

5 April 2021

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates February 2021

The unemployment rate stood at 6.9% and the labour underutilisation rate at 13.9%

January 2021:

- The employed population has decreased by 0.6% from the previous month, by 0.4% from three months before and by 2.2% from the same month of 2020.
- The unemployed population has decreased by 0.4% from December 2020, by 9.8% from October of the same year and by 0.7% from January of that year.
- The unemployment rate (concept of the International Labour Organization, ILO) stood at 6.9% as in the previous month, but 0.7 percentage points (pp) less than in three months before and 0.1 pp more than in the same month of the previous year.
- The labour underutilisation rate was estimated at 13.8%, up 0.1 pp from the previous month, down 1.0 pp from three months before and up 1.2 pp from a year earlier.

February 2021:

- The employed population has increased by 0.2% from the previous month but decreased by 0.6% from three months before and by 1.7% from the same month of 2020.
- The unemployed population decreased by 0.3% from January 2021 and by 5.8% from three months before (November 2020), having increased by 3.8% when compared to February 2020.
- The unemployment rate stood at 6.9% as in the previous month, down 0.3 pp from three months before and up 0.4 pp from the same month of 2020.
- The labour underutilisation rate was estimated at 13.9%, 0.1 pp more than in the previous month, 0.1 pp less than November 2020 and 1.2 pp more than a year earlier.

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates								
Main indicators								
	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data						
		Jan 2020 (p)	Feb 2020 (p)	Oct 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)
Active population (16 to 74)		5,122.5	5,087.8	5,069.5	5,070.6	5,041.9	5,013.5	5,021.7
Employed population (16 to 74)		4,774.7	4,756.3	4,686.6	4,705.4	4,695.3	4,668.3	4,677.5
Unemployed population (16 to 74)	Thousands	347.8	331.5	382.9	365.3	346.6	345.2	344.2
Inactive population (16 to 74)		2,559.6	2,591.5	2,595.7	2,603.5	2,635.0	2,662.5	2,653.7
Labour underutilisation (16 to 74)		664.8	670.3	783.9	737.4	720.1	726.8	733.5
Activity rate (16 to 74)		66.7	66.3	66.1	66.1	65.7	65.3	65.4
Employment rate (16 to 74)		62.2	61.9	61.1	61.3	61.2	60.8	60.9
Unemployment rate (16 to 74)	%	6.8	6.5	7.6	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.9
Inactivity rate (16 to 74)		33.3	33.7	33.9	33.9	34.3	34.7	34.6
Labour underutilisation rate (16 to 74)		12.6	12.7	14.8	14.0	13.7	13.8	13.9

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

1. Introduction

In 2021, as in other European Union countries, Statistics Portugal started a new Labour Force Survey data series (LFS2021), which includes, among other changes, the removal of persons engaged in agriculture and fishing activities exclusively for self-consumption from the employed population and the restriction of the active population to those aged 16 to 89.

To avoid making direct comparisons between the estimates from different data series, Statistics Portugal decided to backward calculate the estimates since February 2011 resulting from the above mentioned changes as described in the [Press Release](#) of March 9th, 2021 (only available in Portuguese). As a result, the levels of the employed population and of the active population of these new data series are lower than those of the previous series. However, their time pattern remains practically unchanged in recent years.

The monthly employment and unemployment estimates resulting from this exercise were also sent to Eurostat, which will make them public.

As indicated in previous Press Releases, Statistics Portugal is carrying out, during the 1st quarter of 2021, in parallel with the main operation, an additional data collection using the questionnaire from the previous series and a smaller sample. As a result of this assessment, Statistics Portugal will publish a short article explaining the changes introduced and may still do further adjustments to the previous data series (LFS2011² and LFS1998³) to obtain retrospective series consistent with the new one⁴.

² In force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020.

³ In force from the 1st quarter of 1998 to the 4th quarter of 2010.

⁴ For more information, see note on page 10.

2. Monthly estimates analysis

A. Active population and activity rate

In January 2021, the active population estimate stood at 5,013.5 thousand people, having decreased from the previous month, three months before and a year earlier: by 0.6% (28.4 thousand), by 1.1% (56.0 thousand) and by 2.1% (109.0 thousand).

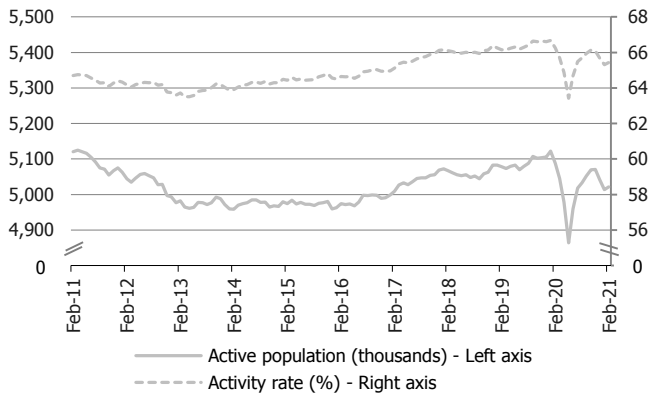
Similar behaviour had the activity rate, estimated at 65.3%: it decreased by 0.4 percentage points (pp) from December 2020, by 0.8 pp from October of the same year and by 1.4 pp when compared to January of that year.

On the other hand⁵, in February 2021, the active population stood at 5,021.7 thousand people, having increased by 0.2% (8.2 thousand) from the month before and decreased by 1.0% (48.9 thousand) from three months before and by 1.3% (66.1 thousand) from a year earlier.

The same pattern was also observed in the activity rate of that month (65.4%): increased by 0.1 pp from January 2021 and decrease by 0.7 pp and 0.9 pp when compared to November and February of 2020, respectively.

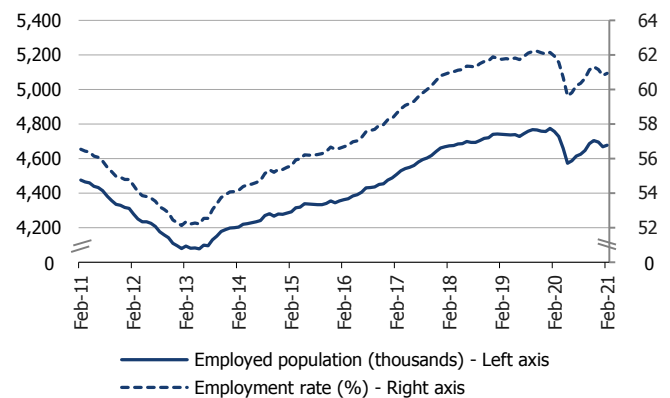
⁵ The estimates disclosed in this Press Release are all provisional for the reasons given in the Introduction. Beyond that, the estimates for the last reference month (in this case, the quarter centred in February 2021) were calculated with incomplete information for the last month of the quarter (March 2021). These estimates will be revised next month (as described in the technical note).

Figure 1: Active population and activity rate
(seasonally adjusted data)



Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

Figure 2: Employed population and employment rate
(seasonally adjusted data)



Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

B. Employed population and employment rate

The employed population stood, in January 2021, at 4,668.3 thousand people, having decreased from the previous month, three months before and a year earlier: by 0.6% (27.0 thousand), by 0.4% (18.3 thousand) and by 2.2% (106.4 thousand).

These developments were reflected in the employment rate, estimated at 60.8%: down 0.4 pp from the previous month, 0.3 pp from three months before and 1.4 pp from a year earlier.

In turn, in February 2021, the employed population, which stood at 4,677.5 thousand people, increased by 0.2% (9.2 thousand) from the previous month, but has decreased by 0.6% (27.9 thousand) from three months before and by 1.7% (78.8 thousand) from one year before.

Consequently, the employment rate was estimated at 60.9%, up 0.1 pp from January 2021, down 0.4 pp from November 2020 and down 1.0 pp from February 2020.

C. Unemployed population and unemployment rate

In January 2021, the estimate of the unemployed population was 345.2 thousand people, having decreased by 0.4% (1.4 thousand) from December 2020, by 9.8% (37.7 thousand) from October 2020 (three months before) and by 0.7% (2.6 thousand) from January 2020.

As a result, the unemployment rate stood at 6.9%, remaining unchanged from the previous month and decreasing by 0.7 pp from three months before, while having increased by 0.1 pp from a year earlier.

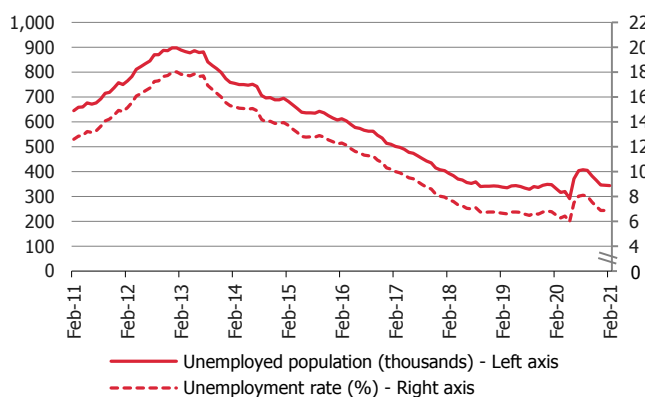
The youth unemployment rate stood at 23.0%, which corresponds to a decrease of 0.5 pp from the previous month. The adults' unemployment rate estimate was 5.8% and it has remained unchanged compared to the previous month.

In February 2021, the unemployed population – estimated at 344.2 thousand people – has decreased by 0.3% (1.0 thousand) from the previous month and by 5.8% (21.1 thousand) from three months before, while having increased by 3.8% (12.7 thousand) from one year before.

The unemployment rate estimate was 6.9%, the same value as in the previous month, down 0.3 pp from November 2020 and up 0.1 pp from February 2020.

The youth unemployment rate (21.6%) decreased by 1.4 pp from the previous month and the adults' unemployment rate (5.9%) has increased by 0.1 pp.

Figure 3: Unemployed population and unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted data)



Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

D. Inactive population and inactivity rate

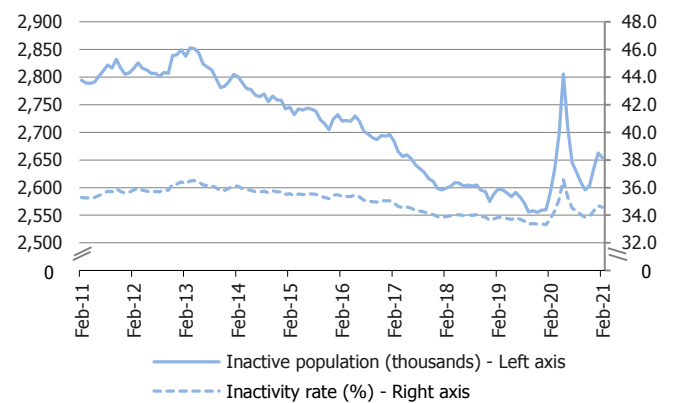
The inactive population, in January 2021, was 2,662.5 thousand people and it has increased from the previous month (1.0%; 27.5 thousand), from three months before (2.6%; 66.8 thousand) and from the same month of 2020 (4.0%; 102.9 thousand).

That led to a similar pattern in the inactivity rate, which stood at 34.7%: up 0.4 pp from December 2020, up 0.8 pp from October of the same year and up 1.4 pp from January of that year.

In February 2021, the inactive population (2,653.7 thousand people) was lower than that of the previous month (0.3%; 8.8 thousand), while higher than that of three months before (1.9%; 50.2 thousand) and that of the same month of the year before (2.4%; 62.2 thousand).

Therefore, also in the inactivity rate, estimated at 34.6%, was observed a decrease from January 2021 (0.1 pp), while an increase from three months before (0.7 pp) and from February 2021 (0.9 pp) was verified.

Figure 4: Inactive population and inactivity rate (seasonally adjusted data)



Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

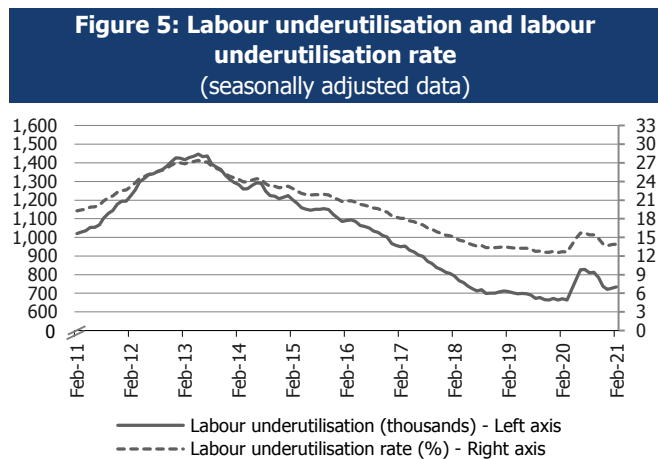
E. Supplementary indicators to unemployment and the labour underutilisation

In January 2021, the labour underutilisation covered 726.8 thousand people, up from the previous month (0.9%; 6.7 thousand) and from the same month of 2020 (9.3%; 62.0 thousand), but down from the three months before (7.3%; 57.1 thousand).

This pattern was also observed in the labour underutilisation rate, estimated at 13.8%, which has increased by 0.1 pp from the previous month and by 1.2 pp from a year earlier, while having decreased by 1.0 pp from three months before.

Similarly, in February 2021, the labour underutilisation stood at 733.5 thousand people, which corresponded to an increase of 0.9% (6.7 thousand) from January 2021 and of 9.4% (63.2 thousand) from February 2020, and to a decrease of 0.5% (3.9 thousand) from November 2020.

The labour underutilisation rate stood at 13.9%, having increased by 0.1 pp from the month before and by 1.2 pp from same month of 2020, while having decreased by 0.1 pp from three months before.



Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

F. Active, employed, unemployed and inactive population

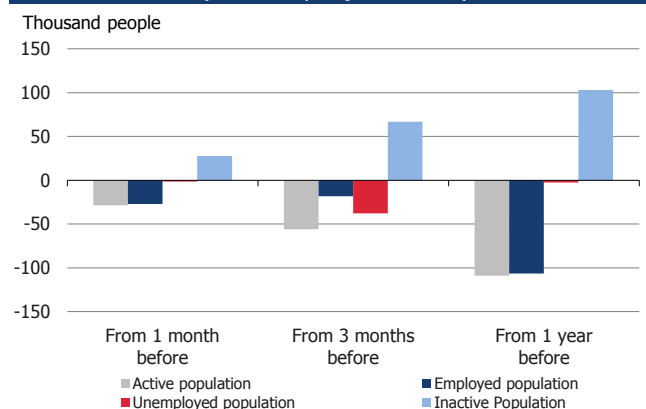
In summary, in January 2021, from the previous month, the active population has decreased (28.4 thousand), while the inactive population has increased (27.5 thousand)⁶. The reduction of the active population was due to the decrease of both the employed population (27.0 thousand) and the unemployed population (1.4 thousand). On the other hand, the inactive population increase was, mainly, explained by the increase in the number of inactive persons who were not part of the labour underutilisation, this is, those who were not available to work and did not seek a job (14.0 thousand) and in the number of inactive persons available to work, but not seeking a job (11.5 thousand).

⁶ The changes in the active population and in the inactive population are not necessarily symmetrical. They are also influenced by the total population change that results from the natural balance and the net migration.

Similarly, the decreased of the active population (56.0 thousand) compared to three months before came from the decrease of the employed population (18.3 thousand) and of the unemployed population (37.7 thousand). In turn, the inactive population increase of 66.8 thousand people was mainly due to the increase in the number of inactive persons who were not part of the labour underutilisation, this is, those who were not available to work and did not seek a job (52.5 thousand).

At last, the active population decrease (109.0 thousand) from January 2020 was explained by the decrease observed in the employed population (106.4 thousand) and in the unemployed population (2.6 thousand). The inactive population has increased by 102.9 thousand people, as a result of the increase in the number of inactive persons available to work, but not seeking a job (67.0 thousand).

Figure 6: Change in the active, employed, unemployed and inactive population in janeiro 2021
(seasonally adjusted data)



Criteria used when classifying the population aged 16 to 74 by labour status

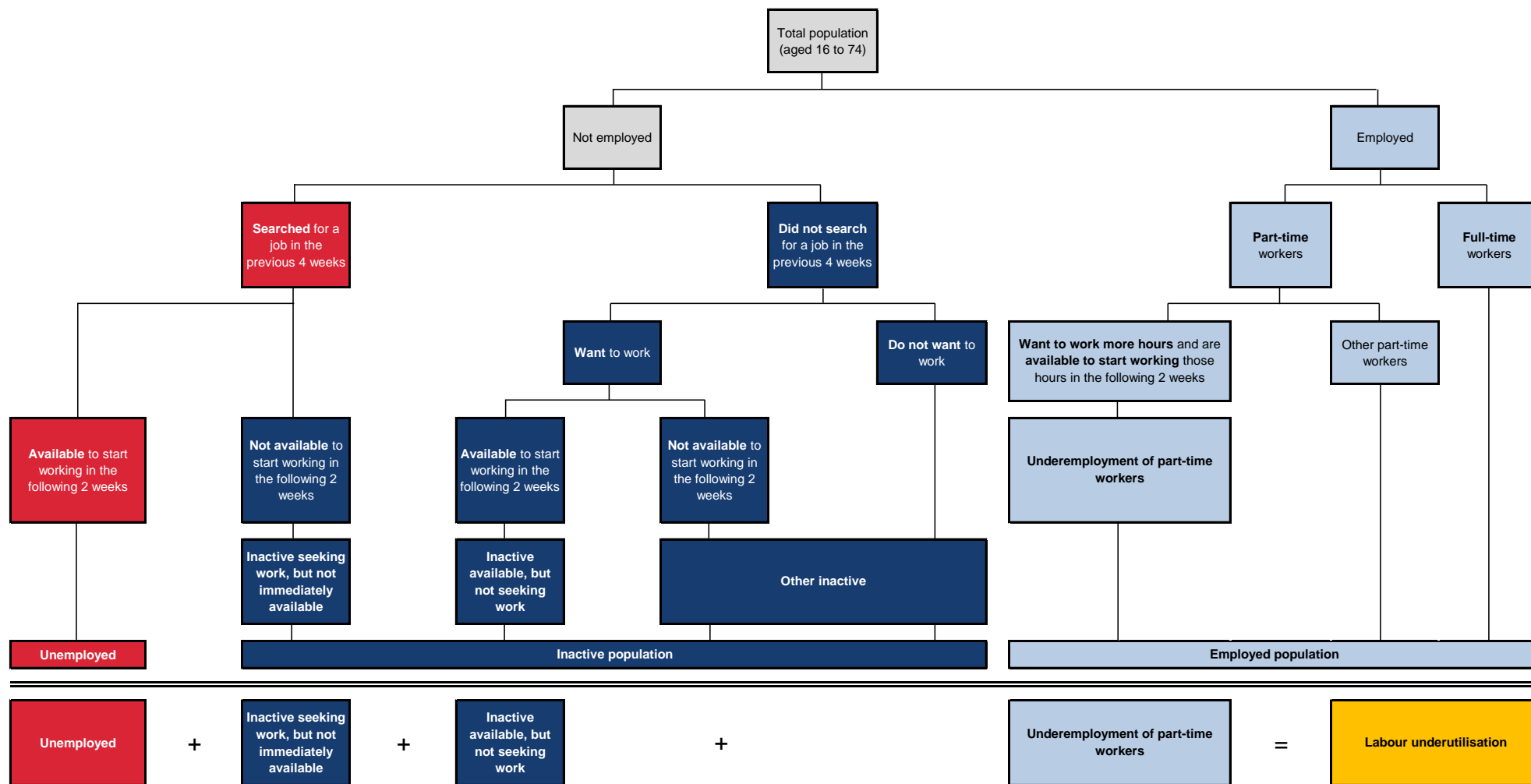


Table 1: Active population and active rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Active population (16 to 74)	5,087.8	5,070.6	5,041.9	5,013.5	5,021.7	5,070.1	5,079.1	5,035.6	4,998.5	5,006.4
Men (16 to 74)	2,555.8	2,534.2	2,518.1	2,522.9	2,534.7	2,539.9	2,539.5	2,512.2	2,509.4	2,520.3
Women (16 to 74)	2,532.0	2,536.4	2,523.8	2,490.6	2,487.0	2,530.1	2,539.5	2,523.4	2,489.1	2,486.1
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	367.7	322.6	312.4	312.5	319.2	361.0	326.9	312.8	310.4	313.9
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,720.1	4,748.1	4,729.4	4,701.0	4,702.6	4,709.1	4,752.1	4,722.8	4,688.1	4,692.5
	%									
Activity rate (16 to 74)	66.3	66.1	65.7	65.3	65.4	66.0	66.2	65.6	65.1	65.2
Men (16 to 74)	69.8	69.4	68.9	68.8	69.2	69.4	69.6	68.8	68.5	68.8
Women (16 to 74)	63.0	63.0	62.7	62.1	62.0	63.0	63.1	62.7	62.1	62.0
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	37.0	32.8	31.7	31.5	32.2	36.3	33.2	31.7	31.3	31.6
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	70.6	71.0	70.7	70.3	70.4	70.4	71.0	70.6	70.1	70.2

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 2: Employed population and employment rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Employed population (16 to 74)	4,756.3	4,705.4	4,695.3	4,668.3	4,677.5	4,722.0	4,705.9	4,677.1	4,635.3	4,644.9
Men (16 to 74)	2,402.6	2,357.7	2,349.7	2,352.1	2,365.5	2,378.7	2,358.4	2,337.9	2,330.6	2,342.2
Women (16 to 74)	2,353.8	2,347.7	2,345.6	2,316.2	2,312.1	2,343.3	2,347.4	2,339.2	2,304.7	2,302.7
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	299.0	248.6	238.9	240.6	250.3	290.0	247.6	235.6	235.6	242.7
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,457.3	4,456.7	4,456.4	4,427.7	4,427.3	4,432.0	4,458.3	4,441.6	4,399.8	4,402.1
	%									
Employment rate (16 to 74)	61.9	61.3	61.2	60.8	60.9	61.5	61.3	60.9	60.4	60.5
Men (16 to 74)	65.6	64.6	64.3	64.2	64.5	65.0	64.6	64.0	63.6	63.9
Women (16 to 74)	58.6	58.3	58.3	57.8	57.6	58.3	58.3	58.1	57.5	57.4
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	30.1	25.3	24.2	24.3	25.2	29.2	25.1	23.9	23.8	24.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	66.7	66.6	66.6	66.2	66.2	66.3	66.6	66.4	65.8	65.9

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 3: Unemployed population and unemployment rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data					
	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	
	Thousands										
Unemployed population (16 to 74)	331.5	365.3	346.6	345.2	344.2	348.1	373.2	358.4	363.2	361.5	
Men (16 to 74)	153.2	176.5	168.4	170.9	169.3	161.2	181.1	174.3	178.8	178.1	
Women (16 to 74)	178.2	188.8	178.2	174.4	174.9	186.8	192.1	184.2	184.4	183.4	
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	68.7	73.9	73.5	71.9	68.9	71.0	79.3	77.2	74.8	71.2	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	262.7	291.3	273.1	273.3	275.3	277.1	293.8	281.2	288.4	290.3	
	%										
Unemployment rate (16 to 74)	6.5	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	7.3	7.1	7.3	7.2	
Men (16 to 74)	6.0	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.3	7.1	6.9	7.1	7.1	
Women (16 to 74)	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.0	7.0	7.4	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.4	
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	18.7	22.9	23.5	23.0	21.6	19.7	24.3	24.7	24.1	22.7	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	5.6	6.1	5.8	5.8	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.2	

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 4: Inactive population and inactivity rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data					
	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	
	Thousands										
Inactive population (16 to 74)	2,591.5	2,603.5	2,635.0	2,662.5	2,653.7	2,609.2	2,595.1	2,641.3	2,677.5	2,669.0	
Men (16 to 74)	1,106.4	1,115.6	1,135.5	1,142.4	1,130.1	1,122.3	1,110.2	1,141.4	1,155.9	1,144.5	
Women (16 to 74)	1,485.1	1,487.9	1,499.5	1,520.2	1,523.6	1,486.9	1,484.8	1,499.9	1,521.6	1,524.5	
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	625.9	662.0	673.6	679.2	672.7	632.6	657.7	673.3	681.4	677.9	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	1,965.6	1,941.5	1,961.4	1,983.3	1,981.0	1,976.6	1,937.4	1,968.0	1,996.1	1,991.1	
	%										
Inactivity rate (16 to 74)	33.7	33.9	34.3	34.7	34.6	34.0	33.8	34.4	34.9	34.8	
Men (16 to 74)	30.2	30.6	31.1	31.2	30.8	30.6	30.4	31.2	31.5	31.2	
Women (16 to 74)	37.0	37.0	37.3	37.9	38.0	37.0	36.9	37.3	37.9	38.0	
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	63.0	67.2	68.3	68.5	67.8	63.7	66.8	68.3	68.7	68.4	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	29.4	29.0	29.3	29.7	29.6	29.6	29.0	29.4	29.9	29.8	

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 5: Labour underutilisation and labour underutilisation rate (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Feb 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Labour underutilisation (16 to 74)	670.3	737.4	720.1	726.8	733.5	692.1	747.0	737.5	754.7	754.7
Unemployed population	331.5	365.3	346.6	345.2	344.2	348.1	373.2	358.4	363.2	361.5
Underemployed part-time workers	149.0	157.7	145.1	139.7	141.2	157.4	160.3	150.2	145.1	149.2
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	21.2	21.5	28.0	30.1	32.8	21.2	21.5	28.0	30.1	32.8
Persons available to work but not seeking	168.7	192.9	200.3	211.8	215.3	165.4	192.0	200.8	216.3	211.2
	%									
Labour underutilisation rate (16 to 74)	12.7	14.0	13.7	13.8	13.9	13.2	14.1	14.0	14.4	14.4

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Start, in January 2021, of a new Labour Force Survey data series

Following:

- The adoption of the Resolution concerning Statistics of Work, Employment and Labour underutilisation at the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians promoted by the International Labour Organization in 2013;
- The publication, in October 2019, of the Integrated European Social Statistics Regulation (IESS Framework), which aims at ensuring that social statistics based in sampling surveys and related to individuals and households are produced in a more coherent and coordinated manner at the European level ([Regulation \(EU\) 2019/1700 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 10 October 2019](#));
- The publication of a set of additional regulations, among which there is the Commission Implementing Regulation in the labour force domain ([Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2019/2240](#));

In January 2021, the countries participating in the European Statistical System started, in a coordinated manner and in conjunction with Eurostat, the collection of a new Labour Force Survey (LFS) data series. Although this new series does not contain any fundamental change to the conceptual framework underlying the LFS, there are still some innovations. One of these changes was the reinforcement of the sample size to ensure compliance with more demanding precision criteria. Additionally, it is also worth mentioning:

- The change in the reference age of active population to “16 to 89 years old” (before it considered those aged 15 and over).
- In line with the ILO recommendations, people in agriculture and fisheries activities exclusively for self-consumption are no longer considered in the employed population.
- The update of the questionnaire, in particular the questions that determine the labour force status.
- The modularization of the questionnaire, which will include questions with different periodicities (quarterly, annual, biennial and every 8 years)

Among the characteristics that are preserved, are the sample and the quarterly rotation scheme (1/6 in each quarter). Therefore, 5/6 of the 1st quarter of 2021 sample as answered to the LFS in the 4th quarter of 2020.

Nonetheless, to assess the impact of data series change, Statistics Portugal is carrying out during the 1st quarter of 2021, in parallel with the main operation, a pilot survey using the questionnaire of the previous data series (LFS2011, in force between 1Q2011 and 4Q2020) and a smaller sample. As a result of this assessment, these two simultaneous statistical operations may determine additional adjustments, beside those related with the change of the reference age group of active population and the reclassification of those engaged in agriculture and fishing activities for self-consumption, in the previous series (LFS2011 and LFS1998) in order to obtain backward revised time series consistent with the new one.

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 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th natural quarters, respectively, whose results are published and analysed 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 revised estimates for the previous months are published, due the availability of complete information for the last moving quarter.

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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:

- Unless otherwise stated, the data series analysed 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 of the annex.
- The indicators analysed in this Press Release were calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 16 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release), which differs from the criterion adopted at the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases (people aged 16 to 89, in line with the concepts in force of the International Labour Organization).

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

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

Revisions

The monthly released data are subject to regular revisions, as previously mentioned. The revisions come from obtaining the final 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 final estimates for the previous reference month are published.

In addition, with the start of the new Labour Force data series in January 2021, and until its impacts are known (see page 10), all monthly estimates from February 2011 onwards are provisional. Depending on the observed impact, these estimates may be revised again, after the release of the estimates for the 1st quarter of 2021.

Some concepts

Unemployed: person aged 16 and 74 who during the reference period met simultaneously the following conditions:

- neither had a job nor was at work;
- had actively sought work, i.e. had actively searched for a paid or unpaid job during the specified period (reference period or the three previous weeks); and
- was available for a paid or unpaid job.

Employed: person aged 16 to 89 who, during the reference period, was in one of the following situations:

- worked for at least one hour for a wage or salary, in cash or in kind (including unpaid family work);
- had a formal attachment to his/her job, but was not at work temporarily;
- was in early retirement, but working in the reference week.

Working age resident population: Resident population aged 16 to 89.

Active: person aged 16 to 89 who, during the reference period, furnish the supply of labour force for the production of economic goods and services (was employed or unemployed).

Labour force: population formed by all active persons.

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Extended labour force: corresponds to the labour force enlarged by the inactive seeking work but not immediately available and the inactive available but not seeking work.

Labour underutilisation: indicator that aggregates the unemployed population, the underemployment of part-time workers, the inactive seeking work but not immediately available, and the inactive available but not seeking work.

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

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

Employment rate: rate that defines the relation between the employed population and the working age population.

$$\text{E.R. (\%)} = (\text{Employed population} / \text{Working age population}) \times 100$$

Activity rate of the working population: rate that defines the relation between the labour force and the working age population.

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

Inactivity rate of the working population: rate that defines the relation between the working age inactive population and the working age population.

$$\text{P.R. (\%)} = (\text{Working age inactive population} / \text{Working age population}) \times 100$$

Labour underutilisation rate: ratio that defines the relation between the labour underutilisation and the extended labour force.

$$\text{L.U.R. (\%)} = (\text{Labour underutilisation} / \text{Extended labour force}) \times 100$$

For the indicators selected for monthly dissemination, it was considered the age subgroup of those aged 16 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:

29 April 2021: "Monthly Employment and Unemployment Statistics – March 2020".

30 April 2021: Eurostat News Release.