

14th February 2012

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

4th Quarter 2011

Gross Domestic Product decreased 2.7% in real terms in the 4th quarter 2011

The Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) registered a year-on-year change rate of -2.7% in volume in the 4th quarter 2011 (-1.8% in the previous quarter), accordingly with the flash estimate of the Quarterly National Accounts. Comparing with the previous quarter, the Portuguese GDP diminished 1.3%.

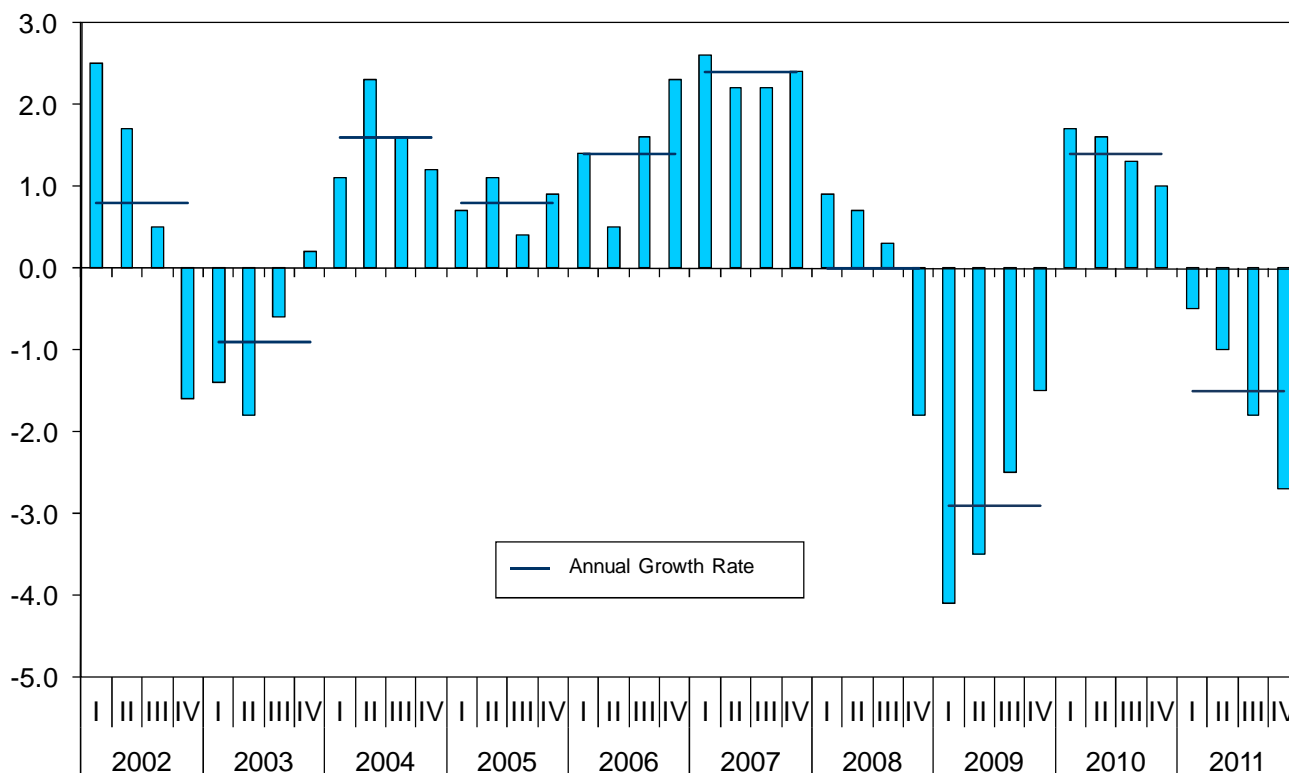
The more intense year-on-year GDP reduction in the 4th quarter 2011 reflected a significant decline in the negative contribution of Domestic Demand, mainly driven by a stronger decrease in Investment and Households' Final Consumption Expenditures. The positive contribution of Net External Demand increased, mainly as a result of a strong year-on-year decrease in Imports of Goods and Services. Exports of Goods and Services, although decelerating, continued to register a high year-on-year growth rate.

In 2011, the Portuguese GDP diminished 1.5% in real terms.

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. This new information implied a downward revision of 0.1 p.p. in the year-on-year GDP change rate for the 3rd quarter 2011.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Year-on-Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)								
	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10	1Q 11	2Q 11	3Q 11	4Q 11
Flash 4Q 2011	-1.5	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.8	-2.7
QNA 3Q 2011	-1.5	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.0	-0.5	-1.0	-1.7	
Flash 3Q 2011	-1.1	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.1	-0.4	-1.0	-1.7	

	Quarter-on-Quarter Growth Rate (%)								
	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10	1Q 11	2Q 11	3Q 11	4Q 11
Flash 4Q 2011	-0.1	0.9	0.3	0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2	-0.6	-1.3
QNA 3Q 2011	-0.1	0.9	0.3	0.2	-0.4	-0.6	-0.2	-0.6	
Flash 3Q 2011	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	-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 (%)		
	2009	2010	2011
Flash 4Q 2011	-2.9	1.4	-1.5
QNA 3Q 2011	-2.9	1.4	
Flash 3Q 2011	-2.5	1.4	

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts

2009: definitive data; 2010 and 2011: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 4th quarter 2011 will be published in 9th March 2012.

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.