

November, 4th 2015

Employment Statistics

3rd quarter of 2015

Unemployment rate estimated at 11.9%

The unemployment rate for the 3rd quarter of 2015 was 11.9%. This value is equal to the one from the previous quarter and is down 1.2 percentage points (p.p.) from the same quarter of 2014.

The unemployed population was estimated at 618.8 thousand people, corresponding to a quarterly decrease of 0.3% and to a year-on-year decrease of 10.2% (less 1.6 thousand and less 70.1 thousand people, respectively).

The employed population was estimated at 4,575.3 thousand people, which corresponds to a quarterly decrease of 0.1% (less 5.5 thousand people) and to a year-on-year increase of 0.2% (more 10.2 thousand people).

The participation rate of the working age population stood at 58.6%, an identical value to the one from the previous quarter and down 0.6 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

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

1. Labour force (active population)

The Labour Force Survey results for the 3rd quarter of 2015¹ indicate that the labour force (active population), estimated at 5,194.1 thousand people, decreased by 0.1% (7.1 thousand people) from the previous quarter and by 1.1% from the same quarter of 2014 (59.9 thousand).

The participation rate of the working age population (aged 15 and over) stood at 58.6%, remaining unchanged from the previous quarter and decreasing by 0.6 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

The participation rate of men (64.1%) exceeded that of women (53.8%) by 10.3 p.p..

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

Regarding the year-on-year comparison, the participation rate decreased both for men and for women (0.7 p.p. and 0.4 p.p., respectively).

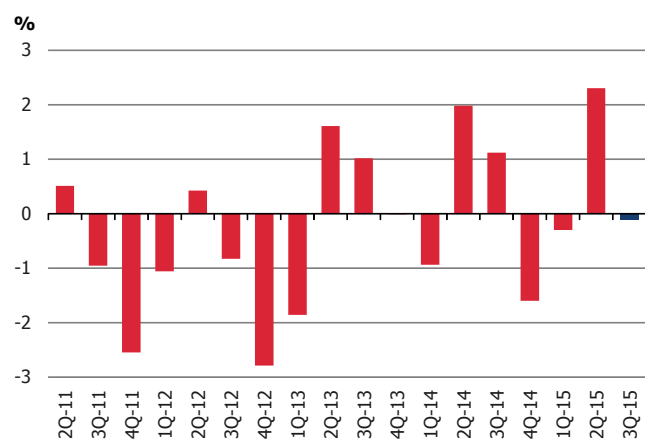
¹ See the note at the end of this Press Release (last page) on the integration of the 2011 Census results in the Labour Force Survey sample.

2. Employed population

2.1. Quarterly changes

The employed population, estimated at 4,575.3 thousand people, decreased by 0.1% from the previous quarter (5.5 thousand), when it had been observed a 2.3% upward change (103.7 thousand).

Figure 1: Employed population quarterly rate of change



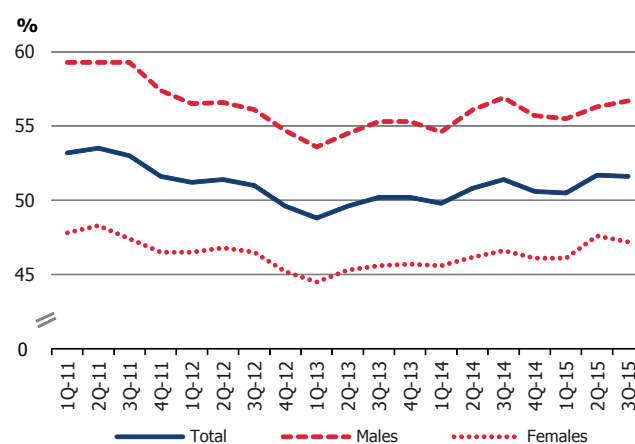
The quarterly decrease of the employed population was explained by the decreases registered in the following groups: women (18.6 thousand; 0.8%); people aged 25 or over (25.2 thousand; 0.6%); having completed the first and second stages of basic education (22.7 thousand; 1.0%); employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector (22.6 thousand; 6.2%); as self-employed workers (30.2 thousand; 3.6%); and working part-time (25.9 thousand; 4.5%).

The employment rate (aged 15 and over) stood at 51.6%, having decreased by 0.1 p.p. from the previous quarter.

The employment rate of men (56.7%) exceeded that of women (47.2%) by 9.5 p.p..

Still comparing to the previous quarter, the employment rate increased for men (0.4 p.p.) and decreased for women (0.4 p.p.).

Figure 2: Employment rate by sex



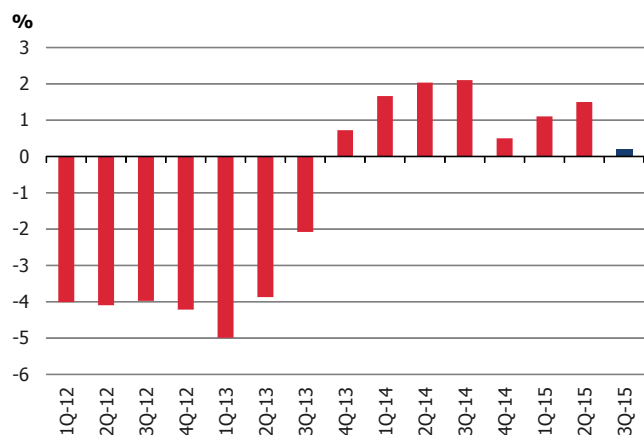
The number of underemployed part-time workers, estimated at 220.1 thousand, corresponded to 4.8% of total employed population and to 40.3% of part-time employed population (note that the number of part-time workers, in the same period, corresponded to 11.9% of total employed population).

The number of underemployed part-time workers decreased by 9.3% (22.7 thousand) from the previous quarter.

2.2. Yearly changes

From the same quarter of 2014, the employed population increased by 0.2% (10.2 thousand), quite less than the year-on-year changes observed in the last seven quarters.

Figure 3: Employed population year-on-year rate of change



The year-on-year increase of the employed population was explained by the increases registered in the following groups: women (23.3 thousand; 1.1%); people aged 35 to 64 (48.6 thousand; 1.6%); having completed the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (49.6 thousand; 4.5%) and the tertiary level of education (35.1 thousand; 3.2%); employed in the services sector (45.7 thousand; 1.5%) and in the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector (29.1 thousand; 2.7%); as employees (66.6 thousand; 1.8%); and working full-time (59.7 thousand; 1.5%).

The employment rate (aged 15 and over) increased by 0.2 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014. This rate increased for women (0.6 p.p.), and decreased for men (0.2 p.p.).

The number of underemployed part-time workers decreased by 5.2% from the same quarter of 2014 (12.0 thousand).

In the 3rd quarter of 2015, the employed population had the following composition:

- By sex: 51.3% of men and 48.7% of women.
- By age group: 5.8% of young people (15 to 24 years old), 20.6% of people aged from 25 to 34, 28.4% aged from 35 to 44, 40.0% aged from 45 to 64, and 5.2% aged 65 and over.
- By level of education: 50.2% of employed people having completed the first or second stages of basic education, 25.1% the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, and 24.7% the tertiary education.
- By activity sector: 7.5% of workers in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, 24.5% in the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector, and 68.1% in the services sector.
- By labour status: 81.8% of employees (of which, 77.8% with a permanent job – work contract of unlimited duration), 17.6% of self-employed workers, and 0.6% of unpaid family workers.
- By work duration regime: 88.1% of full-time workers and 11.9% of part-time workers.

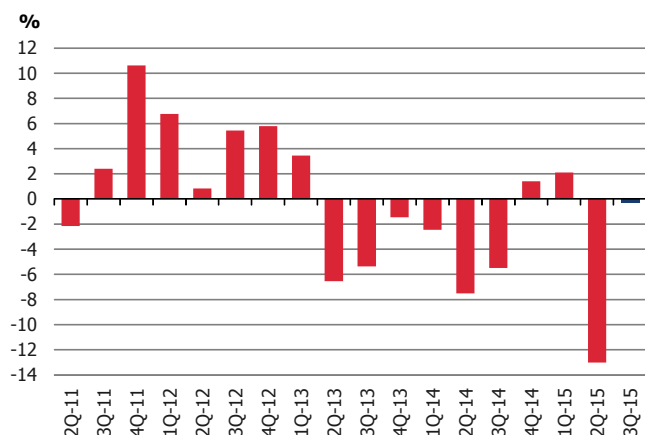
3. Unemployed population

3.1. Quarterly changes

The unemployed population, estimated at 618.8 thousand people, decreased by 0.3% from the previous quarter (1.6 thousand).

In the 2nd quarter of 2015, the unemployed population had registered a 13.0% quarterly decrease (92.5 thousand).

Figure 4: Unemployed population quarterly rate of change



The unemployed population quarterly decrease was explained by the decreases registered in the following groups: men (13.5 thousand; 4.2%); people aged 25 or over (15.2 thousand; 2.9%); having completed the first or second stages of basic education (21.6 thousand; 6.3%); seeking a new job (13.0 thousand; 2.4%), who were formerly in any given sector but in particular in the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector (10.3 thousand; 6.0%); and seeking a job for 12 months or longer (6.3 thousand; 1.6%).

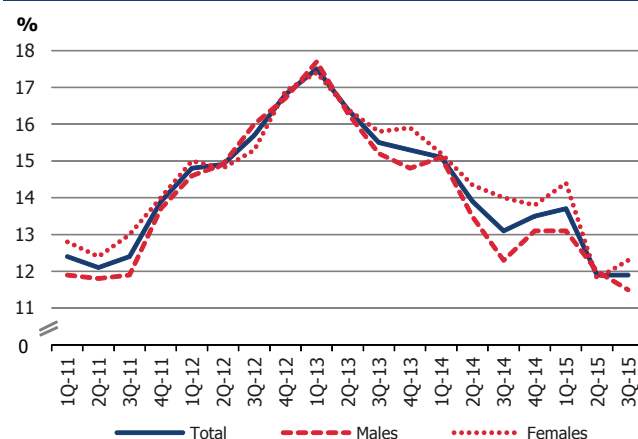
The unemployment rate for the 3rd quarter of 2015 stood at 11.9%, remaining unchanged from the 2nd quarter of 2015.² In this quarter, the unemployment rate had registered a quarterly decrease of 1.8 p.p..

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 August 2015 (which corresponds to the

The unemployment rate of men (11.5%) was lower than that of women (12.3%) by 0.8 p.p..

Still comparing to the previous quarter, the unemployment rate of men decreased by 0.5 p.p., while that of women increased by 0.5 p.p..

Figure 5: Unemployment rate by sex



3.2. Yearly changes

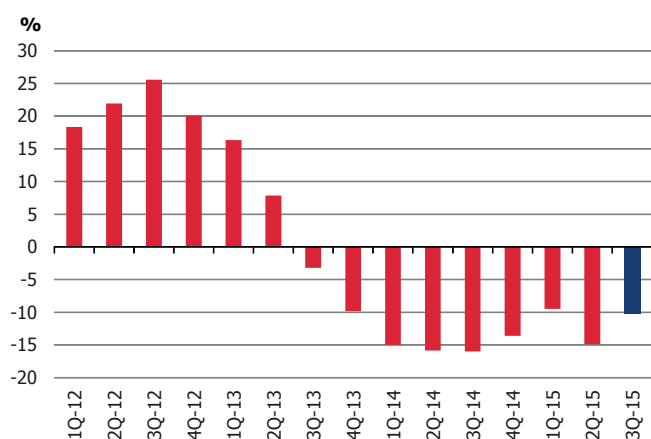
From the same quarter of 2014, the unemployed population decreased by 10.2% (70.1 thousand).

The unemployed population year-on-year decrease was mainly explained by the decreases observed in the following groups: women (45.3 thousand; 12.6%); people of all age groups, particularly those aged from 25 to 34 (27.0 thousand; 17.0%) and from 35 to 44 (23.2 thousand; 14.4%); having completed an education level corresponding to the first or second stages of basic education (67.7 thousand; 17.3%); seeking a new job (58.9 thousand; 9.9%), who were formerly in the services sector (35.2 thousand; 9.6%);

3rd quarter 2015), published in the Press Release of September 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 12.1%.

and seeking a job for 12 months or longer (70.2 thousand; 15.2%).

Figure 6: Unemployed population year-on-year rate of change



The unemployment rate decreased by 1.2 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014, which was observed both for men (0.8 p.p.) and for women (1.7 p.p.).

In the 3rd quarter of 2015, the unemployed population had the following composition:

- By sex: 49.3% of men and 50.7% of women.
- By age group: 19.1% of young people (15 to 24 years old), 21.3% of people aged from 25 to 34, 22.3% aged from 35 to 44, and 37.2% aged 45 and over.
- By level of education: 52.2% of unemployed having completed the first or second stages of basic education, 28.2% the (upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education, and 19.6% the tertiary education.
- By type of unemployment/activity sector: 13.3% of unemployed looking for a first job and 86.7%

looking for a new job (of which, 1.5% coming from the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector, 29.8% from the manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector, and 62.0% from the services sector).

- By duration of search: 36.9% of unemployed seeking a job for less than 12 months and 63.1% looking for a job for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment).

4. Inactive population

The inactive population, estimated at 5,137.6 thousand, decreased by 0.1% from the previous quarter (4.6 thousand) and increased by 0.2% from the same quarter of 2014 (10.2 thousand).

The inactive population aged 15 and over, estimated at 3,671.2 thousand people (71.5% of total inactive population), increased by 0.1% from the previous quarter (3.9 thousand) and by 1.2% from the same quarter of 2014 (43.4 thousand).

The inactivity rate (aged 15 and over) stood at 41.4%, remaining unchanged from the previous quarter and increasing by 0.6 p.p. from the same quarter of 2014.

The inactivity rate (aged 15 and over) of women (46.2%) exceeded that of men (35.9%) by 10.3 p.p..

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

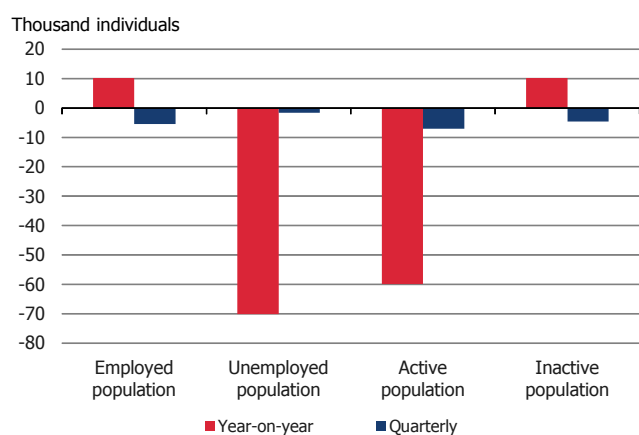
On the other hand, from the same quarter of 2014, the inactivity rate (aged 15 and over) increased for men and for women (0.7 p.p. and 0.4 p.p., respectively).

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 value remained unchanged from the previous quarter and decreased by 24.0% from the same quarter of 2014 (7.1 thousand).

The number of persons available to work but not seeking, estimated at 293.6 thousand, corresponded to 8.0% of the inactive population aged 15 and over. That value increased by 20.9% from the previous quarter (50.7 thousand) and decreased by 2.9% from the same quarter of 2014 (8.7 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.

Figure 7: Change in the employed, unemployed, active and inactive population



5. Quarterly flows between labour market states

5.1. Gross and net flows (number of persons)

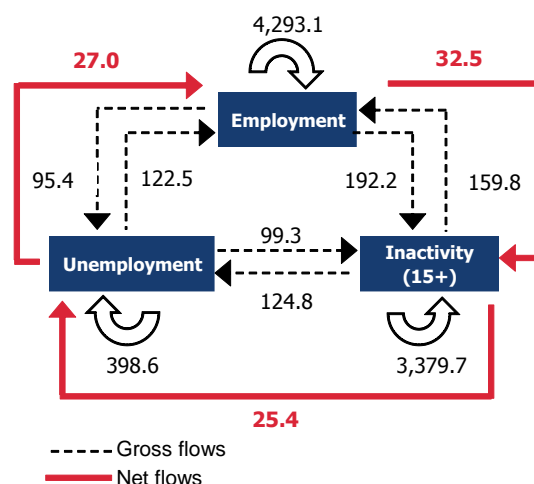
Employment

From the 2nd to the 3rd quarter of 2015, the number of persons that moved from employment (E) to unemployment (U) was 95.4 thousand and the number of those who moved from employment to inactivity (aged 15 and over; I) was 192.2 thousand. The number of persons moving out of employment, within a quarter, was, then, 287.7 thousand.

At the same time, the employment inflows from unemployment were 122.5 thousand persons while those from inactivity were 159.8 thousand. The number of persons moving into employment, within a quarter, was, then, 282.2 thousand.

As a consequence, between the two quarters there was a negative net flow into employment (that is, total inflows minus total outflows) of 5.5 thousand persons (the employed population quarterly change).

Diagram 1: Quarterly flows between labour force states (Thousand individuals)



Unemployment

The net flow into unemployment was negative and comprised 1.6 thousand persons (as in the unemployed population quarterly change), which arises from the total inflows (220.2 thousand) being smaller than the total outflows (221.8 thousand).

The unemployment inflows from employment (95.4 thousand) were smaller than those from inactivity (124.8 thousand), while the unemployment outflows to employment (122.5 thousand) were larger than those to inactivity (99.3 thousand).

The next figures exhibit the quarterly developments of the net employment and unemployment flows, from the 2nd 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.

Figure 8: Net employment quarterly flows (inflows - outflows = quarterly change)

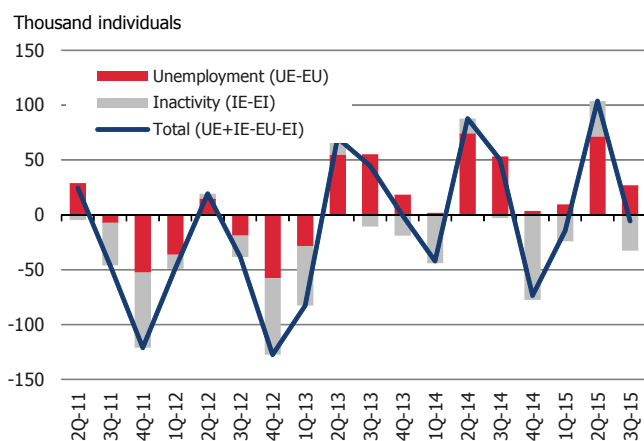
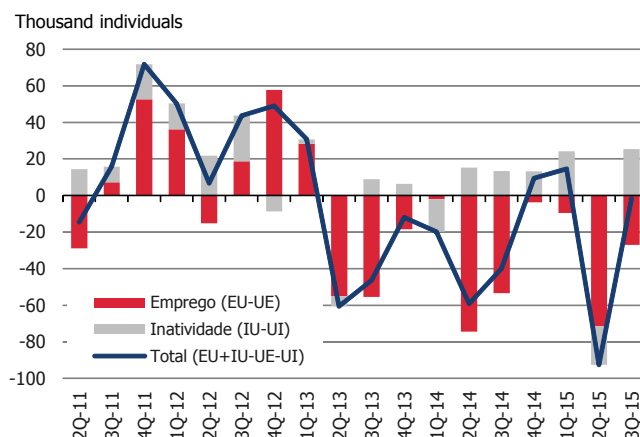


Figure 9: Net unemployment quarterly flows (inflows - outflows = quarterly change)



From these estimates analysis, it is possible to conclude, for the 3rd quarter 2015, that:

- The employment quarterly decrease was explained only by the negative net flow between employment and inactivity (the number of persons who have moved from employment to inactivity was larger, by 32.5 thousand, than those who moved from inactivity to employment), since this flow more than compensated the positive net flow between employment and unemployment (27.0 thousand).
- On the other hand, the unemployment quarterly decrease, of 1.6 thousand, was explained mainly by the negative net flow between unemployment and employment (27.0 thousand), which more than compensated the positive net flow between unemployment and inactivity (25.4 thousand).

2.2. Transition rates (%)

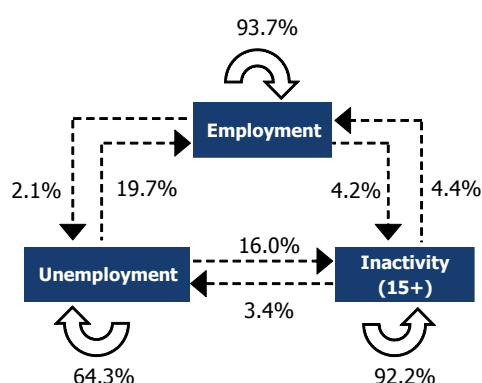
From the 2nd to the 3rd quarter of 2015, 2.1% of the people initially employed moved into unemployment and 4.2% moved into inactivity, with the proportion of

employed moving out of this situation totalling around 6.3% in the 3rd quarter of 2015 (93.7% remained employed; which corresponds to 4 293.1 thousand people, as in Diagram 1).

From the total of unemployed persons in the 2nd quarter of 2015, 35.7% moved out of this labour market state in the 3rd quarter of 2015: 19.7% became employed and 16.0% moved into inactivity.

From the total of people aged 15 and over considered to be inactive in the 2nd quarter of 2015, 4.4% moved into employment and 3.4% moved into unemployment, in the 3rd quarter of 2015.

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



6. Unemployment rates by NUTS II region

In the 3rd quarter of 2015, the unemployment rate was higher than the national average in four NUTS II regions of the country: *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (14.7%), *Norte* (13.6%), *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (12.8%), and *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (12.1%).

Below the national average, there was the unemployment rate of *Alentejo* (11.8%), *Algarve* (10.2%), and *Centro* (8.2%).

Compared to the previous quarter, the unemployment rate increased in *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (1.1 p.p.), *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (0.8 p.p.), *Norte* (0.2 p.p.) and *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (0.1 p.p.). On the other hand, it decreased in *Alentejo* (0.8 p.p.), *Algarve* (0.6 p.p.), and *Centro* (0.3 p.p.).

Table 1: Unemployment rates by NUTS II region (NUTS-2013)

	3Q-2014	2Q-2015	3Q-2015
Portugal	13.1	11.9	11.9
Norte	14.3	13.4	13.6
Centro	10.5	8.5	8.2
Área Metropolitana de Lisboa	14.0	12.7	12.8
Alentejo	12.6	12.6	11.8
Algarve	11.2	10.8	10.2
R. A. Açores	15.7	11.3	12.1
R. A. Madeira	13.0	13.6	14.7

Source: INE, Labour Force Survey - 3rd 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, the unemployment rate decreased in almost all regions (it increased by 1.7 p.p. in *Região Autónoma da Madeira*).

The largest decreases were recorded in *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (3.6 p.p.), *Centro* (2.3 p.p.), and *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (1.2 p.p.).

Table 2: Main indicators - active and employed population - Portugal

	Quarterly level			Rate of change	
	3Q-2014	2Q-2015	3Q-2015	On year	On quarter
	Thousands			%	
Labour force (active population)	5,254.0	5,201.2	5,194.1	-1.1	-0.1
Males	2,691.8	2,654.3	2,654.0	-1.4	o
Females	2,562.1	2,546.8	2,540.1	-0.9	-0.3
15 to 24	401.1	351.2	384.4	-4.2	9.5
25 to 34	1,111.2	1,090.5	1,075.5	-3.2	-1.4
35 to 44	1,448.2	1,444.3	1,435.5	-0.9	-0.6
45 to 64	2,025.7	2,062.5	2,053.7	1.4	-0.4
65 and over	267.8	252.5	245.0	-8.5	-3.0
First and second stages of basic education	2,760.3	2,662.5	2,618.2	-5.1	-1.7
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,284.1	1,307.9	1,325.0	3.2	1.3
Tertiary education	1,209.5	1,230.7	1,250.9	3.4	1.6
Participation rate (%)	50.6	50.3	50.3		
Males	54.7	54.1	54.2		
Females	46.9	46.8	46.7		
Participation rate (15 and over) (%)	59.2	58.6	58.6		
Males	64.8	64.0	64.1		
Females	54.2	53.9	53.8		
Employed population	4,565.1	4,580.8	4,575.3	0.2	-0.1
Males	2,361.7	2,335.5	2,348.7	-0.6	0.6
Females	2,203.4	2,245.3	2,226.7	1.1	-0.8
15 to 24	271.9	246.5	266.1	-2.1	8.0
25 to 34	952.2	951.9	943.4	-0.9	-0.9
35 to 44	1,287.1	1,301.9	1,297.6	0.8	-0.3
45 to 64	1,790.5	1,835.2	1,828.6	2.1	-0.4
65 and over	263.5	245.3	239.5	-9.1	-2.4
First and second stages of basic education	2,369.8	2,318.0	2,295.3	-3.1	-1.0
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,100.9	1,134.0	1,150.5	4.5	1.5
Tertiary education	1,094.4	1,128.8	1,129.5	3.2	0.1
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (a)	407.3	365.3	342.7	-15.9	-6.2
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewage, waste management and remediation activities; construction (a)	1,089.7	1,107.8	1,118.8	2.7	1.0
Services (a)	3,068.2	3,107.6	3,113.9	1.5	0.2
Employees	3,676.5	3,723.4	3,743.1	1.8	0.5
With a permanent job (work contract of unlimited duration)	2,864.6	2,896.7	2,910.9	1.6	0.5
With a temporary job (work contract of limited duration)	683.6	698.8	703.7	2.9	0.7
Other contractual arrangements	128.2	127.9	128.5	0.2	0.5
Self-employed workers	859.3	835.8	805.6	-6.2	-3.6
Unpaid family workers	29.3	21.5	26.5	-9.6	23.3
Full-time workers	3,969.6	4,008.8	4,029.3	1.5	0.5
Part-time workers	595.5	572.0	546.1	-8.3	-4.5
Underemployed part-time workers	232.1	242.8	220.1	-5.2	-9.3
Employment rate (15 and over) (%)	51.4	51.7	51.6		
Males	56.9	56.3	56.7		
Females	46.6	47.6	47.2		

Source: INE, Labour Force Survey - 3rd 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.

Table 3: Main indicators - unemployed and inactive population - Portugal

	Quarterly level			Rate of change	
	3Q-2014	2Q-2015	3Q-2015	On year	On quarter
	Thousands			%	
Unemployed population	688.9	620.4	618.8	-10.2	-0.3
Males	330.1	318.8	305.3	-7.5	-4.2
Females	358.8	301.6	313.5	-12.6	3.9
15 to 24	129.2	104.7	118.3	-8.4	13.0
25 to 34	159.1	138.6	132.1	-17.0	-4.7
35 to 44	161.1	142.5	137.9	-14.4	-3.2
45 and over	239.5	234.6	230.5	-3.8	-1.7
First and second stages of basic education	390.6	344.5	322.9	-17.3	-6.3
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	183.2	173.9	174.5	-4.7	0.3
Tertiary education	115.1	101.9	121.4	5.5	19.1
Looking for a first job	93.3	70.7	82.1	-12.0	16.1
Looking for a new job	595.6	549.7	536.7	-9.9	-2.4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (a) (b)	12.9	10.5	8.1	-37.2	-22.9
Mining and quarrying; manufacturing; electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply; water supply; sewage, waste management and remediation activities; construction (a) (b)	188.5	170.5	160.2	-15.0	-6.0
Services (a) (b)	367.7	340.1	332.5	-9.6	-2.2
Unemployed by duration of search					
Less than 12 months	227.9	223.4	228.1	0.1	2.1
12 months or longer (long-term unemployment)	460.9	397.0	390.7	-15.2	-1.6
Unemployment rate (%)	13.1	11.9	11.9		
Males	12.3	12.0	11.5		
Females	14.0	11.8	12.3		
Youth (15 to 24)	32.2	29.8	30.8		
Long-term	8.8	7.6	7.5		
Inactive population	5,127.4	5,142.2	5,137.6	0.2	-0.1
Inactive population (15 and over)	3,627.8	3,667.3	3,671.2	1.2	0.1
Males	1,461.8	1,492.4	1,489.5	1.9	-0.2
Females	2,166.0	2,174.9	2,181.7	0.7	0.3
15 to 24	699.9	751.9	717.6	2.5	-4.6
25 to 34	128.6	126.3	130.7	1.6	3.5
35 to 44	140.9	130.0	133.6	-5.2	2.8
45 to 64	831.6	794.6	805.8	-3.1	1.4
65 and over	1,826.8	1,864.6	1,883.6	3.1	1.0
Students	748.8	848.0	784.8	4.8	-7.5
Fulfilled domestic tasks	431.2	408.5	418.0	-3.1	2.3
Retired	1,705.6	1,694.4	1,748.3	2.5	3.2
Other inactive	742.2	716.4	720.2	-3.0	0.5
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	29.6	22.5	22.5	-24.0	-
Persons available to work but not seeking	302.3	242.9	293.6	-2.9	20.9
Inactivity rate (15 and over) (%)	40.8	41.4	41.4		
Males	35.2	36.0	35.9		
Females	45.8	46.1	46.2		

Source: INE, Labour Force Survey - 3rd 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.

$$\text{P.R. (\%)} = (\text{Labour force} / \text{Total population}) \times 100$$

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

$$\text{P.R. (\%)} = (\text{Labour force} / \text{Total population 15 and over}) \times 100$$

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

$$\text{U.R. (\%)} = (\text{Unemployed population} / \text{Labour force}) \times 100$$

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

$$\text{U.R. (\%)} = (\text{Unemployed population seeking employment for 12 months and over} / \text{Labour force}) \times 100$$

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

$$\text{E.R. (\%)} = (\text{Employed population} / \text{Total population 15 and over}) \times 100$$

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

$$\text{I.R. (\%)} = (\text{Inactive population 15 and over} / \text{Total population 15 and over}) \times 100$$

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.

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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.