29 April 2021

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates

March 2021

The unemployment rate stood at 6.8% and the labour underutilisation rate at 13.8%

February 2021:

- The employed population has increased by 0.4% from the previous month and decreased by 0.4% from three months before and by 1.4% from the same month of 2020.

- The unemployed population has decreased by 0.7% from January 2021 and by 6.1% from November 2020, having increased by 3.5% from February 2020.

- The unemployment rate (concept of the International Labour Organization, ILO) stood at 6.8%, 0.1 percentage points (pp) less than in the previous month, 0.4 pp less than in three months before and 0.3 pp more than in the same month of the previous year.

- The labour underutilisation rate was estimated at 13.8%, the same value as in the previous month, down 0.2 pp from three months before and up 1.1 pp from a year earlier.

March 2021:

- The employed population has increased by 0.3% from the previous month and by 0.1% from three months before, having decreased by 0.6% from the same month of 2020.

- The unemployed population decreased by 4.2% from February 2021 and by 5.2% from three months before (December 2020), having increased by 3.7% when compared to March 2020.

- The unemployment rate stood at 6.5%, down 0.3 pp from the previous month, down 0.4 pp from three months before and up 0.2 pp from the same month of 2020.

- The labour underutilisation rate was estimated at 13.3%, 0.5 pp less than in the previous month, 0.4 pp less than December 2020 and 0.6 pp more than a year earlier.

One year of COVID-19 pandemic in the Labour Market (analysis on page 5)

- Comparing the COVID-19 pandemic year with the one before, it is observed that the employed population has decreased by 2.1%, while the unemployed population, the labour underutilisation and the inactive population have increased (by 6.7%, 12.4% and 3.0%, respectively).

- The unemployment rate has increased by 0.6 pp and the labour underutilisation by 1.6 pp.

		Seasonally adjusted data						
Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates (16 to 74) **Main indicators**								
	Unit	Feb 2020 (p)	Mar 2020 (p)	Nov 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)
Active population	Thousands	5,087.8	5,045.4	5,070.6	5,041.9	5,013.5	5,030.6	5,029.6
Employed population		4,756.3	4,728.6	4,705.4	4,695.3	4,668.3	4,687.7	4,701.0
Unemployed population		331.5	316.8	365.3	346.6	345.2	342.9	328.6
Inactive population		2,591.5	2,633.8	2,603.5	2,635.0	2,662.5	2,644.8	2,645.8
Labour underutilisation		670.3	664.5	737.4	720.1	726.8	725.6	699.5
Activity rate	%	66.3	65.7	66.1	65.7	65.3	65.5	65.5
Employment rate		61.9	61.6	61.3	61.2	60.8	61.1	61.2
Unemployment rate		6.5	6.3	7.2	6.9	6.9	6.8	6.5
Inactivity rate		33.7	34.3	33.9	34.3	34.7	34.5	34.5
Labour underutilisation rate		12.7	12.7	14.0	13.7	13.8	13.8	13.3

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.
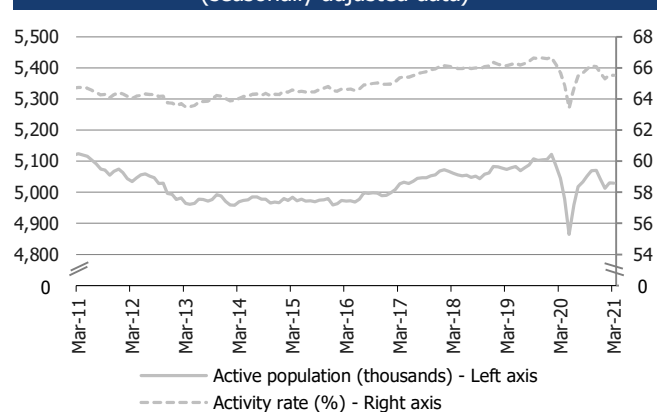
A. Active population and activity rate

In February 2021, the active population estimate stood at 5,030.6 thousand people, having increased by 0.3% (17.1 thousand) from the previous month and decreased by 0.8% (40.0 thousand) from three months before and by 1.1% (57.2 thousand) from a year earlier.

Similar behaviour had the activity rate, estimated at 65.5%: it increased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) from January 2021 but decreased by 0.6 pp from November 2020 and by 0.8 pp when compared to February of last year.

In March 2021 [2], the active population stood at 5,029.6 thousand people, having decreased by 1.0 thousand (which corresponds to a nearly null relative change) from the month before, by 12.3 thousand (0.2%) from three months before and by 15.8 thousand (0.3%) from a year earlier.

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

Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

Similar pattern was also observed in the activity rate of that month (65.5%): it has remained unchanged from February 2021 and it has decreased by 0.2 pp both from December and March 2020.

B. Employed population and employment rate

The employed population stood, in February 2021, at 4,687.7 thousand people, having increased by 0.4% (19.4 thousand) from the previous month and decreased by 0.4% (17.7 thousand) from three months before and by 1.4% (68.6 thousand) from a year earlier.

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[2] 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).

These developments were reflected in the employment rate, estimated at 61.1%: up 0.3 pp from the previous month, down 0.2 pp from three months before and down 0.8 pp from a year earlier.

In March 2021, the employed population, which stood at 4,701.0 thousand people, increased by 0.3% (13.3 thousand) from the previous month and by 0.1% (5.7 thousand) from three months before, having decreased by 0.6% (27.6 thousand) from one year before.

Consequently, the employment rate was estimated at 61.2%, up 0.1 pp from February 2021 and down 0.4 pp from March 2020, having remained unchanged from three months before (December 2020).

Figure 2: Employed population and employment rate (seasonally adjusted data)
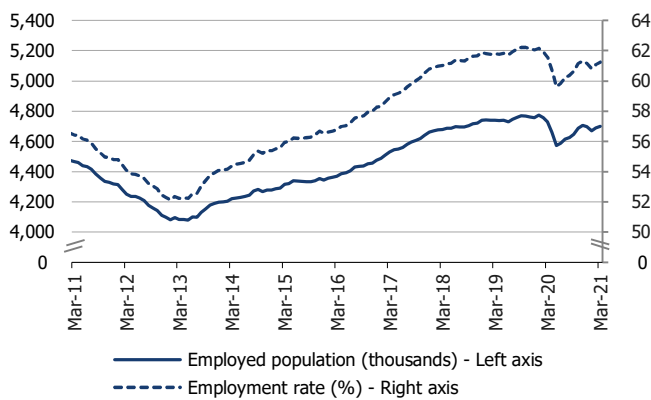
Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

C. Unemployed population and unemployment rate

In February 2021, the unemployed population stood at 342.9 thousand people, having decreased by 0.7% (2.3 thousand) from January 2021 and by 6.1% (22.4 thousand) from November 2020 (three months before) and increased by 3.5% (11.4 thousand) from February 2020.

As a result, the unemployment rate stood at 6.8%, having decreased by 0.1 pp from the previous month and by 0.4 pp from three months before, while having increased by 0.3 pp from a year earlier.
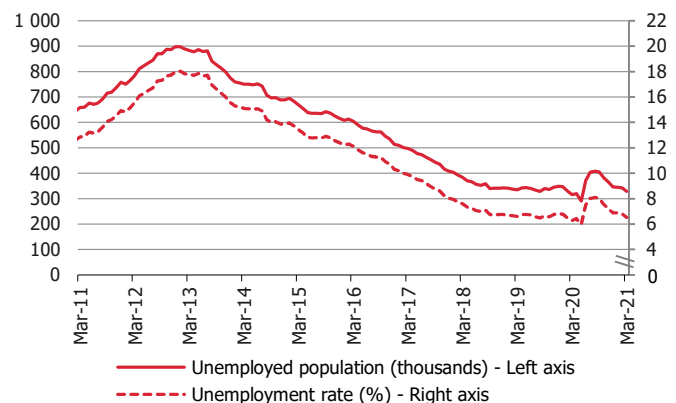
The youth unemployment rate stood at 22.9%, which corresponds to a decrease of 0.1 pp from the previous month. The adults' unemployment rate estimate was 5.8% and it has remained unchanged from the month before.

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

Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

In March 2021, the unemployed population – estimated at 328.6 thousand people – has decreased by 4.2% (14.3 thousand) from the previous month and by 5.2 % (18.0 thousand) from three months before, while having increased by 3.7% (11.8 thousand) from one year before.

The unemployment rate estimate was 6.5%, down by 0.3 pp from the previous month, down by 0.4 pp from December 2020 and up 0.2 pp from March 2020.

The youth unemployment rate (23.0%) increased by 0.1 pp from the previous month and the adults' unemployment rate (5.4%) has decreased by 0.4 pp.

D. Inactive population and inactivity rate

The inactive population, in February 2021, was estimated at 2,644.8 thousand people and it has decreased from the previous month (0.7%; 17.7 thousand) and increased from three months before (1.6%; 41.3 thousand) and from the same month of 2020 (2.1%; 53.3 thousand).

That led to a similar pattern in the inactivity rate, which stood at 34.5%: down 0.2 pp from January 2021, up 0.6 pp from November 2020 and up 0.8 pp from February of that year.

In March 2021, the inactive population (2,645.8 thousand people) was higher than that of the previous month (1.0 thousand, which corresponds to a near null change rate) and higher than that of three months before (0.4%; 10.8 thousand) and that of the same month of the year before (0.5%; 12.0 thousand).

Therefore, the inactivity rate, estimated at 34.5%, remained unchanged from February 2021, while an increase by 0.2 pp both from three months before and from March 2020 (was verified.

Figure 4: Inactive population and inactivity rate
(seasonally adjusted data)
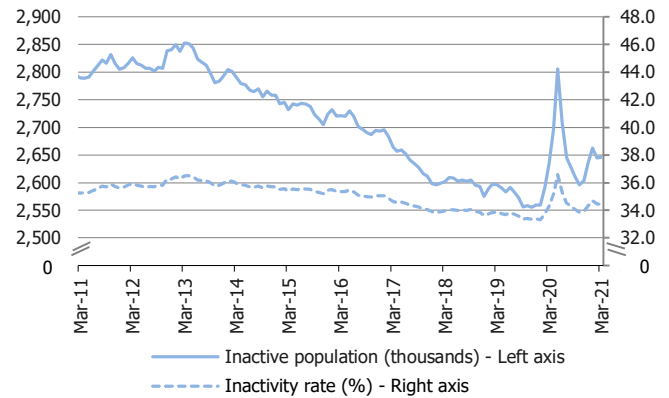
Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

E. Supplementary indicators to unemployment and the labour underutilisation

In February 2021, the labour underutilisation covered 725.6 thousand people, up from the previous month (0.2%; 1.2 thousand) and from the three months before (1.6%; 11.8 thousand) but down from the same month of 2020 (8.2%; 55.3 thousand).

The labour underutilisation rate, estimated at 13.8%, remained unchanged from the month before, decreased by 0.2 pp from three months before and increased by 1.1 pp from February 2020.

In March 2021, the labour underutilisation stood at 699.5 thousand people, which corresponds to a decrease of 3.6% (26.1 thousand) from February 2021 and of 2.9% (20.6 thousand) from December 2020 and to an increase of 5.3% (35.0 thousand) from March 2020.

The labour underutilisation rate stood at 13.3%, having decreased by 0.5 pp from the month before and by 0.4 pp from three months before, while having increased by 0.6 pp from the same month of 2020.

Figure 5: Labour underutilisation and labour underutilisation rate
(seasonally adjusted data)

Legend:
—— Labour underutilisation (thousands) - Left axis
- - - Labour underutilisation rate (%) - Right axis
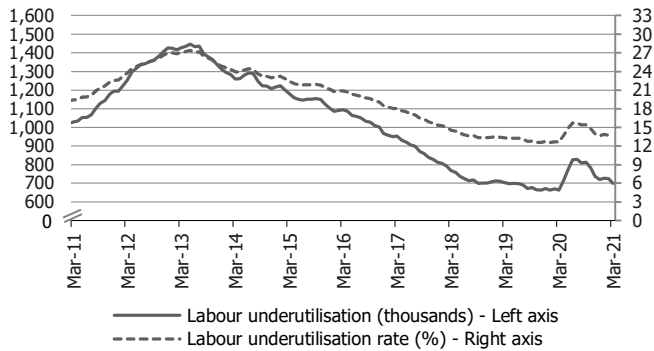
Note: All data series estimates are provisional.

F. Active, employed, unemployed and inactive population

In summary, in February 2021, from the previous month, the active population has increased by 17.1 thousand, while the inactive population has decreased by 17.7 thousand[3]. The increase of the active population was due to the increase of the employed population (17.4 thousand) having more than compensated the decrease of the unemployed population (2.3 thousand). On the other hand, the inactive population decrease was mainly explained by the decrease 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 (21.9 thousand).

The decrease of the active population (40.0 thousand) compared to three months before came from the decrease of the employed population (17.7 thousand) and of the unemployed population (22.4 thousand). In turn, the inactive population increase of 41.3 thousand people was mainly due to the increase in the number of

inactive persons available to work but not seeking a job (23.4 thousand).

At last, the active population decrease (57.2 thousand) from February 2020 was explained by the decrease of the employed population (68.6 thousand) having surpassed the increase of the unemployed population (11.4 thousand). The inactive population has increased by 53.3 thousand people, as a result of the increase in the number of inactive persons available to work but not seeking a job (47.6 thousand).

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

Legend:
■ Active population   ■ Employed population
■ Unemployed population ■ Inactive Population
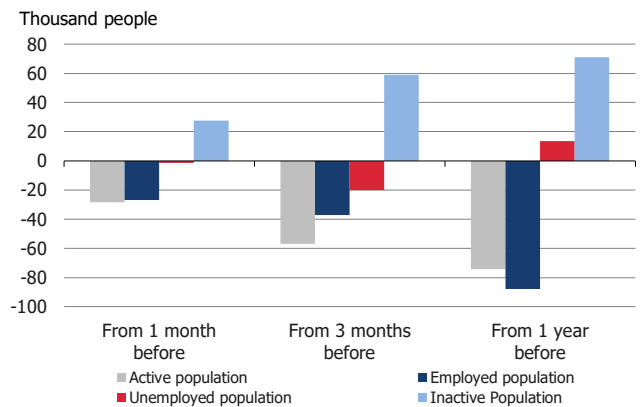
G. One year of COVID-19 pandemic in the Labour Market

In February 2021, 12 months were completed in which the Portuguese labour market was strongly affected by the pandemic COVID-19. To mark this date, it is presented a short analysis of the main indicators that are released in a monthly basis comparing the values observed in the twelve months immediately before the pandemic period (from March 2019 to February 2020) with those verified after the beginning of the pandemic period (from March 2020 to February 2021).

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[3] 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.

Figure 7: Employed population and respective year-on-year change (YoY)
(seasonally adjusted data)

Legend:
- Employed population (thousands) - Left axis
- YoY (%) - Right axis

Figure 8: Unemployed population and labour underutilisation
(seasonally adjusted data)

Legend:
- Labour underutilisation
- Unemployed population

In the pre-pandemic year, the employed population was estimated at 4,755.6 thousand people, having increased by 1.0% (46.0 thousand) from the previous year (from April 2018 to January 2019). On the other hand, during the pandemic period, the employed population was estimated at 4,657.0 thousand people, 2.1% (98.6 thousand) less than in the immediately preceding period.

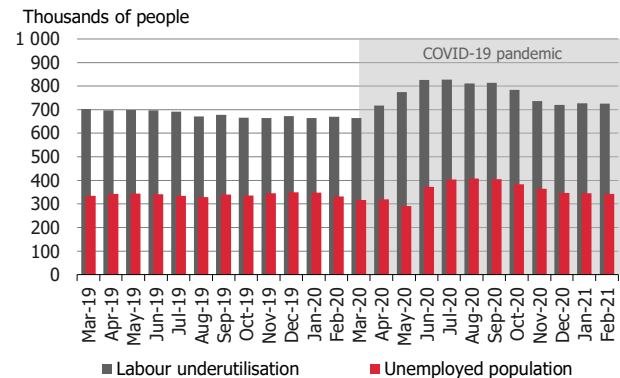The employment rate in the pre-pandemic year was 62.0%, having increased by 0.5 pp from the year before. In turn, the employment rate observed during the pandemic year was 60.7%, a value lower than the aforementioned by 1.3 pp.

In the pre-pandemic year, the unemployed population was estimated at 340.2 thousand people, having decreased by 3.2% (11.2 thousand) from the previous year. However, during the pandemic period, the unemployed population was estimated at 362.9 thousand people, 6.7% (22.7 thousand) more than in the previous period.

The unemployment rate in the pre-pandemic year was 6.7%, having decreased by 0.3 pp from the year before. On the other hand, the average employment rate observed during the pandemic was 7.2%, a value higher than that of the pre-pandemic period by 0.6 pp.

An identical but more pronounced pattern was observed in the labour underutilisation. In the pre-pandemic year this indicator was estimated at 679.9 thousand people, having decreased by 5.7% (41.2 thousand) from the year before, while in the pandemic period it was estimated at 764.0 thousand people, 12.4% (84.1 thousand) more than in the pre-pandemic period. These more pronounced changes came from the fluctuations observed in the components of the labour underutilisation other than the employed population, whose weight in this indicator increased from 50% in the pre-pandemic year to 53% during the pandemic period.

The labour underutilisation rate in the pre-pandemic year was 12.9%, having decreased by 0.8 pp in relation to the previous twelve months. In turn, the labour underutilisation rate observed during the twelve months of the pandemic was 14.5%, a value higher than that of the pre-pandemic period by 1.6 pp.

Figure 9: Inactive population and respective year-on-year change (YoY)
(seasonally adjusted data)
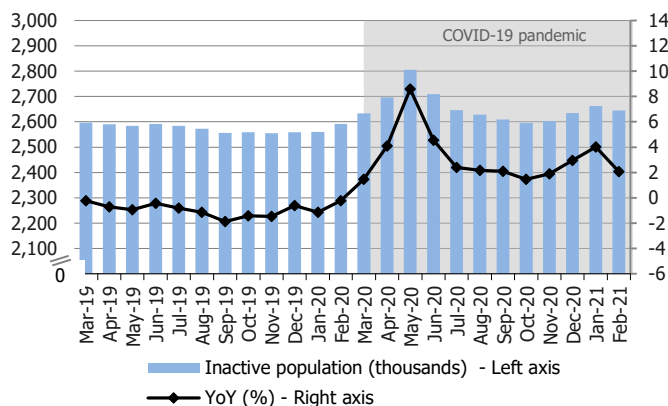
The inactive population, in the pre-pandemic year, was estimated at 2,572.9 thousand people, having decreased by 1.0% (26.7 thousand) from the year before. However, during the pandemic year, the inactive population was estimated at 2,649.9 thousand people, 3.0% (77.0 thousand) more than in the preceding year.

The inactivity rate in the pre-pandemic year was 33.6%, having decreased by 0.4 pp from the previous twelve months. In turn, the inactivity rate observed during the pandemic year was 34.5%, a value higher than the aforementioned by 1.0 pp.

Annual averages of Employment and Unemployment (16 to 74) Main indicators					
	Seasonally adjusted data				
				Rate of change	
	Two years before COVID-19 pandemic (p)	Year before COVID-19 pandemic (p)	COVID-19 pandemic year (p)	Year before COVID-19 pandemic	COVID-19 pandemic year
	Thousands			%	
Employed population	4,709.7	4,755.6	4,657.0	1.0	-2.1
Unemployed population	351.4	340.2	362.9	-3.2	6.7
Labour underutilisation	721.0	679.9	764.0	-5.7	12.4
Inactive population	2,599.6	2,572.9	2,649.9	-1.0	3.0
	%			pp	
Employment rate	61.5	62.0	60.7	0.5	- 1.3
Unemployment rate	6.9	6.7	7.2	- 0.2	0.5
Labour underutilisation rate	13.7	12.9	14.5	- 0.8	1.6
Inactivity rate	33.9	33.6	34.5	- 0.3	0.9

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note:

(p) - Provisional estimates.

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

Total population (aged 16 to 74)

Not employed — Employed

Not employed:
- **Searched** for a job in the previous 4 weeks
- **Did not search** for a job in the previous 4 weeks

Employed:
- **Part-time** workers
- **Full-time** workers

Searched for a job in the previous 4 weeks:
- **Available** to start working in the following 2 weeks → **Unemployed**
- **Not available** to start working in the following 2 weeks → **Inactive seeking work, but not immediately available**

Did not search for a job in the previous 4 weeks:
- **Want** to work
  - **Available** to start working in the following 2 weeks → **Inactive available, but not seeking work**
  - **Not available** to start working in the following 2 weeks → **Other inactive**
- **Do not want** to work → **Other inactive**

Part-time workers:
- **Want to work more hours** and are **available to start working** those hours in the following 2 weeks → **Underemployment of part-time workers**
- Other part-time workers

Inactive population

Employed population

Unemployed + **Inactive seeking work, but not immediately available** + **Inactive available, but not seeking work** + **Underemployment of part-time workers** = **Labour underutilisation**
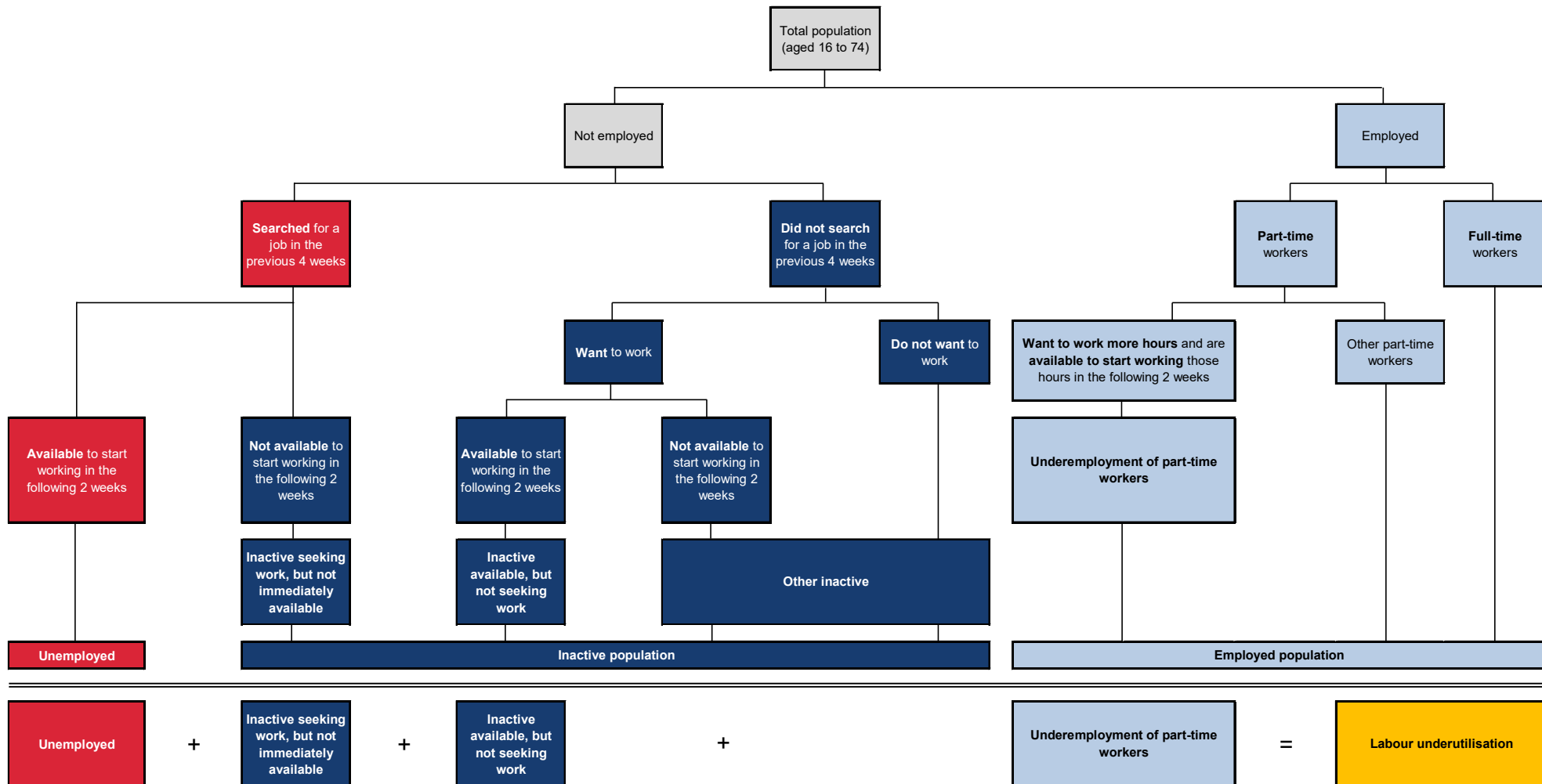
Table 1: Active population and active rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Active population	**5,045.4**	**5,041.9**	**5,013.5**	**5,030.6**	**5,029.6**	**5,029.6**	**5,035.6**	**4,998.5**	**5,015.3**	**5,016.0**
Men	2,534.7	2,518.1	2,522.9	2,536.8	2,543.2	2,518.8	2,512.2	2,509.4	2,522.4	2,528.9
Women	2,510.6	2,523.8	2,490.6	2,493.8	2,486.4	2,510.7	2,523.4	2,489.1	2,492.9	2,487.1
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	363.9	312.4	312.5	312.1	310.7	354.5	312.8	310.4	307.2	302.9
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,681.4	4,729.4	4,701.0	4,718.5	4,719.0	4,675.1	4,722.8	4,688.1	4,708.1	4,713.0
	%									
Activity rate	**65.7**	**65.7**	**65.3**	**65.5**	**65.5**	**65.5**	**65.6**	**65.1**	**65.3**	**65.4**
Men	69.2	68.9	68.8	69.2	69.4	68.8	68.8	68.5	68.8	69.0
Women	62.5	62.7	62.1	62.2	62.0	62.5	62.7	62.1	62.2	62.0
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	36.6	31.7	31.5	31.5	31.3	35.6	31.7	31.3	31.0	30.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	70.0	70.7	70.3	70.6	70.6	69.9	70.6	70.1	70.4	70.5

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				
	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Employed population	**4,728.6**	**4,695.3**	**4,668.3**	**4,687.7**	**4,701.0**	**4,702.5**	**4,677.1**	**4,635.3**	**4,655.2**	**4,676.4**
Men	2,392.5	2,349.7	2,352.1	2,370.3	2,381.9	2,369.1	2,337.9	2,330.6	2,347.2	2,359.2
Women	2,336.0	2,345.6	2,316.2	2,317.4	2,319.2	2,333.4	2,339.2	2,304.7	2,308.0	2,317.2
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	298.2	238.9	240.6	240.5	239.2	289.6	235.6	235.6	233.3	232.2
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,430.3	4,456.4	4,427.7	4,447.1	4,461.8	4,412.9	4,441.6	4,399.8	4,421.9	4,444.2
	%									
Employment rate	**61.6**	**61.2**	**60.8**	**61.1**	**61.2**	**61.2**	**60.9**	**60.4**	**60.7**	**60.9**
Men	65.4	64.3	64.2	64.7	65.0	64.7	64.0	63.6	64.0	64.4
Women	58.1	58.3	57.8	57.8	57.8	58.1	58.1	57.5	57.5	57.8
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	30.0	24.2	24.3	24.3	24.1	29.1	23.9	23.8	23.5	23.4
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	66.3	66.6	66.2	66.5	66.8	66.0	66.4	65.8	66.2	66.5

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

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

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Unemployed population	**316.8**	**346.6**	**345.2**	**342.9**	**328.6**	**327.1**	**358.4**	**363.2**	**360.1**	**339.5**
Men	142.2	168.4	170.9	166.5	161.4	149.7	174.3	178.8	175.2	169.7
Women	174.6	178.2	174.4	176.4	167.2	177.4	184.2	184.4	184.9	169.8
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	65.7	73.5	71.9	71.5	71.4	64.9	77.2	74.8	73.9	70.7
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	251.1	273.1	273.3	271.4	257.2	262.1	281.2	288.4	286.2	268.8
	%									
Unemployment rate	**6.3**	**6.9**	**6.9**	**6.8**	**6.5**	**6.5**	**7.1**	**7.3**	**7.2**	**6.8**
Men	5.6	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.3	5.9	6.9	7.1	6.9	6.7
Women	7.0	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.7	7.1	7.3	7.4	7.4	6.8
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	18.1	23.5	23.0	22.9	23.0	18.3	24.7	24.1	24.1	23.4
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	5.4	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.4	5.6	6.0	6.2	6.1	5.7

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				
	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Inactive population	**2,633.8**	**2,635.0**	**2,662.5**	**2,644.8**	**2,645.8**	**2,649.6**	**2,641.3**	**2,677.5**	**2,660.1**	**2,659.5**
Men	1,126.1	1,135.5	1,142.4	1,128.1	1,121.7	1,142.0	1,141.4	1,155.9	1,142.5	1,136.0
Women	1,507.7	1,499.5	1,520.2	1,516.8	1,524.1	1,507.6	1,499.9	1,521.6	1,517.6	1,523.4
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	630.7	673.6	679.2	679.8	681.3	640.1	673.3	681.4	684.7	689.0
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	2,003.1	1,961.4	1,983.3	1,965.1	1,964.6	2,009.5	1,968.0	1,996.1	1,975.5	1,970.5
	%									
Inactivity rate	**34.3**	**34.3**	**34.7**	**34.5**	**34.5**	**34.5**	**34.4**	**34.9**	**34.7**	**34.6**
Men	30.8	31.1	31.2	30.8	30.6	31.2	31.2	31.5	31.2	31.0
Women	37.5	37.3	37.9	37.8	38.0	37.5	37.3	37.9	37.8	38.0
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	63.4	68.3	68.5	68.5	68.7	64.4	68.3	68.7	69.0	69.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	30.0	29.3	29.7	29.4	29.4	30.1	29.4	29.9	29.6	29.5

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				
	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)	Mar 2020 (p)	Dec 2020 (p)	Jan 2021 (p)	Feb 2021 (p)	Mar 2021 (p)
	Thousands									
Labour underutilisation	**664.5**	**720.1**	**726.8**	**725.6**	**699.5**	**677.7**	**737.5**	**754.7**	**746.4**	**711.4**
Unemployed population	316.8	346.6	345.2	342.9	328.6	327.1	358.4	363.2	360.1	339.5
Underemployed part-time workers	142.2	145.1	139.7	136.5	131.8	151.9	150.2	145.1	144.2	140.7
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	19.5	28.0	30.1	29.9	18.5	19.5	28.0	30.1	29.9	18.5
Persons available to work but not seeking	185.9	200.3	211.8	216.3	220.6	179.2	200.8	216.3	212.2	212.6
	%									
Labour underutilisation rate	**12.7**	**13.7**	**13.8**	**13.8**	**13.3**	**13.0**	**14.0**	**14.4**	**14.2**	**13.6**

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 14), 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.

Revision of February 2021 estimates (16 to 74) - main indicators -			
	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data	Not seasonally adjusted data
Active population		8,9	8,9
Employed population		10,2	10,3
Unemployed population	Thousands	- 1,3	- 1,4
Inactive population		- 8,9	- 8,9
Labour underutilisation		- 7,9	- 8,3
Employment rate		0,2	0,2
Unemployment rate		- 0,1	0,0
Men's unemployment rate		- 0,1	- 0,2
Women's unemployment rate	pp	0,1	0,0
Youth unemployment rate (16 to 24)		1,3	1,4
Adults' unemployment rate (25 to 74)		- 0,1	- 0,1
Labour underutilisation rate		- 0,1	- 0,2

(to be continued)

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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.

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 that defines the relation between the unemployed population and the labour force.

U.R. (%) = (Unemployed population / Labour force) x 100

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

E.R. (%) = (Employed population / Working age population) x 100

(to be continued)

(continuation)

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 that defines the relation between the unemployed population and the labour force.

U.R. (%) = (Unemployed population / Labour force) x 100

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

E.R. (%) = (Employed population / Working age population) x 100

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

P.R. (%) = (Labour force / Working age population) x 100

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

P.R. (%) = (Working age inactive population / Working age population) x 100

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

L.U.R. (%) = (Labour underutilisation / Extended labour force) x 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:

31 May 2021: "Monthly Employment and Unemployment Statistics – April 2021".

1 June 2021: Eurostat News Release.