

29 November 2018

## Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates October 2018

### September's unemployment rate at 6.6%

In September 2018, the unemployment rate was 6.6%, down 0.3 percentage points (p.p.) from the previous month's level, down 0.2 p.p. from three months before, and down 2.0 p.p. from the same month of 2017. That value corresponds to a null revision of the provisional estimate released one month ago. Since September 2002, no lower unemployment rate was observed.

In comparison to the previous month, the unemployed population has decreased by 5.0% (18.0 thousand fewer people) and the employed population has increased by 0.2% (8.8 thousand more people).

The provisional unemployment rate estimate for October 2018 was 6.7%, up 0.1 p.p. from the previous month's level.

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates								
Main indicators								
	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data						
		Sep 2017	Oct 2017	June 2018	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)
Active population (15 to 74)		5,158.1	5,165.5	5,163.8	5,155.5	5,165.1	5,155.8	5,156.6
Employed population (15 to 74)	Thousands	4,716.9	4,731.0	4,811.5	4,805.1	4,806.1	4,814.9	4,809.7
Unemployed population (15 to 74)		441.2	434.5	352.4	350.4	358.9	340.9	346.9
Employment rate (15 to 74)	%	60.6	60.8	61.9	61.8	61.9	62.0	61.9
Unemployment rate (15 to 74)		8.6	8.4	6.8	6.8	6.9	6.6	6.7

**Source:** Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

**Note:** (p) - Provisional estimates.

### A. Employed population and employment rate <sup>(1)</sup>

In September 2018, the employed population estimate was 4,814.9 thousand people, having increased by 0.2% (8.8 thousand) from the previous month (August 2018), by 0.1% (3.4 thousand) from three months before (June 2018), and by 2.1% (98.0 thousand) from the same month of 2017. That value corresponds to a practically null revision of the provisional estimate released a month ago.

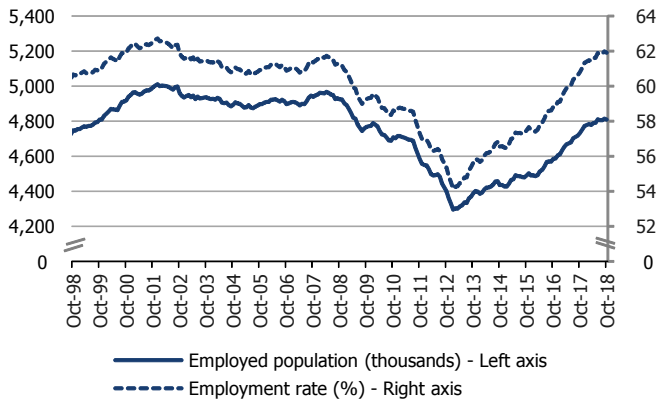
In October 2018, the provisional estimate for the employed population was 4,809.7 thousand people, having decreased by 0.1% (5.2 thousand) from the previous month (September 2018) and having increased by 0.1% (4.6 thousand) from three months before (July 2018) and by 1.7% (78.7 thousand) from the same period of 2017.

Likewise, the employment rate – estimated at 61.9% – has decreased by 0.1 percentage points (p.p.) from the

<sup>(1)</sup> In the estimates published on this Press Release, obtained as described in the technical note (annex), it was considered the population aged 15 to 74 and the values were seasonally adjusted (unless otherwise stated).

previous month and has increased by 0.1 p.p. from three months before and by 1.1 p.p. from October 2017.

**Figure 1: Employed population and employment rate**  
(seasonally adjusted data)



**Note:** The October 2018 estimates are provisional.

**B. Unemployed population and unemployment rate**

In September 2018, the unemployed population estimate was 340.9 thousand people, having decreased by 5.0% (18.0 thousand) from August 2018, by 3.3% (11.5 thousand) from June 2018, and by 22.7% (100.3 thousand) from September 2017. That value corresponds to a practically null revision of the provisional estimate.

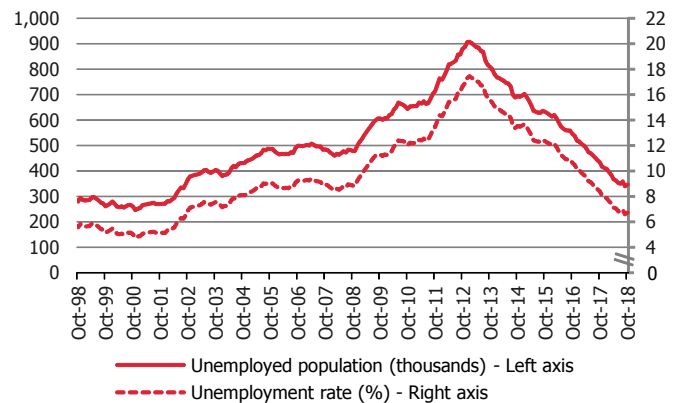
In October 2018, the unemployed population – estimated provisionally at 346.9 thousand people – increased by 1.8% (6.0 thousand) from the previous month (September 2018) and decreased by 1.0% (3.5 thousand) from the value observed three months before (July 2018) and by 20.2% (87.6 thousand) from the same month one year ago.

The unemployment rate of September 2018 was estimated at 6.6%, which corresponds to a null revision of the provisional estimate released one month ago. From the previous month, that unemployment rate has decreased by 0.3 p.p., having also decreased from three months before (0.2 p.p.) as from one year before (2.0 p.p.). Only going back to September 2002 it is possible to find a rate lower than this.

In October 2018, the provisional estimate for the unemployment rate was 6.7%, having increased by 0.1 p.p. from the previous month’s level and decreased by 0.1 p.p. from July 2018 and by 1.7 p.p. from October 2017.

The youth and adults’ unemployment rates stood at 21.4% and 5.6%, respectively. From the month before, the former increased by 1.5 p.p., while the latter remained unchanged.

**Figure 2: Unemployed population and unemployment rate**  
(seasonally adjusted data)



**Note:** The October 2018 estimates are provisional.

### C. Active population and activity rate

In September 2018, the active population estimate was 5,155.8 thousand people, having decreased by 0.2% (9.3 thousand) from the previous month (August 2018), by 0.2% (8.0 thousand) from three months before (June 2018), and by 2.3 thousand (which corresponds to a nearly null relative change) from the same month of 2017. That value represents an upwards revision of 1.1 thousand (which corresponds to a nearly null relative change) of the provisional one released a month ago.

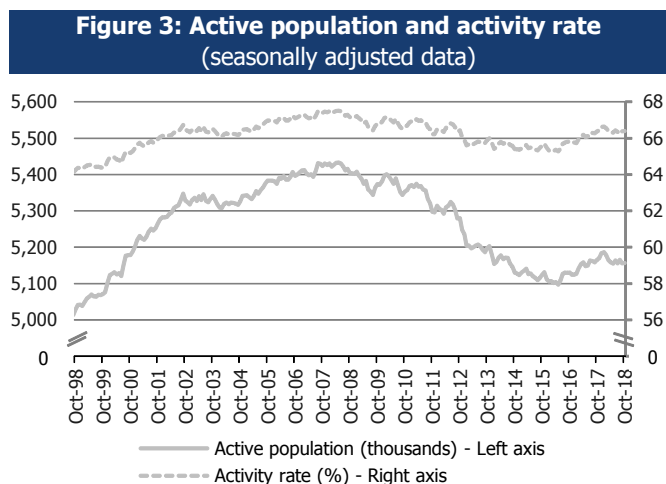
In October 2018, the provisional estimate for the active population was 5,156.6 thousand people, having remained practically unchanged from the previous month (September 2018), having increased by 1.1 thousand (which corresponds to a nearly null relative change) from three months before (July 2018), and having decreased by 0.2% (8.9 thousand) from the same period of 2017.

from October 2017. From three months before, the October's activity rate increased by 0.1 p.p..

In summary (Figure 4), in September 2018, the active population monthly decreased by 9.3 thousand people, due to the decrease of the unemployed population (18.0 thousand) and the increase of the employed population (8.8 thousand).

From three months before, the active population reduction (8.0 thousand) resulted from the decrease in the unemployed population (11.5 thousand) having more than compensated the increase in the employed population (3.4 thousand).

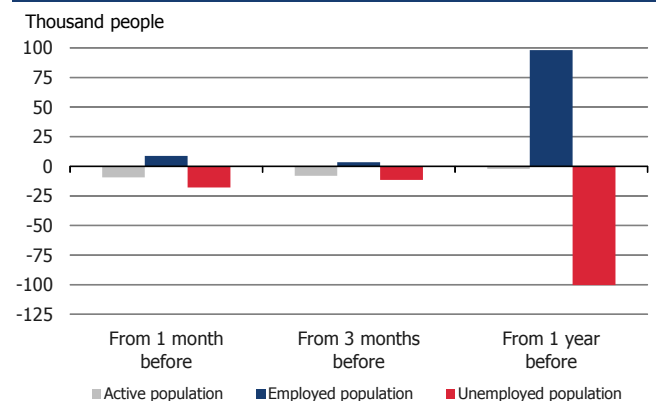
Similarly, the active population decrease from September 2017, by 2.3 thousand people, came from the decrease in the unemployed population (100.3 thousand) being larger than the increase in the employed population (98.0 thousand).



**Note:** The October 2018 estimates are provisional.

The activity rate was 66.4%, having remained unchanged both from the previous month's level and

**Figure 4: Change in the active, employed and unemployed population in September 2018**  
(seasonally adjusted data)



**Table 1: Active population and active rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)**

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Oct 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)	Oct 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)
	Thousands									
<b>Active population (15 to 74)</b>	<b>5,165.5</b>	<b>5,155.5</b>	<b>5,165.1</b>	<b>5,155.8</b>	<b>5,156.6</b>	<b>5,172.3</b>	<b>5,179.1</b>	<b>5,185.2</b>	<b>5,164.0</b>	<b>5,162.9</b>
Men (15 to 74)	2,630.9	2,606.9	2,602.8	2,603.2	2,600.9	2,636.3	2,623.1	2,616.9	2,612.5	2,606.6
Women (15 to 74)	2,534.6	2,548.6	2,562.2	2,552.6	2,555.7	2,536.0	2,556.0	2,568.3	2,551.5	2,556.3
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	376.5	375.8	382.5	376.3	379.6	382.2	381.0	394.9	384.5	384.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,789.0	4,779.7	4,782.6	4,779.5	4,777.0	4,790.1	4,798.1	4,790.3	4,779.5	4,778.3
	%									
<b>Active rate (15 to 74)</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>66.4</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>66.5</b>
Men (15 to 74)	70.7	70.1	70.0	70.1	70.0	70.9	70.6	70.4	70.3	70.1
Women (15 to 74)	62.4	62.9	63.2	63.0	63.1	62.4	63.0	63.4	63.0	63.1
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	34.5	34.5	35.2	34.6	34.9	35.1	35.0	36.3	35.4	35.4
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	71.6	71.5	71.6	71.5	71.5	71.6	71.8	71.7	71.5	71.5

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes: (p) - Provisional estimates.

**Table 2: Employed population and employment rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)**

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Oct 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)	Oct 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)
	Thousands									
<b>Employed population (15 to 74)</b>	<b>4,731.0</b>	<b>4,805.1</b>	<b>4,806.1</b>	<b>4,814.9</b>	<b>4,809.7</b>	<b>4,732.7</b>	<b>4,844.5</b>	<b>4,832.5</b>	<b>4,824.0</b>	<b>4,811.2</b>
Men (15 to 74)	2,423.8	2,441.1	2,433.9	2,444.0	2,439.1	2,429.2	2,464.3	2,452.0	2,456.3	2,444.4
Women (15 to 74)	2,307.2	2,364.0	2,372.3	2,370.9	2,370.6	2,303.5	2,380.2	2,380.5	2,367.6	2,366.8
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	284.3	301.6	304.6	301.3	298.5	284.4	310.2	315.8	306.1	298.6
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,446.7	4,503.5	4,501.6	4,513.7	4,511.3	4,448.3	4,534.3	4,516.6	4,517.9	4,512.6
	%									
<b>Employment rate (15 to 74)</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>62.3</b>	<b>62.2</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>61.9</b>
Men (15 to 74)	65.1	65.7	65.5	65.8	65.6	65.3	66.3	66.0	66.1	65.8
Women (15 to 74)	56.8	58.3	58.5	58.5	58.5	56.7	58.7	58.7	58.4	58.4
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	26.1	27.7	28.0	27.7	27.5	26.1	28.5	29.0	28.2	27.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	66.5	67.4	67.4	67.6	67.5	66.5	67.8	67.6	67.6	67.6

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

**Table 3: Unemployed population and unemployment rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)**

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Oct 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)	Oct 2017	July 2018	Aug 2018	Sep 2018	Oct 2018 (p)
	Thousands									
<b>Unemployed population (15 to 74)</b>	<b>434.5</b>	<b>350.4</b>	<b>358.9</b>	<b>340.9</b>	<b>346.9</b>	<b>439.6</b>	<b>334.6</b>	<b>352.7</b>	<b>340.0</b>	<b>351.7</b>
Men (15 to 74)	207.1	165.8	169.0	159.2	161.8	207.1	158.8	164.9	156.2	162.2
Women (15 to 74)	227.4	184.6	190.0	181.6	185.1	232.5	175.8	187.8	183.8	189.5
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	92.2	74.2	77.9	75.1	81.2	97.8	70.8	79.1	78.4	86.0
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	342.3	276.2	281.0	265.8	265.7	341.8	263.8	273.6	261.6	265.7
	%									
<b>Unemployment rate (15 to 74)</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Men (15 to 74)	7.9	6.4	6.5	6.1	6.2	7.9	6.1	6.3	6.0	6.2
Women (15 to 74)	9.0	7.2	7.4	7.1	7.2	9.2	6.9	7.3	7.2	7.4
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	24.5	19.7	20.4	19.9	21.4	25.6	18.6	20.0	20.4	22.4
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	7.1	5.8	5.9	5.6	5.6	7.1	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.6

**Source:** Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

**Notes:** (p) - Provisional estimates.

## TECHNICAL NOTE

### Labour Force Survey

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.

### Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates

In 2014, Statistics Portugal initiated a monthly release of Labour Force Survey estimates for the main labour market indicators in addition to the usual quarterly estimates releases.

With this initiative, Statistics Portugal intends to provide to users monthly updated information on labour market recent developments, allowing, at the same time, a more complete reading picture than that provided so far by Eurostat in its monthly releases of the unemployed population and unemployment rate estimates for Portugal. With this dissemination, Statistics Portugal satisfies also a specific requirement from the PEEIs (Principal European Economic Indicators).

Taking advantage of the continuous nature of the Labour Force Survey collection process, it is possible to monthly obtain estimates related to successive sets of three months (moving quarters), assuring consistency with the quarterly released estimates.

The monthly estimates refer to *centred* moving quarters, where the reference month ( $m$ ) corresponds to the central month of each moving quarter. In fact, the reference month of each Press Release corresponds to the central month of the quarter composed by  $m-1$ ,  $m$  and  $m+1$  months. As a consequence, the monthly changes are calculated on values that contain common months. Therefore, the comparison of moving quarters without common months should be done in relation to reference months three months earlier.

The option for disseminating centred moving quarters series aimed at avoiding delays in the detection of turning points in the economic cycle that arise from the use of simple moving averages, but it implies that the estimates for the latest released moving quarter are provisional (see "Revisions" section below).

As estimates of centred moving quarters, the values (not seasonally adjusted) of the reference months February, May, August and November of each year correspond to the estimates of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> natural quarters, respectively, whose results are published and analyzed with greater detail in the quarterly releases of the Labour Force Survey estimates.

The estimates for the last reference month are always provisional, as they correspond to a moving quarter where for the third month the data collection is not completed yet. In fact, for the first two months ( $m-1$  and  $m$ ) the data collection from the Labour Force Survey is already completed, while for the third month ( $m+1$ ) only partially collected data are available.

In this context, in each monthly Press Release the provisional estimates for the reference month and the definitive estimates for the previous months are published.

*(to be continued)*

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### Information available

The data series selected for monthly releases refer to both employed and unemployed population, by sex and age group, and to the corresponding rates. In relation to these data series, it should be noted the following:

- For the purpose of creating long monthly data series needed for subsequent adjustment of seasonality, the two latest data series of the Labour Force Survey (from 1998 to 2010; from 2011 onwards) were previously linked.
- Unless otherwise stated, the data series analyzed in this Press Release are seasonally adjusted. For this reason, the analysis focuses on the comparison with the most recent periods. As agreed, Eurostat started using these estimates in its unemployment monthly releases. The original data series (not seasonally adjusted; as in the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases), are available in Tables 1 and 2 of the annex and at the Statistics Portugal Portal ([www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt)).
- The indicators analyzed in this Press Release were calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 15 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release), which differs from the criterion adopted at the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases (people aged 15 and over, in line with the concepts in force of the International Labour Organization).

The back series for all the released and analyzed indicators in this Press Release, since February 1998 (quarter from January to March 1998), are available at the Statistics Portugal Portal.

Due to rounding, totals may not correspond exactly to the sum of the parts.

### Revisions

The monthly released data are subject to revisions, as previously mentioned. The revisions come from obtaining the definitive estimates for the previous month (moving quarter) due to the conclusion of its last month collection process. In addition, the revisions also come from the updating of the seasonally adjusted data series whenever a new observation is added. Therefore, in each Press Release the not seasonally adjusted definitive estimates for the previous reference month are published.

The impact of those revisions, measured by the difference between the estimates now released for September 2018 (definitive estimates) and the ones for that month published in the last Press Release, is the following:

Revision of September 2018 estimates - main indicators			
	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data	Not seasonally adjusted data
Active population (15 to 74)		1.1	2.0
Employed population (15 to 74)	Thousands	0.6	2.1
Unemployed population (15 to 74)		0.5	- 0.1
Employment rate (15 to 74)		0.0	0.0
Unemployment rate (15 to 74)		0.0	0.0
Men's unemployment rate (15 to 74)		0.0	0.0
Women's unemployment rate (15 to 74)	p.p.	0.0	0.0
Youth unemployment rate (15 to 24)		0.3	0.3
Adults' unemployment rate (25 to 74)		0.0	0.0

In September 2018, the null revision of the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was followed by null revisions for men, women, and adults. The null revision of the unemployment rate was followed by the practically null revision of the unemployed population, as well as by the also practically null revision of the employed population.

(to be continued)

*(continuation)*

### Some concepts

**Unemployed:** person aged 15 and 74 who, during the reference period, was simultaneously in the following situations:

- without work, i.e. was not in paid employment or self-employment;
- seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period (reference period or the three previous weeks) to seek paid employment or self-employment; and
- currently available for work, i.e. was available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period.

**Employed:** person aged 15 and over who, during the reference period, was in one of the following situations:

- did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, including a familiar gain in money or gender;
- was not working but had jobs from which was temporarily absent;
- had a business, but was temporarily not working for a specific reason;
- was in a pre-retirement situation while working.

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

U.R. (%) = (Unemployed population / 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

For the indicators selected for monthly dissemination, it was considered the age subgroup of those aged 15 to 74.

For a more detailed definition of the concepts and methodological features of this statistical operation, consult the [Labour Force Survey](#) or the [Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates](#) methodological documents (both only in Portuguese) available at the Statistics Portugal website.

### Next Press Release:

8 January 2019: "Monthly Employment and Unemployment Statistics – November 2018".

9 January 2019: Eurostat News Release.