

August, 5th 2015

Employment Statistics 2nd guarter of 2015

Unemployment rate estimated at 11.9%

The unemployment rate for the 2nd quarter of 2015 was 11.9%. This value is down 1.8 percentage points (p.p.) from the previous quarter and 2.0 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

The unemployed population was estimated at 620.4 thousand people, corresponding to a quarterly decrease of 13.0% and to a year-on-year decrease of 14.9% (less 92.5 thousand and less 108.5 thousand people, respectively).

The employed population was estimated at 4 580.8 thousand people, which corresponds to a quarterly increase of 2.3% (more 103.7 thousand people) and to a year-on-year increase of 1.5% (more 66.2 thousand people).

The participation rate of the working age population stood at 58.6%, up 0.1 p.p. from the previous quarter and down 0.4 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

In this quarter, Statistics Portugal starts releasing estimates of quarterly flows between labour force states (gross and net flows) in number of persons, as a complement to the transition rates usually released, as explained in pages 6 to 8 of this Press Release. Eurostat expects to start releasing, possibly even in 2015, these results by country, which are obtained by means of a methodology that is close to the one developed by Statistics Portugal.

In these estimates, it was considered the population aged 15 and over and the values were not seasonally adjusted.

1. Labour force (active population)

The Labour Force Survey results for the 2^{nd} quarter of 2015^1 indicate that the labour force (active population), estimated at 5 201.2 thousand people, increased by 0.2% (11.2 thousand people) from the previous quarter and decreased by 0.8% from the same quarter of 2014 (42.3 thousand).

The participation rate of the working age population (aged 15 and over) stood at 58.6%, increasing 0.1 p.p.

from the previous quarter and decreasing 0.4 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

The participation rate of men (64.0%) exceeded that of women (53.9%) by 10.1 p.p..

Compared to the previous quarter, the participation rate increased both for men and for women (0.2 p.p. and 0.1 p.p., respectively).

However, compared to the same quarter of 2014, the participation rate decreased for men (0.8 p.p.) and remained unchanged for women.

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 $^{^1}$ See the note at the end of this Press Release (last page) on the integration of the 2011 Census results in the Labour Force Survey sample.





2. Employed population

2.1. Quarterly changes

The employed population, estimated at 4 580.8 thousand people, increased by 2.3% from the previous quarter (103.7 thousand), when it had been observed a 0.3% downward change (14.5 thousand).



The quarterly increase of the employed population came mostly from the following groups: women (69.3 thousand; 3.2%); people aged 45 to 64 (50.2 thousand; 2.8%); having completed the first and second stages of basic education (54.9 thousand; 2.4%) and the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (43.0 thousand; 3.9%); employed in the services sector (59.0 thousand; 1.9%); as employees (82.3 thousand; 2.3%); and working full-time (112.7 thousand; 2.9%).

The employment rate (aged 15 and over) stood at 51.7%, having increased by 1.2 p.p. from the previous quarter.

The employment rate of men (56.3%) exceeded that of women (47.6%) by 8.7 p.p..

Still comparing to the previous quarter, the employment rate increased both for men (0.8 p.p.) and for women (1.5 p.p.).



The number of underemployed part-time workers, estimated at 242.8 thousand, corresponded to 5.3% of total employed population and to 42.4% of part-time employed population (note that the number of part-time workers, in the same period, corresponded to 12.5% of total employed population).

The number of underemployed part-time workers decreased by 3.7% (9.2 thousand) from the previous quarter.

2.2. Yearly changes

From the same quarter of 2014, the employed population increased by 1.5% (66.2 thousand).





The year-on-year increase of the employed population came mostly from the following groups: women (62.7 thousand; 2.9%); people aged 45 to 64 (54.2 thousand; 3.0%); having completed the tertiary level of education (64.1 thousand; 6.0%) and the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (60.0 thousand; 5.6%); employed in the services sector (75.5 thousand; 2.5%); as employees (128.0 thousand; 3.6%); and working full-time (85.7 thousand; 2.2%).

The employment rate (aged 15 and over) increased by 0.9 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014 and was also observed for men (0.2 p.p.) and for women (1.4 p.p.).

The number of underemployed part-time workers decreased by 3.7% from the same quarter of 2014 (9.4 thousand).

In the 2^{nd} quarter of 2015, the employed population had the following composition:

• By sex: 51.0% of men and 49.0% of women.

By age group: 5.4% of young people (15 to 24 years old), 20.8% of people aged from 25 to 34, 28.4% aged from 35 to 44, 40.1% aged from 45 to 64, and 5.4% aged 65 and over.

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- By level of education: 50.6% of employed people having completed the first or second stages of basic education, 24.8% the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, and 24.6% the tertiary education.
- By activity sector: 8.0% of workers in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, 24.2% in the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector, and 67.8% in the services sector.
- By labour status: 81.3% of employees (of which, 77.8% with a permanent job – work contract of unlimited duration), 18.2% of self-employed workers, and 0.5% of unpaid family workers.
- By work duration regime: 87.5% of full-time workers and 12.5% of part-time workers.

3. Unemployed population

3.1. Quarterly changes

The unemployed population, estimated at 620.4 thousand people, decreased by 13.0% from the previous quarter (92.5 thousand).

In the 1^{st} quarter of 2015, the unemployed population had registered a 2.1% quarterly increase (14.6 thousand).





The unemployed population quarterly decrease came mostly from the following groups: women (64.5 thousand; 17.6%); people of all age groups, particularly those aged 35 to 44 (25.6 thousand; 15.2%); having completed the first or second stages of basic education (49.6 thousand; 12.6%); seeking a new job (85.8 thousand; 13.5%), who were formerly in the services sector (58.3 thousand; 14.6%); and seeking a job for 12 months or longer (62.9 thousand; 13.7%).

The unemployment rate for the 2^{nd} quarter of 2015 stood at 11.9%, down 1.8 p.p. from the 1^{st} quarter of 2015.² In this quarter, the unemployment rate had registered a quarterly increase of 0.2 p.p..

The unemployment rate of men (12.0%) was upper than that of women (11.8%) by 0.2 p.p..

Still comparing to the previous quarter, both the unemployment rate of men and of women decreased (1.1 p.p. and 2.6 p.p., respectively).

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3.2. Yearly changes

From the same quarter of 2014, the unemployed population decreased 14.9% (108.5 thousand).



The unemployed population year-on-year decrease came mostly from the following groups: women (63.9

 $^{^2}$ Please note that this unemployment rate was calculated for those aged 15 and over (in line with the concepts in force of the International Labour Organization). The unemployment rate for the moving quarter centered in May 2015 (which corresponds to the 2nd quarter 2015), published in the Press Release of June 2015, was calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 15 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release). This rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 12.0%.





The unemployment rate decreased by 2.0 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014, as for the unemployment rate of men (1.5 p.p.) and of women (2.5 p.p.).

In the 2nd quarter of 2015, the unemployed population had the following composition:

- By sex: 51.4% of men and 48.6% of women.
- By age group: 16.9% of young people (15 to 24 years old), 22.3% of people aged from 25 to 34, 23.0% aged from 35 to 44, and 37.8% aged 45 and over.
- By level of education: 55.5% of unemployed having completed the first or second stages of basic education, 28.0% the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, and 16.4% the tertiary education.
- By type of unemployment / activity sector: 11.4% of unemployed looking for a first job and 88.6% looking for a new job (of which, 1.9% coming from the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, 31.0% from the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector, and 61.9% from the services sector).
- By duration of search: 36.0% of unemployed seeking a job for less than 12 months and 64.0%

looking for a job for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment).

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4. Inactive population

The inactive population decreased by 0.4% from the previous quarter (22.5 thousand) and by 0.2% from the same quarter of 2014 (8.1 thousand).

The inactive population aged 15 and over, estimated at 3 667.3 thousand people (71.3% of total inactive population), decreased by 0.4% from the previous quarter (13.5 thousand) and increased by 0.7% from the same quarter of 2014 (24.4 thousand).

The inactivity rate (aged 15 and over) stood at 41.4%, decreasing 0.1 p.p. from the previous quarter and increasing by 0.4 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

The inactivity rate (aged 15 and over) of women (46.1%) exceeded that of men (36.0%) by 10.1 p.p..

Compared to the previous quarter, this inactivity rate decreased for men (0.2 p.p.) and for women (0.1 p.p.).

On the other hand, from the same quarter of 2014, the inactivity rate (aged 15 and over) increased for men (0.8 p.p.) and remained unchanged for women.

The number of persons seeking work but not immediately available, estimated at 22.5 thousand, corresponded to 0.6% of the inactive population aged 15 and over. That number decreased by 4.7% from the previous quarter (1.1 thousand) and by 20.8% from the same quarter of 2014 (5.9 thousand).

The number of persons available to work but not seeking, estimated at 242.9 thousand, corresponded to 6.6% of the inactive population aged 15 and over. That





number decreased by 5.4% from the previous quarter (13.9 thousand) and by 5.3% from the same quarter of 2014 (13.7 thousand).

Figure 7 exhibits a summary of the observed changes in this quarter (year-on-year and quarterly) by labour market status, as described in items 1 to 4 of this Press Release.



5. Quarterly flows between labour market states³

5.1. Gross and net flows (number of persons)

Employment

From the 1st to the 2nd quarter of 2015, the number of persons that moved from employment (E) to unemployment (U) was 103.2 thousand and the number of those who moved from employment to inactivity (aged 15 and over; I) was 144.1 thousand. The number of persons moving out of employment, within a quarter, was, then, 247.4 thousand.

At the same time, the employment inflows from unemployment were 174.8 thousand persons while those from inactivity were 176.3 thousand. The number of persons moving into employment, within a quarter, was, then, 251.1 thousand.

As a consequence, between the two quarters there was a positive net flow into employment (that is, total

³ Statistics Portugal starts releasing quarterly flows between labour force states estimates calculated by means of an improved methodology that ensures consistency with the quarterly estimates of employed, unemployed and inactive (aged 15 and over) population. The remaining characteristics of the flows estimates methodology remain unchanged.

This methodology allows releasing, apart from the (usual) estimates of quarterly transition rates between labour market states, also the estimates of the number of persons who, within a quarter, moved between those states (gross flows) and the calculation of net flows (inflows minus outflows from each state). These net flows correspond, specifically for the employment and unemployment, to the quarterly changes for the employed and unemployed population, respectively, calculated from the usual complete cross-sectional samples.

The aforementioned estimates are available at the Statistics Portugal Portal for the last two series of the Labour Force Survey (from the 2^{nd} quarter of 1998 to the 4^{th} quarter of 2010 and from the 2^{nd} quarter of 2011 onwards).





inflows minus total outflows) of 103.7 thousand persons (the employed population quarterly change).



Unemployment

The net flow into unemployment was negative and comprised 92.5 thousand persons (the unemployed population quarterly change), which arises from the total inflows (200.7 thousand) being smaller than total outflows (293.2 thousand).

The unemployment inflows from employment (103.2 thousand) were larger than those from inactivity (97.4 thousand). The unemployment outflows to employment (174.8 thousand) were also larger than those to inactivity (118.4 thousand).

The next figures exhibit the quarterly developments of the net employment and unemployment flows, from the 2^{nd} quarter of 2011 onwards, and their decomposition into the two components that explain them: net flows

between employment and unemployment and net flows between employment and inactivity, in the former; net flows between unemployment and employment and net flows between unemployment and inactivity, in the latter.





From these estimates analysis, it is possible to conclude, for the 2^{nd} quarter 2015, that:

• The employment quarterly increase was explained mainly by the positive net flow between



employment and unemployment (the number of persons who have moved from unemployment to employment was larger, by 71.5 thousand, than those who moved from employment to unemployment). The net flow between employment and inactivity was also positive, but its contribution to the overall increase in employment was smaller (32.1 thousand).

 The unemployment quarterly decrease, of 71.5 thousand, was explained mainly by the negative net flow between unemployment and employment (71.5 thousand). The net flow between unemployment and inactivity was also negative, but its contribution to the overall decrease in unemployment was smaller (21.0 mil).

2.2. Transition rates (%)

From the 1st to the 2nd quarter of 2015, 2.3% of the people initially employed moved into unemployment and 3.2% moved into inactivity, with the proportion of employed moving out of this situation totalling around 5.5% in the 2nd quarter of 2015 (94.5% remained employed).

From the total unemployed in the 1st quarter of 2015, 41.1% moved out of this labour market state in the 2nd quarter of 2015: 24.5% became employed and 16.6% moved into inactivity.

From the total of people aged 15 and over considered to be inactive in the 1^{st} quarter of 2015: 4.8% moved into employment and 2.6% moved into unemployment, in the 2^{nd} quarter of 2015.

Diagram 2: Quarterly flows between labour force states (as a % of initial state)

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6. Unemployment rates by NUTS II region

In the 2nd quarter of 2015, the unemployment rate was higher than the national average in four NUTS II regions of the country: *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (13.6%), *Norte* (13.4%), *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (12.7%), and *Alentejo* (12.6%).

Below the national average, there was the unemployment rate of *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (11.3%), *Algarve* (10.8%), and *Centro* (8.5%).

Compared to the previous quarter, as for the overall picture in Portugal, the unemployment rate decreased in all regions: *Algarve* (5.6 p.p.), *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (3.6 p.p.), *Alentejo* (2.9 p.p.), *Centro* (2.6 p.p.), *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (2.2 p.p.), *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (1.5 p.p.), and *Norte* (0.8 p.p.).





Table 1: Unemployment rates by NUTS II region (NUTS-2013)							
	20.2014	Unit: 9					
	2Q-2014	1Q-2015	2Q-2015				
Portugal	13.9	13.7	11.9				
Norte	15.0	14.2	13.4				
Centro	10.4	11.1	8.5				
Área Metropolitana de Lisboa	15.1	14.2	12.7				
Alentejo	14.0	15.5	12.6				
Algarve	13.5	16.4	10.8				
R. A. Açores	16.0	14.9	11.3				
R. A. Madeira	15.7	15.8	13.6				

Source: INE, Labour Force Survey - 2nd quarter of 2015.

Notes:

1. Values calibrated by using the population estimates calculated from the final results of Census 2011.

2. From January 1, 2015 onwards a new version of NUTS (NUTS 2013) came into force. At NUTS II level, there was only the renaming of the NUTS "Lisboa" as "Área Metropolitana de Lisboa".

Compared to the same quarter of 2014, and also similarly to the overall picture in Portugal, the unemployment rate decreased in all regions.

The largest decreases were recorded in *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (4.7 p.p.), *Algarve* (2.7 p.p.), and *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (2.4 p.p.).





Table 2: Main indicators - active and employed population - Portugal					
	Q	Quarterly level Rate of change		change	
	2Q-2014	1Q-2015	2Q-2015	On year	On quarter
		Thousands		0	6
abour force (active population)	5.243.5	5,190.0	5.201.2	-0.8	0.2
Males	2 695 5	2 647 9	2.654.3	-1.5	0.2
Females	2,055.5	2,617.5	2.546.8		0.2
15 to 24	363.4	369.0	351.2	-3.4	-4.8
25 to 34	1 133 2	1 100 5	1 090 5	-3.8	-0.9
35 to 44	1 457 8	1 446 5	1 444 3	-0.9	-0.2
45 to 64	2 030 1	2 037 6	2 062 5	1.6	1.2
65 and over	2,050.1	2,057.0	2,002.5	-2 5	6.8
First and second stages of basic education	2 7 9 5	250.5	2 662 5	-4 9	0.0
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,259.3	1,290.1	1,307.9	3.9	1.4
Tertiary education	1 184 7	1 242 7	1 230 7	3.9	-1.0
Participation rate (%)	50 4	50 1	50 3	5.5	1.0
Malec	54.7	53.0	54.1		
Fomalos	J4.7	55.9 46 7	JF.1 46.9		
Periales	40.0	40.7	F9.6		
Maloc	59.0	50.5	56.0		
Females	04.0 F2.0	03.0 53.0	52 O		
	55.9 4 F14 C	55.0 A A77 1	4 600 9	1 6	
	4,514.0	4,4/7.1	4,580.8	1.5	2.5
Males	2,332.0	2,301.1	2,335.5	0.2	1.5
Females	2,182.6	2,176.0	2,245.3	2.9	3.2
15 to 24	234.1	242.0	246.5	5.3	1.9
25 to 34	953.8	940.9	951.9	-0.2	1.2
35 to 44	1,290.6	1,278.4	1,301.9	0.9	1.8
45 to 64	1,781.0	1,785.0	1,835.2	3.0	2.8
65 and over	255.1	230.9	245.3	-3.8	6.2
First and second stages of basic education	2,375.9	2,263.1	2,318.0	-2.4	2.4
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,074.0	1,091.0	1,134.0	5.6	3.9
Tertiary education	1,064.7	1,122.9	1,128.8	6.0	0.5
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (a)	408.6	338.4	365.3	-10.6	7.9
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewage, waste management and remediation activities: construction (a)	1,073.9	1,090.1	1,107.8	3.2	1.6
Services (a)	3 032 1	3 048 6	3 107 6	2 5	19
Employees	3 595 4	3 641 1	3 723 4	3.6	23
With a permanent job (work contract of unlimited duration)	2,830.2	2,867.8	2,896.7	2.3	1.0
With a temporary job (work contract of limited duration)	630.1	645.5	698.8	10.9	8.3
Other contractual arrangements	135.1	127.9	127.9	-5.3	-
Self-employed workers	895.6	813.1	835.8	-6.7	2.8
Unpaid family workers	23.6	22.9	21.5	-8.9	-6.1
Full-time workers	3.923.1	3.896.1	4.008.8	2.2	2.9
Part-time workers	591 5	581.0	572.0	-3.3	-1.5
Underemployed part-time workers	252.2	252.0	242.8	-3.7	-3.7
Employment rate (15 and over) (%)	50 R	50 5	51.7	5.7	5.7
Males	56 1	55.5	56 3		
Females	46.2	46.1	47.6		

Source: INE, Labour Force Survey - 2nd quarter of 2015.

Notes:

(a) The estimates are presented by NACE-Rev. 2.

Values calibrated by using the population estimates calculated from the final results of Census 2011.

Conventional signs:

o Value less than half of the unit used.

- Result null.





Table 3: Main indicators - uner	Table 3: Main indicators - unemployed and inactive population - Portugal					
	Quarterly level			Rate of change		
	2Q-2014	1Q-2015	2Q-2015	On year	On quarter	
		Thousands		9	, 0	
Unemployed population	728.9	712.9	620.4	-14.9	-13.0	
Males	363.5	346.8	318.8	-12.3	-8.1	
Females	365.5	366.1	301.6	-17.5	-17.6	
15 to 24	129.3	127.0	104.7	-19.0	-17.6	
25 to 34	179.4	159.6	138.6	-22.7	-13.2	
35 to 44	167.2	168.1	142.5	-14.8	-15.2	
45 and over	253.0	258.2	234.6	-7.3	-9.1	
First and second stages of basic education	423.6	394 1	344.5	-18.7	-12.6	
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-	185.3	199.1	173.9	-6.2	-12.7	
	100.1	110.0	101.0	15.2	14.0	
lertiary education	120.1	119.8	101.9	-15.2	-14.9	
Looking for a first job	89.3	77.4	/0./	-20.8	-8.7	
Looking for a new job	639.6	635.5	549.7	-14.1	-13.5	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (a) (b)	13.0	19.8	10.5	-19.2	-47.0	
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply: sewage, waste management and	208.6	188.3	170.5	-18.3	-9.5	
remediation activities; construction (a) (b)						
Services (a) (b)	384.9	398.4	340.1	-11.6	-14.6	
Unemployed by duration of search						
Less than 12 months	237.6	253.0	223.4	-6.0	-11.7	
12 months or longer (long-term unemployment)	491.3	459.9	397.0	-19.2	-13.7	
Unemployment rate (%)	13.9	13.7	11.9			
Males	13.5	13.1	12.0			
Females	14.3	14.4	11.8			
Youth (15 to 24)	35.6	34.4	29.8			
Long-term	9.4	8.9	7.6			
Inactive population	5,150.3	5,164.7	5,142.2	-0.2	-0.4	
Inactive population (15 and over)	3,642.9	3,680.8	3,667.3	0.7	-0.4	
Males	1,463.0	1,501.9	1,492.4	2.0	-0.6	
Females	2,179.8	2,178.9	2,174.9	-0.2	-0.2	
15 to 24	740.0	734.3	751.9	1.6	2.4	
25 to 34	118.8	125.8	126.3	6.3	0.4	
35 to 44	135.7	132.5	130.0	-4.2	-1.9	
45 to 64	824.4	817.0	794.6	-3.6	-2.7	
65 and over	1,823.9	1,871.1	1,864.6	2.2	-0.3	
Students	813.7	834.8	848.0	4.2	1.6	
Fulfilled domestic tasks	425.8	418.6	408.5	-4.1	-2.4	
Retired	1,666.3	1,692.2	1,694.4	1.7	0.1	
Other inactive	737.0	735.1	716.4	-2.8	-2.5	
Persons seeking work but not immediatly						
available	28.4	23.6	22.5	-20.8	-4.7	
Persons available to work but not seeking	256.6	256.8	242.9	-5.3	-5.4	
Inactivity rate (15 and over) (%)	41.0	41.5	41.4	0.4	-0.1	
Males	35.2	36.2	36.0	0.8	-0.2	
Females	46.1	46.2	46.1	-	-0.1	

Source: INE, Labour Force Survey - 2nd quarter of 2015.

Notes:

(a) The previous employment experience of the unemployed looking for a new job is characterized only for those who had stopped working within the last 8 years. Therefore, the sum of the number of unemployed looking for a new job by economic activity of the last job does not correspond to the total unemployed looking for a new job.

(b) The estimates are presented by NACE-Rev. 2.

Values calibrated by using the population estimates calculated from the final results of Census 2011.

Conventional signs:

- Result null.





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. The reference weeks are uniformly distributed throughout the quarters and years. The interviews usually take place in the week following the reference week.

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.

Due to rounding, the totals in tables and diagrams do not always match the sum of parts.

Some concepts

Participation rate: ratio between the labour force (active population) and the total population.

P.R. (%) = (Labour force / Total population) x 100

Participation rate (15 and over): ratio between the labour force and the working age total population (15 and over).

P.R. (%) = (Labour force / Total population 15 and over) x 100

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

U.R. (%) = (Unemployed population / Labour force) x 100

Long term unemployment rate: ratio between the unemployed population seeking employment for 12 months and over and the labour force.

U.R. (%) = (Unemployed population seeking employment for 12 months and over / Labour force) x 100

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

E.R. (%) = (Employed population / Total population 15 and over) x 100

Inactivity rate (15 and over): ratio between the working age inactive population (15 and over) and the working age total population (15 and over).

I.R. (%) = (Inactive population 15 and over / Total population 15 and over) x 100

On year rate of change

The on year (year-on-year) change compares the level of the variable in the current quarter with that of the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This rate of change, considering a seasonal stable pattern is not affected by this type of fluctuation, but may, however, be influenced by specific effects in a given quarter.

On quarter rate of change

The on quarter (quarterly) change compares the level of the variable over two consecutive periods. Although this indicator permits to monitor the recent pace of the variable, its calculation is particularly influenced by seasonal effects and other more specific effects in one (or both) quarters under comparison.

Annual rate of change

The annual change compares the average level of the variable for the four quarters of the last year over the average level of the variable for the four quarters of the previous year. Being an average, this indicator is less sensible to sporadic effects in the variable.

Next Press Release: 4 November 2015.





THE INTEGRATION OF THE 2011 CENSUS RESULTS IN THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY SAMPLE

The Labour Force Survey sample has panel characteristics and includes a quarterly rotation schema, which aims, among other reasons, at preventing an excessive burden over respondents (with impact on their answers' quality) that results from the administration of a questionnaire recognised as long. The total sample is divided into six subsamples (rotations) and, in each quarter, each subsample is replaced by another after having been observed six times (during one and a half year).

After the dissemination of the 2011 Census definitive results, from the 3rd quarter of 2013 onwards, each new Labour Force Survey rotation came from a new sampling frame, built upon those Census results. This process took place during six consecutive quarters and was concluded in the 4th quarter of 2014. This information was transmitted in due course to the users on chapter 3, "Methodological notes", of the "Employment Statistics" publication (available only in Portuguese) and is reported on the Methodological Document of the Labour Force Survey statistical operation.

This process of sample updating is necessary and occurs whenever there are new Census data, as it has happened after the release of the definitive results of 2001 Census. The adjustment made envisages assuring a better sampling frame coverage and a reduction of non response rates, both with positive impact on the quality of the estimated results.

Out of this process, it may occur a change in the statistical representation of the population characteristics, with impact, mainly, in the employment components dynamics. In the 1st quarter of 2015, the quarterly changes are based on samples exclusively built upon 2011 Census. The same will occur to the year-on-year changes in the 4th quarter of 2015.