



# SYNTHESIS INE @ COVID-19

December . 09 . 2020

Statistics Portugal makes available the weekly report for monitoring the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

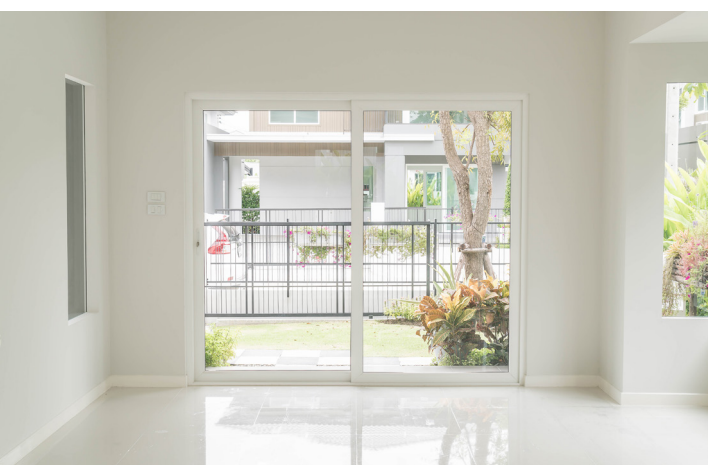
This report covers the press releases concerning:

- Interest rates implied in housing loans – September 2020, published on November 23;
- Information and knowledge society business survey – 2020, published on November 23;
- Fast and exceptional enterprise survey - COVID-19 – November 2020, published on November 26;
- Business and consumer surveys – October 2020, published on November 27;
- Survey on bank evaluation on housing – October 2020, published on November 27;
- Business turnover, employment, wages and hours worked index in retail trade – October 2020, published on November 27;
- Deaths by week – preliminary data 2020, published on November 27.

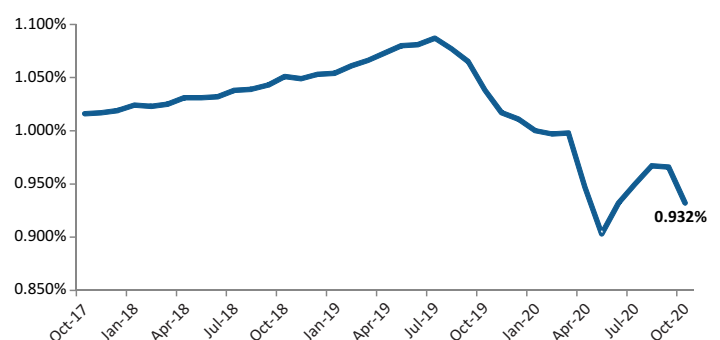
For further details, see the links available throughout this press release.

## Interest rates implied in housing loans went down while owed capital and monthly loan repayments went up

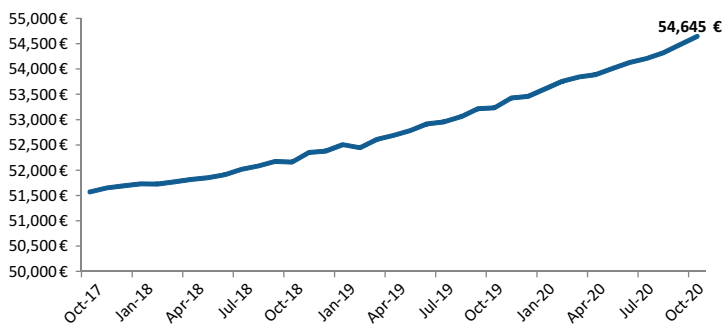
In October, the implicit interest rate for all housing loan agreements was 0.932% (0.966% in September). For the contracts that were closed in the previous three months, the interest rate decreased to 0.914% (0.966% in September).



Implicit interest rates in housing loans



Average owed capital



In October, the average value of owed capital increased by EUR 161, compared to the previous month, and amounted to EUR 54,645, while the average value of loan repayments increased by EUR 1 to EUR 227.

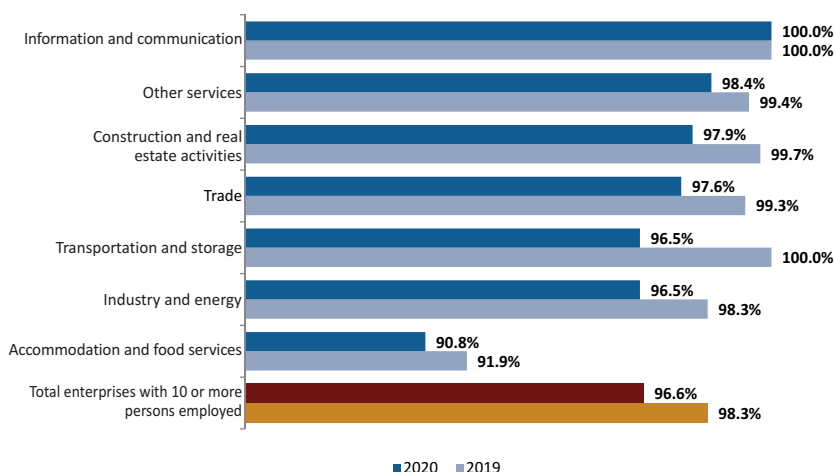
The implicit interest rate on housing credit for the house loans agreements decreased to 0.951%, in October (0.983% in the previous month). For contracts celebrated in the last 3 months, this interest rate was 0.911% (0.961% in September).

More information available at:  
[Interest rates implied in housing loans – September 2020](#)  
 (23 November 2020)

## Almost 2/3 of the enterprises have their own website

In 2020, 96.6% of enterprises with 10 or more persons employed use a computer with an internet connection for business purposes via the broadband service. A fixed broadband connection is more used than mobile broadband connection: 95.1% and 67.1% respectively.

Enterprises using computers with an internet connection for professional purposes as a % of total enterprises with 10 or more persons employed



The sector with the lowest use of the internet is *Accommodation and food services* (90.8%).

In 2020, 61.5% of enterprises with 10 or more persons employed have their own website or one belonging to the economic group to which they are part of (+2.6 p.p. compared to the previous year).

Most of these enterprises provide product or service descriptions (78.7%) and price lists and links or references to the enterprise social network profiles (56.4%).

The proportion of enterprises with websites increases with the number of staff in service, with enterprises with 250 or more persons employed (95.3%), followed by enterprises with 50 to 249 persons employed (82.5%), and enterprises with 10 to 49 persons employed (56.9%).

The percentage of enterprises with websites reaches the highest figures in the *Information and communication* (94.9%), *Other services* (73.0%), and *Transports and storage* (65.5%) sectors, while the lowest figures are recorded in the *Accommodation and food services* (46.9%) and *Construction and real estate activities* (57.9%) sectors.

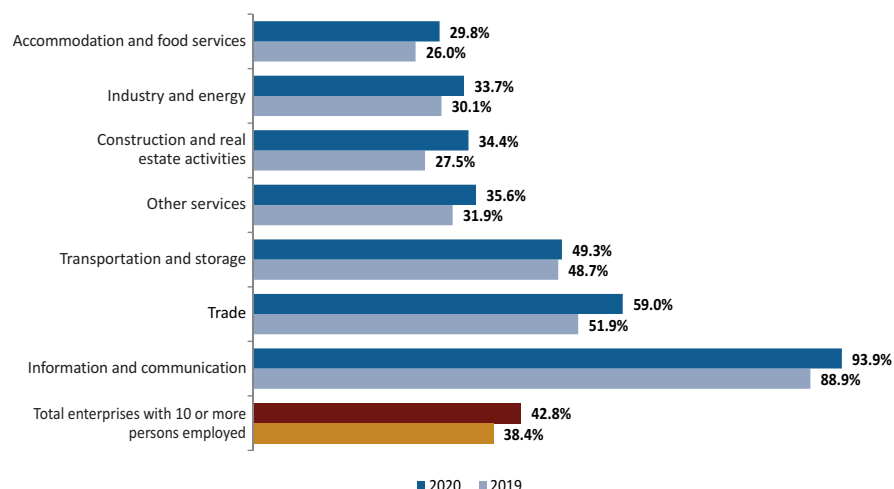
9.3% of enterprises offer a chat service where one person responds to customers and 3% offer a chatbot or virtual assistant who responds to customers.



29.0% of enterprises with 10 or more persons employed purchase cloud computing services on the Internet, with a focus on email and file storage (83.2% and 70.1% of these enterprises respectively).

About 23% of enterprises have staff specialising in *Information and Communication Technologies* (ICT). This percentage was higher in enterprises with 250 or more persons employed (69.8%) and in the *Information and Communication* sector (71.0%).

## Persons employed using computers with an internet connection for professional purposes as a percentage of total persons employed in enterprises with 10 or more persons employed



In 2020, of all enterprises with 10 or more persons employed, 13.0% use interconnected devices or systems that can be monitored or controlled remotely over the internet (Internet of Things - IoT), and 9.1% use industrial and/or service robots.

42.8% of persons employed use a computer with an Internet connection for professional purposes (+4.4 p.p. than in 2019).

By sector of activity, *Information and Communication* has the highest percentage of people using the computer with Internet connection for professional purposes (93.9%), followed by *Trade* (59.0%) and *Transportation and storage* (49.3%). The *Accommodation and food services* sector is the one with the lowest percentage (29.8%).

More information available at:  
[Information and knowledge society business survey -2020](#)  
 (23 November 2020)

## COVID-19: monitoring the impact of the pandemic on enterprises

Last April, Statistics Portugal and Banco de Portugal (BdP) launched the Fast and Exceptional Enterprise Survey (COVID-IREE), to identify the effects of the pandemic on business activity.

Given the evolution of restrictions to economic activity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the questionnaire was suspended in August. Considering the current worsening of health emergency conditions, Statistics Portugal and BdP decided to conduct another edition of the survey, with a reformulated set of questions, which also aim at assessing the perception of the enterprises on a set of possible scenarios. The collection for this edition took place during the week of 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> of November.

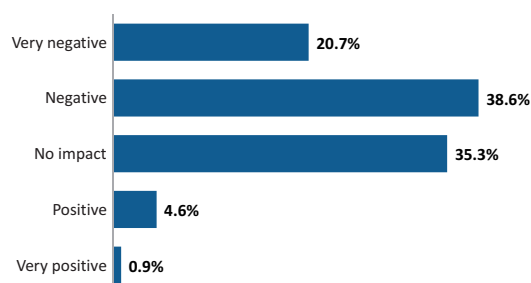
The results presented refer exclusively to the enterprises that responded to this edition of the survey (around 6,000). These enterprises correspond to a representative sample underlying the calculation of the monthly sectoral turnover indices published by Statistics Portugal.

The survey does not cover enterprises in the financial sector or public administration organisations.

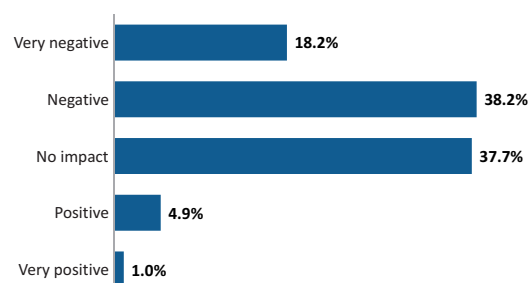
### Impact of the pandemic on turnover

More than half of the responding enterprises reported a negative or very negative impact on the present turnover reality associated with the reduction of orders/clients (59%) and the new containment measures (56%).

Impact of the changes in orders/clients to the current evolution of turnover in Enterprises (Nov. 2020)



Impact of the newly announced containment measures on the evolution of turnover in the enterprises (Nov. 2020)



The *Accommodation and food services* sector is the one in which the changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic were felt the most in the turnover of enterprises:

- The new containment measures announced affect 82% of enterprises negatively, with 59% reporting a very negative impact;
- The way orders/clients changed was reported by 84% of enterprises as having a negative or very negative impact (55% in the latter situation).

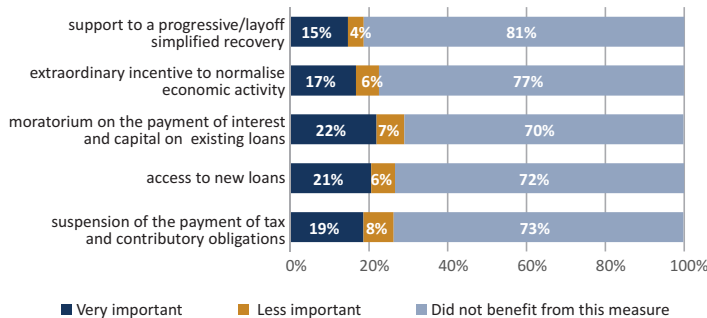




## Importance of the measures forwarded by the Government for the liquidity situation of the enterprises

Most of the enterprises currently benefiting from government support measures consider them very important for their liquidity situation. These enterprises account for between 19% and 30% of all respondents, depending on the support measure.

Degree of the importance of the government support measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic to the liquidity situation of the enterprises (% of the total responding enterprises)



As numbers are rounded up or down, totals may not always correspond to the sum of the parts.

Again, the *Accommodation and food services* sector stands out, like the one in which there is the largest percentage of enterprises currently benefiting from government measures:

- 58% benefiting from the support to a progressive/layoff simplified recovery;
- 56% benefiting from the extraordinary incentive to normalise economic activity;
- 50% benefiting from the moratorium on the payment of interest and capital on existing loans, access to new loans, and the suspension of the payment of tax and contributory obligations.

## Business expectations for employment developments up to the end of 2020

Given the current situation, by the end of 2020 and concerning the total number of enterprises that responded to the survey:

- The vast majority (85%) plan to maintain jobs until the end of 2020; these enterprises account for 68% of all persons employed by the responding enterprises;
- 10% of the enterprises plan to reduce jobs (21% of all persons employed);
- 5% of companies want to increase jobs (11% of total persons employed).

Enterprises operating in the *Accommodation and food services* sector plan to cut jobs by the end of the year (36%), with job reductions of more than 20% in 10% of those enterprises.

In contrast, the *Information and Communication* sector recorded the highest proportion of enterprises with plans to increase jobs over the same period (11%), which could reach 15% of jobs in 9% of those enterprises.



## Business expectations for job developments in 2021

Considering also the current context, and given the total of enterprises that responded to the survey, but for the year 2021:

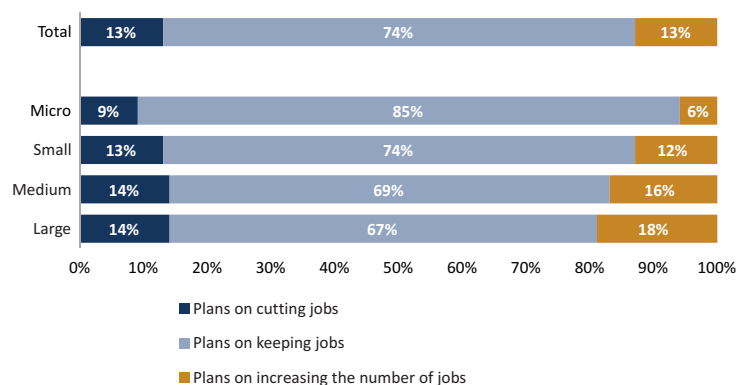
- 74% of the enterprises plan to keep jobs (59% of all persons employed);
- 13% of the enterprises plan to reduce jobs (15% of all persons employed);
- 13% of enterprises consider increasing jobs (26% of all persons employed).

Also, concerning what is foreseen for 2021:

- The *Accommodation and food services* sector has the highest percentage of enterprises with job reduction plans: 35%;
- Enterprises operating in the *Information and Communication* sector are the ones that plan to increase the number of jobs the most: 21%.

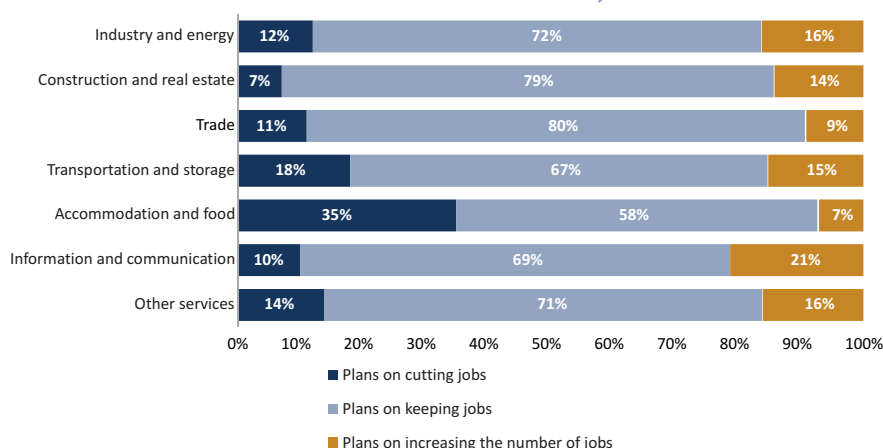
## Perspectives on the evolution of jobs in the enterprises in 2021 (% of the total enterprises)

All responding enterprises and size brackets



As numbers are rounded up or down, totals may not always correspond to the sum of the parts.

### Sector of activity

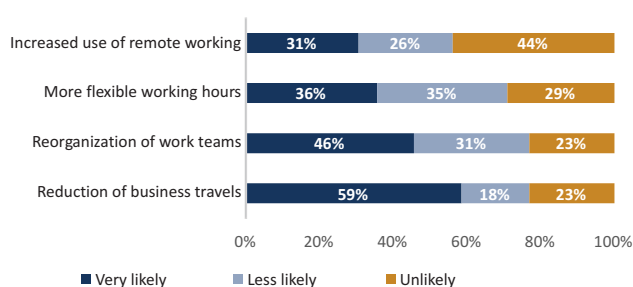


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## Permanent changes in the way enterprises work driven by the COVID-19 pandemic

The responding enterprises are facing permanent changes in the way they work as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The proportion of enterprises in this situation varies according to the type of change considered.

### Permanent changes in the way how enterprises operate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as a % of the total number of enterprises



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In large enterprises, the probability of a permanent reduction in business travels is as high as 92%, with 76% reporting as very likely.

The difference between large and micro-enterprises is particularly striking regarding the more intensive use of remote working permanently: very likely in 57% of large enterprises, 40 p.p. higher than in micro-enterprises (17%).

The *Information and Communication* sector stands out for the high proportion of enterprises that consider the possibility of permanently changing the way they work: 65% of the enterprises consider the most intensive use of remote working very likely and 58% admit that more flexible working hours are very likely.

In contrast, in the *Accommodation and food services* 71% of the enterprises consider the more intensive use of remote working permanently to be unlikely, although they do consider it possible; however, the permanent reorganisation of work teams is considered very likely by 58% of the enterprises operating in this sector.

## Business concerns over different possible scenarios

A large majority of enterprises (90%) express a high (55%) or moderate (45%) degree of concern about a worsening or prolongation of the pandemic containment measures to be implemented by the government.

## Estimated time for businesses to survive in a scenario of worsening pandemic containment measures and lack of additional support measures

Faced with a scenario of worsening pandemic containment measures and a lack of additional support measures:

- 84% of the enterprises do not plan to close;
- 16% of the enterprises estimate that they will continue operating for about 7 months, on average.

In the *Accommodation and food services* sector, this percentage stands at 42%, and the average survival time at 5.3 months for the respective enterprises.

## The importance to the enterprises of a possible extension of government support measures in the face of a scenario of worsening containment measures

In a scenario of worsening containment measures (like that observed during the state of emergency in March and April), a significant proportion of enterprises consider it very important for the government to extend its support measures:

- 54% in the case of suspension of payment of tax and contributory obligations;
- 51% in simplified layoff;
- 45% in access to new low-interest loans or State guarantees;
- 40% in the case of the moratorium.

By contrast, 30% or more of the enterprises, depending on the measure, would not make use of government support measures in a scenario of possible tightening of containment measures.

## Estimated time for business activity to return to normal, assuming effective control of the pandemic in 2021

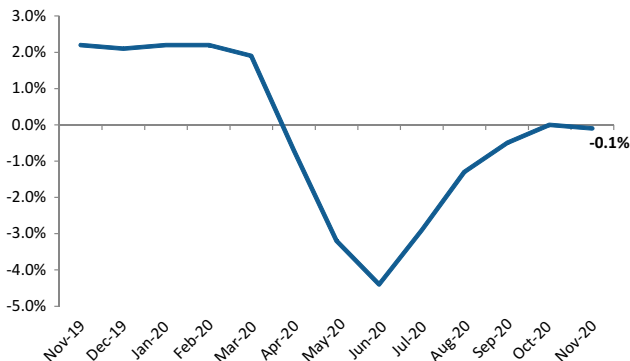
In a scenario of effective pandemic control in 2021, about one-third of the enterprises (34%) estimate that their activity will return to normal. On average, these enterprises estimate that the return to normal will occur in about 9.8 months. In the same context, 4% of the enterprises do not anticipate a return to normal and 62% cannot anticipate whether their turnover will return to normal or not.

Admitting effective control of the pandemic, the enterprises operating in the *Transportation and Storage* sector are the ones that, on average, need the most time for activity to return to normal (14.2 months). In the *Information and communication* sector, the estimated average time is substantially shorter (8.6 months).

More information available at:  
[Fast and exceptional enterprise survey - COVID-19 – November 2020](#)  
(26 November 2020)

## Consumer confidence and economic climate indicators decrease

Economic Climate Indicator



In November, the Consumer Confidence indicator declined after remaining relatively stable over the last five months, following the partial recovery, in May and June, of the largest decline in the series recorded in April.

The economic climate indicator declined in November, interrupting the recovery path observed in the previous six months, after reaching the series minimum in April. In November, the confidence indicators declined in all sectors - *Construction and Public Works*, *Trade*, *Services*, and *Manufacturing* - with the former registering the largest reduction.

In November, the confidence indicators showed the following developments:

- The Consumer Confidence Indicator declined as a result of the negative contribution of the components concerning the perspectives for the next twelve months, namely the perspectives on the future development of the country's economic situation, the financial situation of the household, and important purchases. Opinions on past developments in the household's financial situation contributed positively.
- The Manufacturing confidence indicator declined, countering the increase seen in the previous month and interrupting the recovery seen between June and August, after reaching the historical minimum in the series recorded in May.

The reduction in the indicator reflected the marked negative contribution of the balance of perspectives on the production of the enterprises and, to a lesser extent, of opinions on the stock of finished products. Conversely, assessments regarding the evolution of overall demand contributed positively.

The indicator declined in all three groupings: *Consumer Goods*, *Investment Goods*, and *Intermediate Goods*, moderately in the latter case.

- The Construction and Public Works confidence indicator declined sharply, interrupting the recovery profile observed between May and October, after registering the sharpest decrease in the series in April.

The worsening of the indicator resulted from the negative contributions of both components: opinions concerning the order books and perspectives on employment.

The reduction of the indicator was particularly marked in *Real Estate Development* and *Building Construction*, *Civil Engineering*, and *Specialised Construction Activities*, more so in the former.

- The Trade confidence indicator declined significantly, interrupting the upward trend seen between May and October, after a strong reduction in April, when it reached the series minimum. These outcomes reflected the negative contribution of the opinions on sales volume and the perspectives on the enterprises' activity for the next three months, with opinions on the volume of stocks contributing positively.

The confidence indicator declined in both sub-sectors - *Wholesale* and *Retail* - more so in the latter.

- The Services confidence indicator also declined significantly, after having partially recovered between June and October from the historical minimum of the series reached in May.

The evolution of the indicator resulted from the negative contributions of the perspectives on the evolution of the order books and, to a greater extent, the perspectives on the evolution of demand.

The reduction of the confidence indicator was observed in all sections, with emphasis on *Artistic*, *Entertainment*, *Sports and Recreational Activities*, *Transportation and Storage*, and *Accommodation*, *Food services and Similar*.



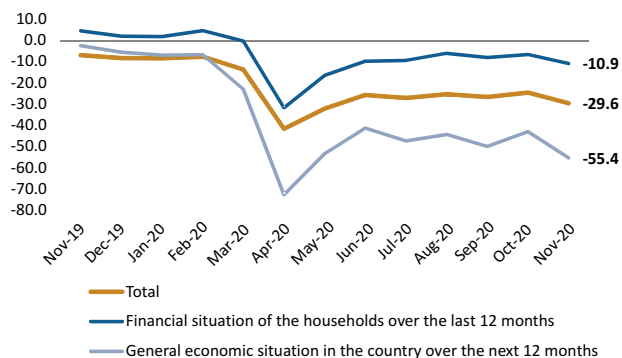


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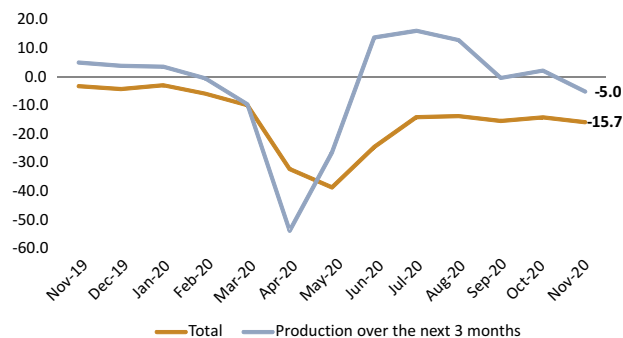
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## Confidence indicators (BER\*) (monthly seasonally adjusted basic series values)

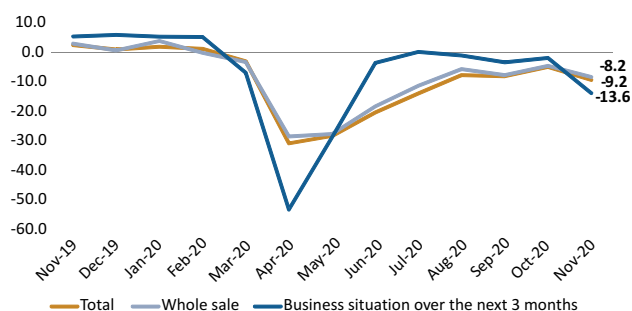
### Consumers Confidence Indicator



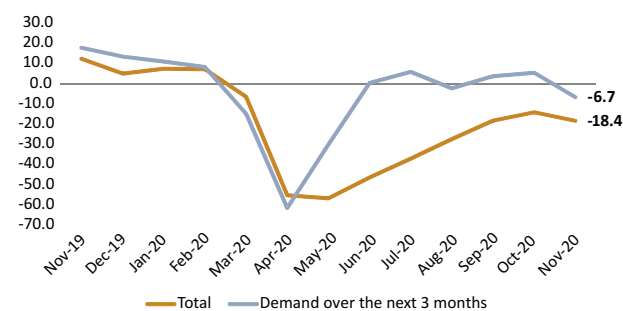
### Manufacturing Industry Confidence Indicator



### Trade Confidence Indicator



### Services Confidence Indicator



\*BER – Balance of extreme responses

The telephone interviews of the consumer survey took place between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> of November and those of the business surveys between the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.



More information at:  
[Business and consumer surveys – October 2020](#)  
(27 November 2020)

### The median value of bank appraisals has increased

In October, the median value of bank appraisals was €1,131, i.e. three euros more than in the previous month. In year-on-year terms, the rate of change remained at 5.8% (the same as in September).

In this month, the number of bank appraisals reported was approximately 24.6 thousand (+2.9% compared to the same month a year earlier). Of these:

- About 15,600 referred to apartments;
- About 9,000 referred to houses.

In October, on a regional level (NUTS II), the median value of bank appraisals registered:

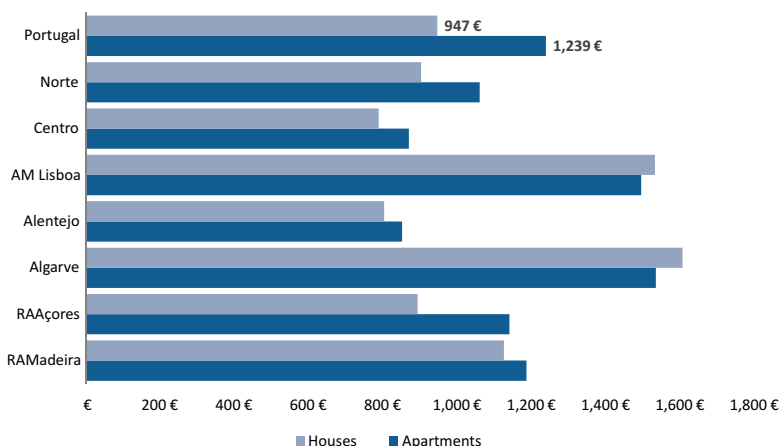
- Compared to the previous month:
  - » The largest increase in Região Autónoma da Madeira: 2.4%;
  - » The only reduction occurred in Centro: -0.2%.
- In year-on-year terms:
  - » The highest rate of change in Algarve: +7.5%;
  - » The lowest rate of change in Alentejo: +2.4%.

In October, when focussing the analysis on the type of housing, the median value of bank appraisals:

- Increased by 7.3% in apartments, to stand at €1,239/m<sup>2</sup>;
- Increased by 3.6% in houses, to stand at €947/m<sup>2</sup>.



Median value of bank appraisals of apartments and houses  
October 2020 (Euros/m<sup>2</sup>)



In October 2020, compared to the previous month, the median value of bank appraisals:

- In apartments:
  - » It went up by €2 in T2 apartments, to €1,255/m<sup>2</sup>;
  - » It went down by €7 in T3 apartments, to 1,127/m<sup>2</sup>.

Together, these two typologies represented 80.7% of bank appraisals of apartments carried out in October.

- In houses:
  - » It went up by €40 in T2 houses, to 855/m<sup>2</sup>;
  - » It went up by €30 in T3 houses, to 886/m<sup>2</sup>;
  - » It went up by €17 in T4 houses, to 969/m<sup>2</sup>.

Together, these three typologies accounted for 69.5% of bank appraisals.

In September, the index of the median value of bank appraisals shows that on a NUTS III regional level:

- The regions that presented bank appraisals above the country's median were:
  - » Área Metropolitana de Lisboa: +37%;
  - » Algarve: +33%;
  - » Alentejo Litoral: +3%;
  - » Região Autónoma da Madeira: +2%.
- Beira Baixa was the region that presented the lowest value (40% below the country's median).

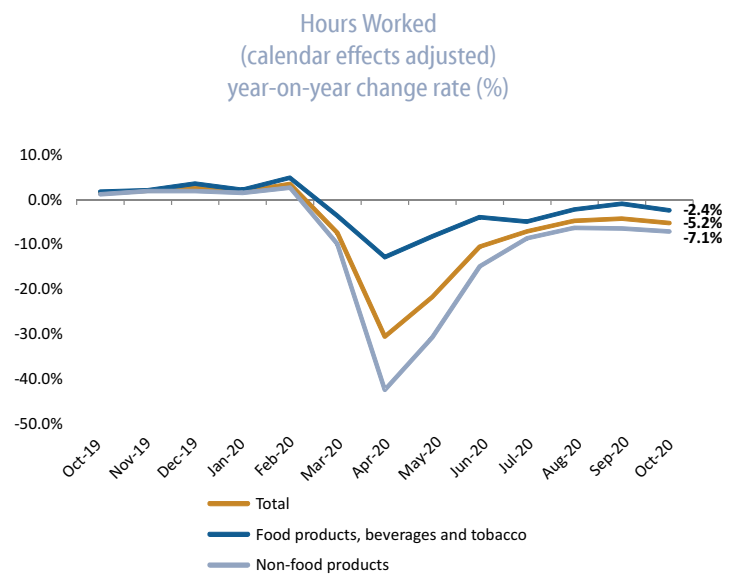
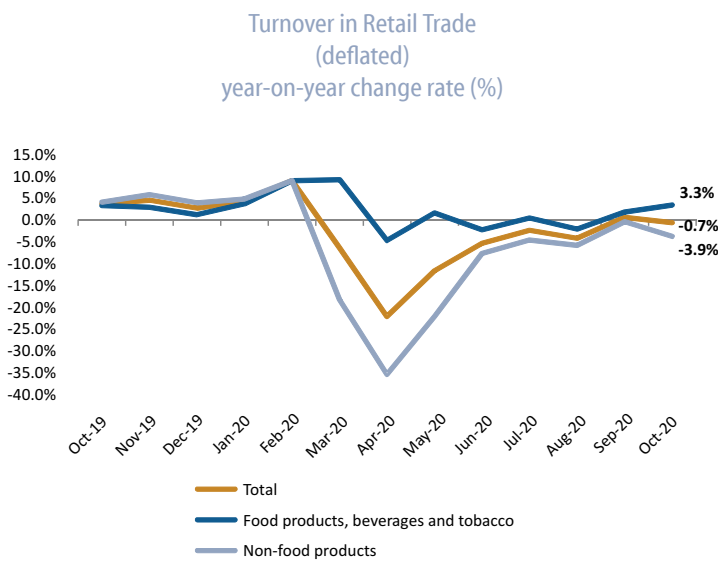
More information available at:  
[Survey on bank evaluation on housing – October 2020](#)  
 (27 November 2020)

## Retail trade sales decreased by 0.7%

In October, the retail trade turnover index registered a year-on-year rate of change of -0.7% (+0.5% in the previous month).

The two major groupings that make up this index recorded the following developments:

- *Non-food products*: a 3.9% reduction (-0.5% in September);
- *Food products*: a 3.3% increase (+1.7% in September).



In October, the following rates of change were registered:

- **Employment index:**
  - » Year-on-year rate of change: -3.2% (-3.7% in September);
  - » Month-on-month rate of change: -0.1% (-0.6% in October 2019);
- **Wages and salaries index:**
  - » Year-on-year rate of change: -1.9% (+1.4% in September);
  - » Month-on-month rate of change: -3.5% (-0.3% in October 2019);
- **Hours worked index:**
  - » Year-on-year rate of change: -5.2% (-4.2% in September);
  - » Month-on-month rate of change: +1.3% (+2.3% in October 2019);



More information available at:  
[Business turnover, employment, wages and hours worked index in retail trade – October 2020](#)  
 (27 November 2020)

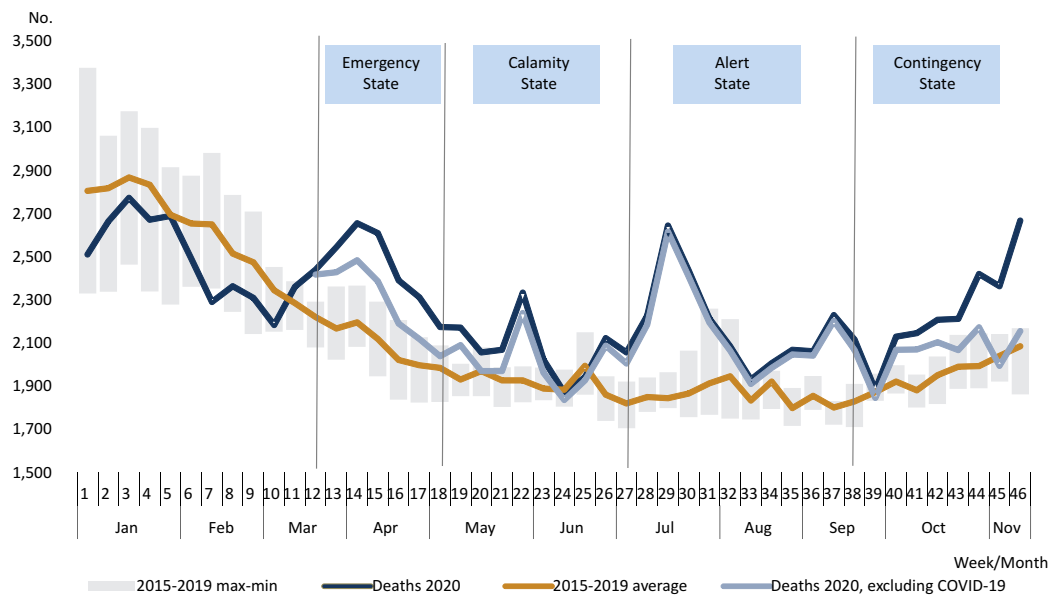
## Mortality in Portugal in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

About 82% of the increase in deaths between the 19<sup>th</sup> of October and the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, compared to the average of the last 5 years, was due to COVID-19

Between the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March - the date on which the first cases of COVID-19 disease were diagnosed in Portugal - and the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, 82,326 deaths were recorded in Portugal, 9,640 more than the average for the years 2015-2019 over the same period. Of these deaths, 36.0% (3,472) were attributed to COVID-19.

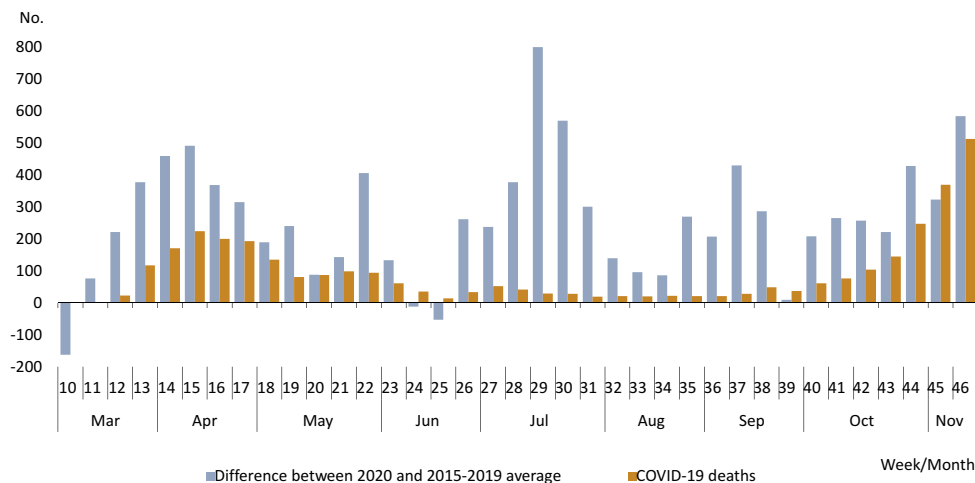
In the last 4 weeks (19<sup>th</sup> of October to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November), the increase (compared to the average for the same period in 2015-2019) was 1,556 deaths, of which 1,274 (81.9%) were due to COVID-19.

Deaths 2020 and average 2015-2019, by week, Portugal, weeks 1 to 46



The increase in deaths in 2020, compared with the average for 2015-2019, reached a first peak in week 15 (6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April) and recorded the highest figure in week 29 (13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of July), with an increase of 800 deaths, which might have also been related to the fact that July 2020 was extremely hot. In week 37 (7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of September), there was a new peak, after which it fell again. Since week 40 (28<sup>th</sup> of September to the 4<sup>th</sup> of October), there has been a continued increase in the number of deaths, which has been increasingly moving away from the average of the last five years.

Difference between 2020 deaths and 2015-2019 average and COVID-19 deaths

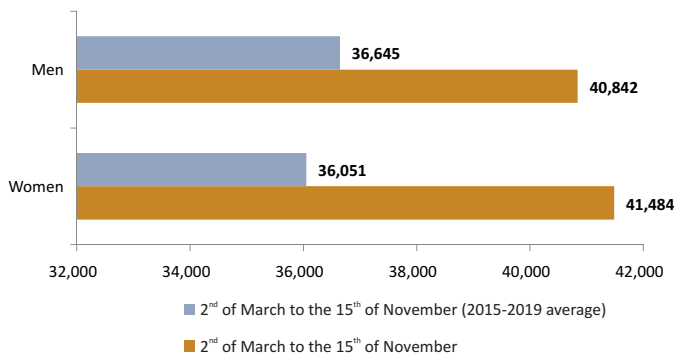




From the total of deaths since the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November (week 10 to 46):

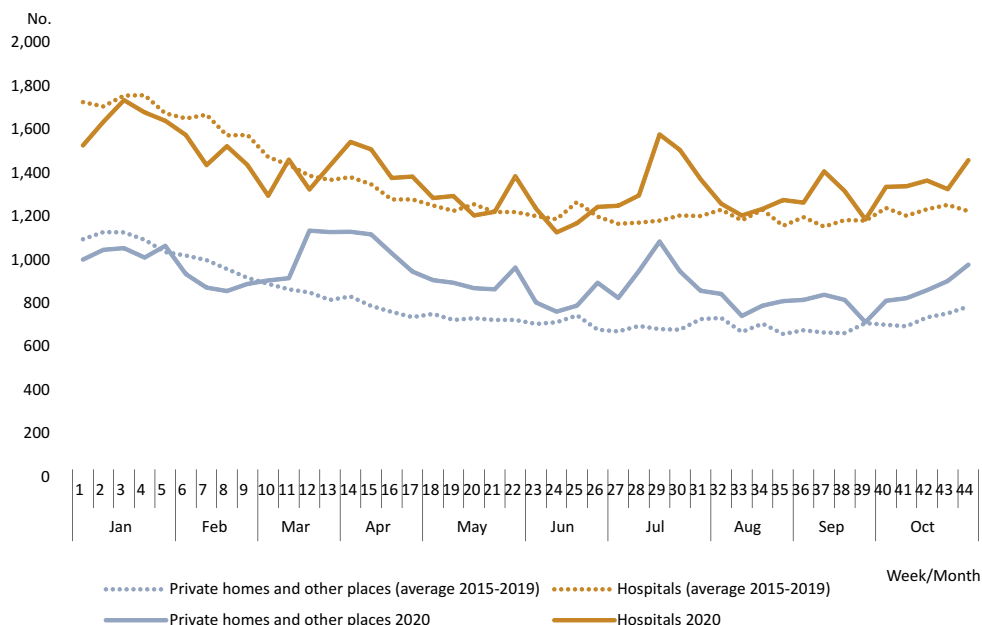
- 40,842 were men and 41,484 were women (+4,197 and +5,433, respectively, compared to the average of deaths in the same period of 2015-2019);

Deaths in the period 2<sup>nd</sup> of March to the 15<sup>th</sup> of November



- 71.3% were people aged 75 and over (58,683 deaths). Compared to the average number of deaths observed in the same period of 2015-2019, an additional 8,277 people aged 75 and over died, of whom 6,288 were aged 85 and over;
- The highest increase in relation to the average number of deaths in the same period of 2015-2019 was recorded in Norte region (+4,138 deaths), followed by Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (+2,659), Centro (+1,689), Alentejo (+798), Algarve (+323), Região Autónoma dos Açores (+90), and Região Autónoma da Madeira (+89);
- 49,301 deaths occurred in hospitals and 33,025 outside the hospital. Compared to the average for the same period of 2015-2019, these records correspond to increases of 3,492 deaths in hospitals and 6,148 deaths outside hospitals.

2020 deaths and 2015-2019 average, by week and place of death



More information available at:  
[Deaths by week – preliminary data 2020](#)  
 (27 November 2020)

# SYNTHESIS INE @ COVID-19

December . 09 . 2020

Statistics Portugal started on 3 April 2020 the release of the “Statistics Portugal@COVID-19 Synthesis” series of highlights, aiming to provide a summary aggregation of some of the most relevant official statistical results released each week.

These reports are intended to facilitate the access to data which allow monitoring of the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by decision-makers from public and private entities as well as the general public.

Press releases between 30-11-2020 and 04-12-2020:

Press Releases	Reference period	Release date
CPI/HICP Flash Estimate	November 2020	30 November 2020
Tourism activity - Flash Estimate: October 2020		30 November 2020
Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates	October 2020	30 November 2020
Quarterly national accounts	3rd Quarter 2020	30 November 2020
Transport activities	3rd Quarter 2020	02 December 2020
Industrial production index	October 2020	02 December 2020
Fertility Survey	2019	03 December 2020
Context indicators for the COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal		04 December 2020
Context indicators for the COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal		04 December 2020