

January, 10th 2017

Perspectives on Exports of Goods

2017 – 1st Forecast

Enterprises expect a 5.3% nominal increase in exports of goods in 2017

The perspectives of the exporting enterprises point to a nominal increase of 5.3% in exports of goods in 2017 vis-à-vis 2016. Excluding *Fuels and lubricants*, enterprises are expecting a 4.5% increase in 2017.

These figures stand for an acceleration in view of what enterprises are expecting for 2016 according to the preceding forecast (+1.3% for the total exports and +3.4% excluding *Fuels and lubricants*).

In this Press release, Statistics Portugal disseminates the main statistical findings from the survey on Perspectives of Exports of Goods (IPEB) conducted in November 2016, corresponding to the 1st forecast from enterprises on the expected evolution of exports in 2017.

In May 2017, a new edition of this survey will be conducted with the goal of updating the perspectives of enterprises concerning exports of goods in 2017, which will correspond to the 2nd forecast.

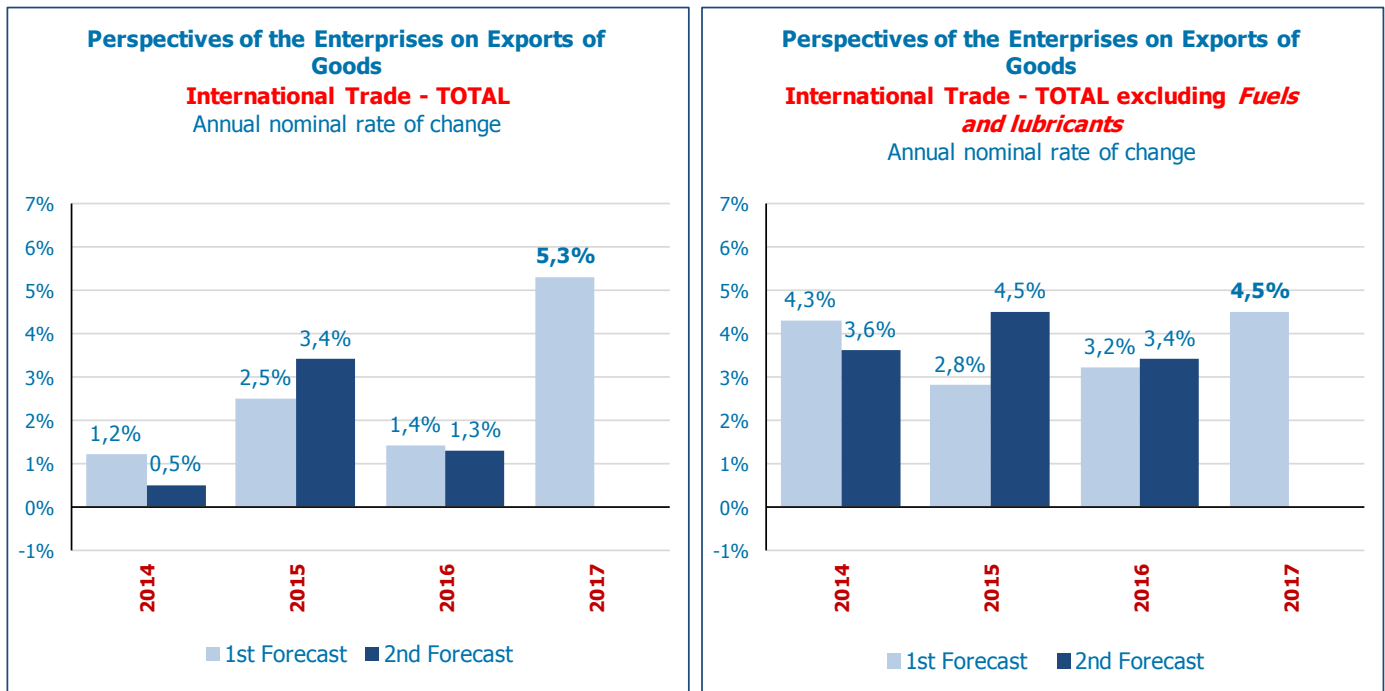
Enterprises expect a 5.3% nominal increase in exports of goods in 2017

The perspectives of exporting enterprises point to a 5.3% increase in exports in 2017 when compared with the preceding year. Enterprises expect an 8.9% increase in exports to Extra-EU countries and a 4.1% growth in exports to Intra-EU countries.

Excluding *Fuels and lubricants*, exporting enterprises are expecting a 4.5% increase in 2017 (+7.6% in Extra-EU Trade and +3.6% in Intra-EU Trade).

These perspectives point to an acceleration in view of the reported figures for 2016 in the previous survey (increases of 1.3% for the total of exports and 3.4% excluding *Fuels and lubricants*). When asked about a possible future correction in the expected values for exports in 2016, most enterprises have not declared significant changes keeping generally unchanged the growth forecast issued in May. The variations estimated by the enterprises for 2016 are above those already observed under the scope of the International Trade in Goods statistics for the accumulated period of January to November 2016 in comparison to the same period of 2015 (0.0% for the total and +1.8% when excluding *Fuels and lubricants*). These differences are expected largely due to the distinct nature of the two statistical operations, namely in terms of the scope of the covered commercial flows (see explanatory notes).

It should be underlined that the perspectives refer to nominal variations, thus mirroring the combined effect of the expected variations on prices and quantities. In the particular case of *Fuels and lubricants* the prices observed have been characterized by volatility and wide variation ranges, generally dominating the direction and magnitude of the nominal changes of the international trade of these products.



Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on the Perspectives of the Exports of Goods

In terms of Broad Economic Categories (BEC), the emphasis goes to the expected increases in exports of *Capital goods (except transport equipment), and parts and accessories thereof* (+14.9%) and *Transport equipment and parts and accessories thereof* (+12.0%) towards Extra-EU countries. As regards exports to Intra-EU countries, the emphasis goes to the expected growth in exports of *Transport equipment and parts and accessories thereof* (+5.8%).

Perspectives of the Enterprises on Exports of Goods
Annual nominal rate of change 2017/2016

	EXTRA-EU	INTRA-EU	INTERNATIONAL
TOTAL	8.9%	4.1%	5.3%
TOTAL excluding <i>Fuels and lubricants</i>	7.6%	3.6%	4.5%
Of which (BEC):			
<i>Food and beverages</i>	7.7%	2.3%	3.9%
<i>Industrial supplies not elsewhere specified</i>	4.6%	2.4%	3,0%
<i>Capital goods (except transport equipment), and parts and accessories thereof</i>	14.9%	4.1%	7.1%
<i>Transport equipment and parts and accessories thereof</i>	12,0%	5.8%	6.7%
<i>Consumer goods not elsewhere specified</i>	3.8%	3.6%	3.7%

Source: Statistics Portugal, Survey on the Perspectives of the Exports of Goods



EXPLANATORY NOTES

In view of the growing importance of the evolution of exports of goods in portraying the economy, Statistics Portugal promotes this survey (IPEB) by using a representative sample of exporting enterprises. The IPEB allows gathering and summarizing the perspectives of the nominal variation of exports for each enterprise. It provides prospective data, following the example of other surveys conducted by Statistics Portugal, namely the Investment Survey (Business), with which shares some characteristics. This new statistical operation started after the end of the New Orders in Industry Index (Total, Internal market and Foreign market), based on a monthly survey. The figures correspond to the **1st forecast for the nominal variation of exports expected by the enterprises in 2017**.

The survey was based on a sample of operating exporting enterprises, located in Portugal, with export values declared in International Trade in Goods statistics (ITGS) above EUR 250 000 in 2015 (sum of Intra-EU Trade (via Intrastat System) and Extra-EU Trade (via Customs declarations)). The total number of enterprises surveyed was 3 072, which represented around 90% of the total exports of goods in 2015.

The enterprises were selected according to the following parameters:

Non sampling component:

- 1) Enterprises with a total of exports \geq EUR 3 million in value (based on values declared in 2015 ITGS);
- 2) Enterprises belonging to NACE Rev. 2 - three digits classification (group) – with a sampling representativeness \leq 3 enterprises.

Sampling component:

- 1) By sorting the remaining enterprises in a descending order of the total of exports, a selection was made in each NACE group:
 - a. Enterprises able to reach 15% of the total of exports, if the non sampling weight is \geq 80%;
 - b. Enterprises able to reach 35% of the total of exports, if the non sampling weight is \geq 60% and $<$ 80%;
 - c. Enterprises able to reach 55% of the total of exports, if the non sampling weight is $<$ 60%.
- 2) By including relevant enterprises in terms of representativeness within the Broad Economic Categories Classification (BEC) with single digit classification.

The response rate was 97%, corresponding to 98% of the exported value of the sampled enterprises in 2015.

Data broken down by BEC was based on the distribution of data declared by the respective enterprises within the scope of ITGS in the year 2015.

The results of this survey, as they are based in growth perspectives, may differ from the observed values in ITGS and should be seen as indicating trends, which depend on the information available in the enterprises during the time of response to IPEB.

For methodological reasons, the scope of IPEB could not be the same as for ITGS, because IPEB does not include exports of specific goods and movements (of which electricity), estimates and does not comprise, in the reference population, special (foreign) enterprises acting as “traders” in Portugal. These “traders” are natural or legal persons not registered for VAT in Portugal, however they are responsible for presenting customs declarations lodged in Portuguese Customs. These movements are included in ITGS, however it’s not possible to survey these enterprises, because they are not registered for VAT in Portugal. To allow a better coverage of the results, this difference concerning foreign enterprises belonging to national economic groups was minimized with a special treatment in order to include their exports in IPEB.