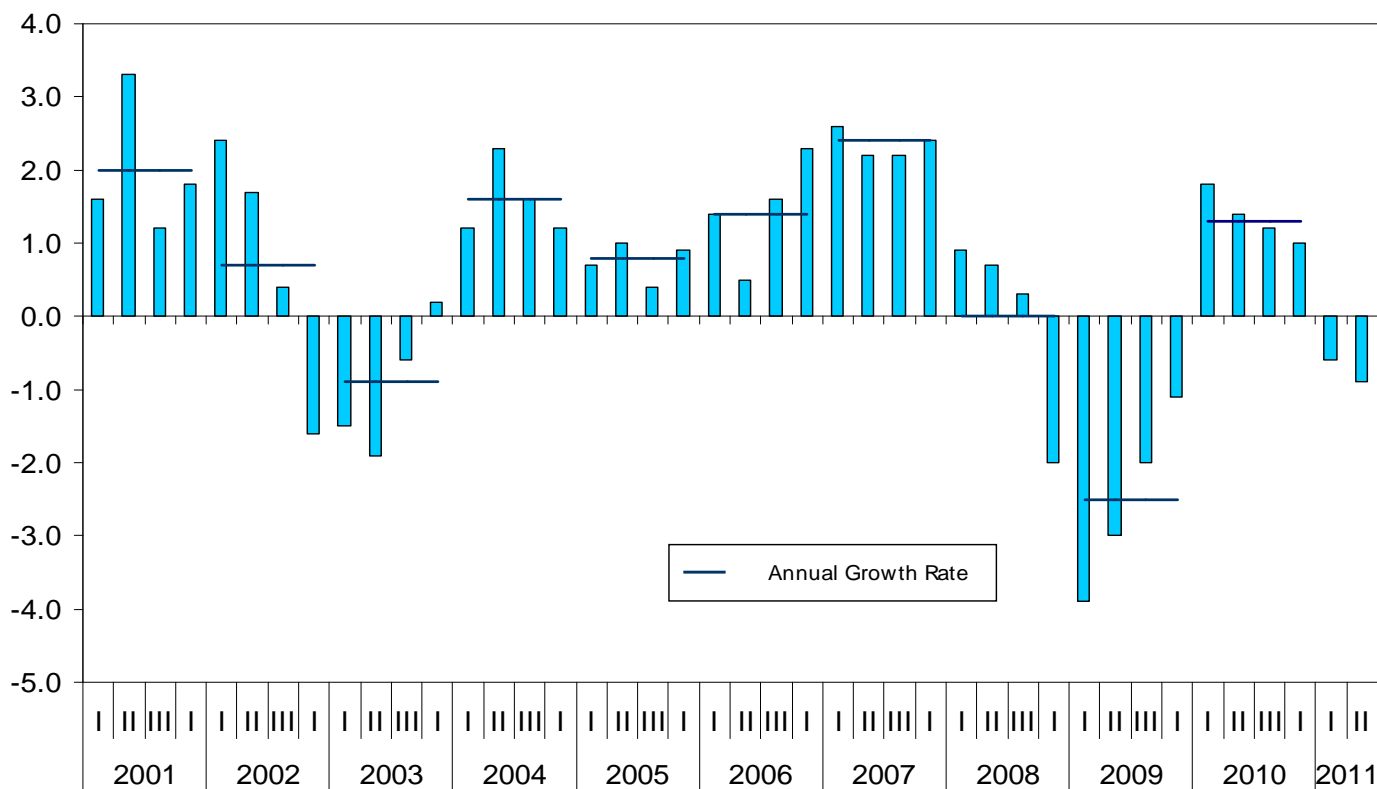
The Flash Estimate of the Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) points to a year on year change rate of -0.9% in volume in the 2nd quarter 2011 (change rate of -0.6% in the 1st quarter 2011). Comparing with the previous quarter, the Portuguese GDP remained unchanged.

The year on year GDP reduction in the 2nd quarter 2011 was driven by the strong decrease in Investment and Final Consumption Expenditures of Households, mainly the durable goods component. Imports of Goods and Services also diminished, whilst Exports of Goods and Services maintained a strong year on year growth rate.

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 the updated information on external trade of goods for the 1st quarter 2011. Despite this new information, the GDP year on year and quarter on quarter change rates for the 1st quarter 2011 remained unchanged.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Year on Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)								
	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10	1Q 11	2Q 11
Flash 2Q 2011	-3.0	-2.0	-1.1	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	-0.6	-0.9
QNA 1Q 2011	-3.0	-2.0	-1.1	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	-0.6	
Flash 1Q 2011	-3.0	-2.0	-1.1	1.8	1.4	1.2	1.0	-0.7	

	Quarter on Quarter Growth Rate (%)								
	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10	1Q 11	2Q 11
Flash 2Q 2011	0.7	0.5	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.6	-0.6	0.0
QNA 1Q 2011	0.7	0.5	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.6	-0.6	
Flash 1Q 2011	0.7	0.5	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.6	-0.7	

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

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	2008	2009	2010
Flash 2Q 2011	0.0	-2.5	1.3
QNA 1Q 2011	0.0	-2.5	1.3
Flash 1Q 2011	0.0	-2.5	1.3

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts

2008: definitive data; 2009 and 2010: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 2nd quarter 2011 will be published on 8th September 2011.

Methodological information about the flash estimate

Flash estimates for GDP constitutes the first synthetic indication on the quarterly behaviour 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.