

15th May 2014

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

First Quarter 2014

Year-on-year change rate of Gross Domestic Product was 1.2% in volume

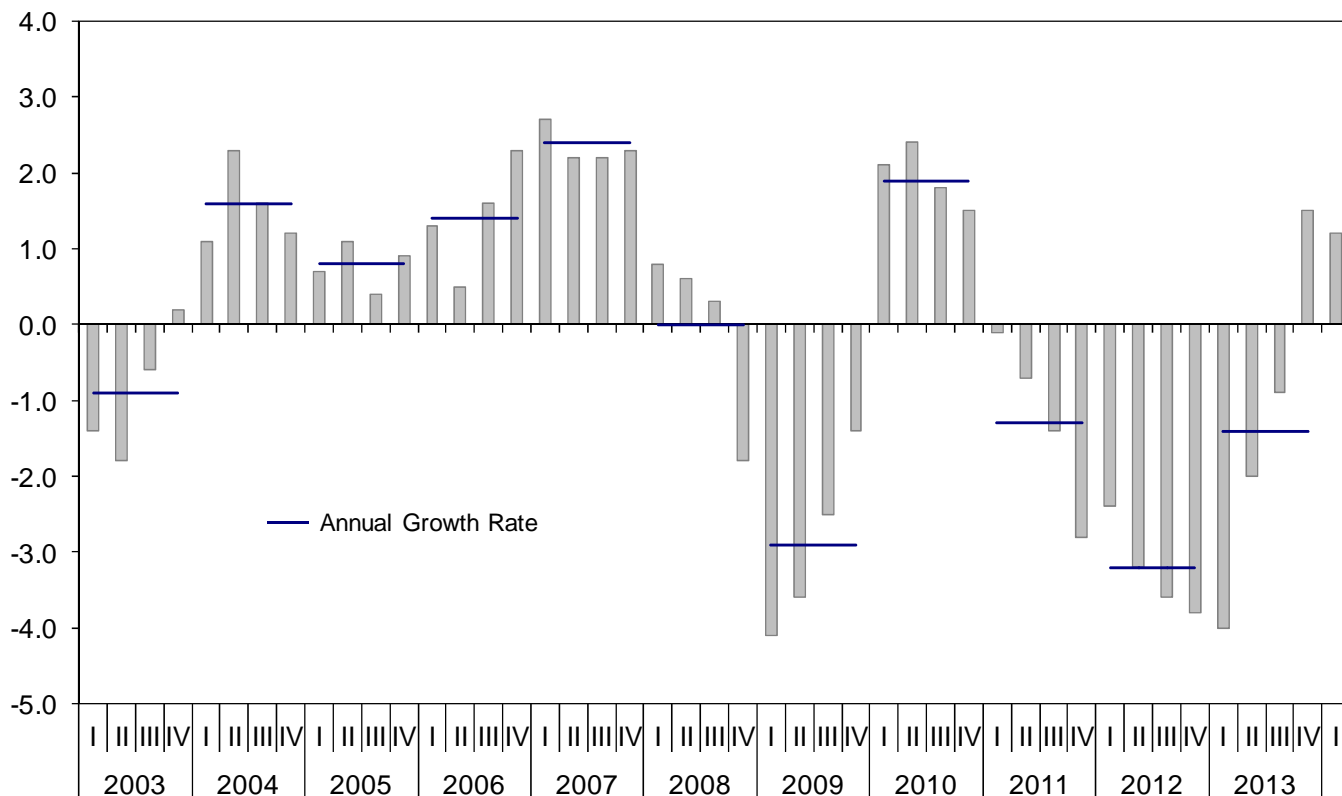
The Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 1.2%, in volume, in the first quarter 2014, compared with the same period of 2013 (1.5% in the fourth quarter 2013), according to the flash estimate of the Quarterly National Accounts. Net external demand recorded a pronounced negative contribution to the GDP year-on-year change rate in the first quarter, after a positive contribution in the previous quarter, mainly due to the deceleration of Exports of Goods and Services while Imports of Goods and Services accelerated. On the contrary, domestic demand presented a more significant positive contribution in the first quarter, mostly due to the Investment evolution.

Comparing with the previous quarter, GDP decreased by 0.7% in real terms (change rate of 0.5% in the fourth quarter), mainly reflecting the reduction in the Exports of Goods and Services.

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, with revisions in nominal terms and in deflators for the fourth quarter 2013. Additionally, the revision for 2013 of the Short-term Indicators was considered. This new information led to a downward revision of 0.1 percentage points in the GDP year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter change rates for the fourth quarter 2013.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Year-on-Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)									
	1Q 12	2Q 12	3Q 12	4Q 12	1Q 13	2Q 13	3Q 13	4Q 13	1Q 14	
Flash 1Q 2014	-2.4	-3.2	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-2.0	-0.9	1.5	1.2	
QNA 4Q 2013 (90 days)	-2.4	-3.2	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-2.0	-0.9	1.6		
QNA 4Q 2013 (70 days)	-2.4	-3.2	-3.6	-3.8	-4.0	-2.0	-0.9	1.7		

	Quarter-on-Quarter Growth Rate (%)									
	1Q 12	2Q 12	3Q 12	4Q 12	1Q 13	2Q 13	3Q 13	4Q 13	1Q 14	
Flash 1Q 2014	-0.1	-1.0	-0.8	-1.9	-0.3	1.1	0.3	0.5	-0.7	
QNA 4Q 2013 (90 days)	-0.1	-1.0	-0.8	-1.9	-0.3	1.1	0.3	0.6		
QNA 4Q 2013 (70 days)	-0.1	-1.0	-0.8	-1.9	-0.3	1.1	0.3	0.6		

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days); QNA - Quarterly National Accounts; QNA (90 days) - Data released on the 31st March 2014 in the section of National Accounts available at Statistics Portugal website, with the introduction of the latest Excessive Deficit Procedure.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	2011	2012	2013
Flash 1Q 2014	-1.3	-3.2	-1.4
QNA 4Q 2013 (90 days)	-1.3	-3.2	-1.4
QNA 4Q 2013 (70 days)	-1.3	-3.2	-1.4

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts

2011: provisional data; 2012 and 2013: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the first quarter 2014 will be published on 9th June 2014.

Methodological information about the flash estimates

Flash estimates for GDP constitute the first synthetic indication on the quarterly behaviour for the Portuguese economy and do not replace the main estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (also designated as current estimates), more accurate and detailed, which are 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 might be 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 the second quarter 2005 onwards, the mean absolute error for the flash estimate was 0.1 percentage points for both year-on-year quarterly change rate and quarter-on-quarter change 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 change rates in real terms.

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