

14 November 2018

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

Third Quarter 2018

GDP grew 2.1% year-on-year

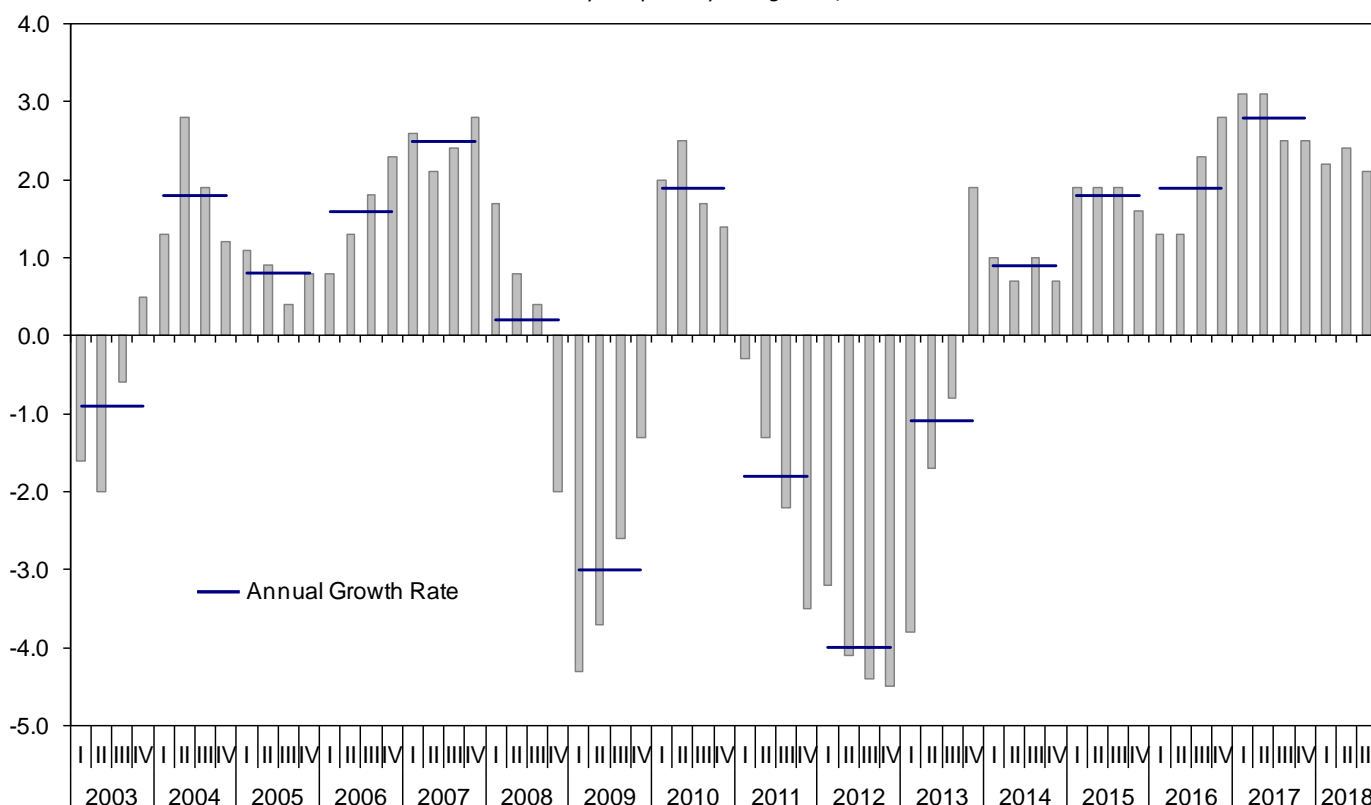
The Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 2.1% in volume in the third quarter 2018, compared with the same period of 2017 (2.4% in the previous quarter). Domestic demand registered a less intense positive contribution to GDP year-on-year change rate, due to the deceleration of private consumption, as Investment presented a slightly more intense growth. Net external demand presented a negative contribution similar to that observed in the two previous quarters.

In comparison with the second quarter of 2018, GDP increased 0.3% in real terms (0.6% in the previous quarter). The contribution of net external demand to the GDP quarter-on-quarter change rate became negative, after being null in the previous quarter, reflecting a decrease of Exports of Goods and Services more intense than that of Imports of Goods and Services. The positive domestic demand contribution increased in the third quarter, reflecting the higher growth of private consumption and Investment.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain-linked volume data (reference year=2011)

Year-on-year quarterly change rate, %



This flash estimate includes revisions in the basic data, particularly due to updated information on external trade of goods. Despite this new set of information, the GDP year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter change rates remained unchanged.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2011)

	Flash Estimate								
	3Q 16	4Q 16	1Q 17	2Q 17	3Q 17	4Q 17	1Q 18	2Q 18	3Q 18
Year-on-Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)	2.3	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.5	2.5	2.2	2.4	2.1
Quarter-on-Quarter Growth Rate (%)	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.6	0.3

	Flash Estimate		
	2015	2016	2017
Annual Growth Rate (%)	1.8	1.9	2.8

2015 and 2016: final data; 2017: provisional data

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 at t+2 months (approximately 60 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 the cases where basic information is not complete, selected after a series of tests performed over a large sample. One must take into consideration that the 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 the usual information on external trade deflators used in the compilation of the current estimates of the Quarterly National Accounts is not available when this flash estimate is produced.

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 (2011=100). Data are calendar and seasonally adjusted.

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the third quarter 2018 will be published in 30th November 2018.