



THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STOOD AT 6.1% AND THE LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION RATE AT 11.9%

The employed population (4,878.1 thousand people) has increased by 1.4% (67.6 thousand) from the previous quarter, by 4.7% (219.7 thousand) from the year before and by 1.5% (71.5 thousand) from the 3rd quarter of 2019 (COVID-19 pre-pandemic period).

The employed population absent from work in the reference week (877.0 thousand) has increased to more than double (120.8%; 479.9 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 7.6% (62.1 thousand) from the same quarter of 2020. “Annual or bank holiday” was the main reason for absence, as it is usually observed in the third quarter of each year. As a result of these movements, the volume of hours actually worked has decreased by 9.3% from the previous quarter, but it has increased by 2.3% from a year earlier. Still, each employed person who has worked at least 1 hour in the reference week, has worked, on average, 39 hours per week in the 3rd quarter of 2021 (value higher by 1 hour to the previous quarter one and equal to the same quarter of 2020).

The share of the employed population who has worked always or almost always from home using information and communication technologies, this is, who have worked remotely, was 12.7%, covering 617.6 thousand people.

The unemployed population, estimated at 318.7 thousand people, has decreased by 7.8% (27.0 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 21.0% (84.8 thousand) from a year earlier.

The unemployment rate stood at 6.1%, down 0.6 percentage points (pp) from the previous quarter, down 1.9 pp from a year earlier and down 0.2 pp from the 3rd quarter of 2019.

The labour underutilisation covered 642.4 thousand people, having decreased by 1.8% (11.8 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 20.1% (162.0 thousand) from a year before. Similarly, also the labour underutilisation rate (11.9%) has decreased both from the previous quarter (0.4 pp) and from a year earlier (3.2 pp).

The inactive population aged 16 and over (3,612.2 thousand people) decreased by 0.9% (32.9 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 3.0% (111.8 thousand) from the 3rd quarter of 2020.

1. Labour force (active population)

The Labour Force Survey results for the 3rd quarter of 2021 indicate that the labour force (active population), estimated at 5,196.8 thousand people, has increased by 0.8% (40.6 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 2.7% (134.9 thousand) from the same quarter of 2020.



Therefore, the activity rate of the working age population (those aged 16 to 89) stood at 59.7%, having increased by 0.4 percentage points (pp) from the prior quarter and by 1.5 pp from the 3rd quarter of 2020.

2. Employed population

2.1. Quarterly changes

The employed population stood at 4,878.1 thousand people and increased by 1.4% (67.6 thousand) from the previous quarter, as observed in the third quarters since 2013. The corresponding employment rate stood at 56.1% and increased by 0.8 pp.

This change was explained by the increases recorded mainly in the following groups: men (48.4 thousand; 2.0%); aged 35 to 44 (22.9 thousand; 1.9%); having the tertiary education (57.7 thousand; 3.5%); employed in the services sector (94.2 thousand; 2.7%) – more specifically in the set formed by the “wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles”, “transportation and storage” and “accommodation and food services activities” (28.3 thousand; 2.4%), which represented 30.0% of the overall change in the sector; working as self-employed (51.7 thousand; 7.6%); and working full-time (53.6 thousand; 1.2%).

Figure 1. Employed population and employment rate



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.



The employed population absent from work in the reference week¹ was estimated at 877.0 thousand people and represents 18.0% of the employed population, 9.7 pp more than in the previous quarter. That population has increased to more than double (120.8%; 479.9 thousand) from the previous quarter.

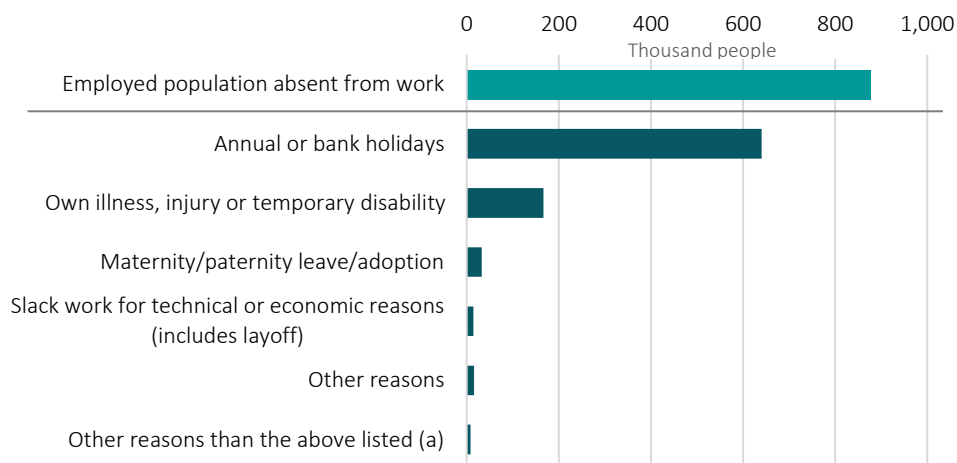
Analysing the absence reason in the 3rd quarter of 2021 according to a set of pre-defined reasons, it was found that “annual or bank holidays” was the main reason mentioned by 73.0% (640.0 thousand) of the employed population absent from work, this is, by 544.7 thousand more people (571.5%) than in the 2nd quarter of 2021.

“Own illness, injury or temporary disability” were the second most mentioned reason, covering 19.0% (166.6 thousand) of the employed population absent from work, 16.2 thousand fewer people (8.8%) than in the previous quarter.

These results are in line with the usually observed in third quarters since 2011, including 2020. It is recalled that the 3rd quarter covers the months of July, August and September, which usually corresponds to the longest vacation period for a large part of the population.

In turn, “slack work for technical or economic reasons (it includes the contract temporary suspension and layoff)” was the fifth most mentioned reason to the labour absence, covering 1.6% (14.4 thousand) of the employed population absent from work, 39.2 thousand fewer people (73.1%) than in the 2nd quarter of 2021.

Figure 2. Employed population absent from work by reason of absence in the 3rd quarter of 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Note: (a) It includes the following reasons, individually presented to the respondent, but whose values are herein aggregated for being extremely unreliable: flexible working hours; parental leave; job-related training; seasonal work; new job.

¹ It is possible to be part of the employed population without having worked during the reference week if a formal connection to work is kept. This is assessed by the reason of absence and, in some cases, by one or two additional criteria (income or social benefit received from/due to work, total absence duration or carrying out activities related to seasonal work).



As a consequence of the increase in the employed population combined with the strong increase in the employed population absent in the reference week, in the 3rd quarter of 2021, the volume of hours actually worked has decreased by 9.3% from the previous quarter. Considering only the employed population that has worked at least 1 hour in the reference week, the number of hours actually worked stood, on average, 39 hours per week, 1 hour more than in the previous quarter.

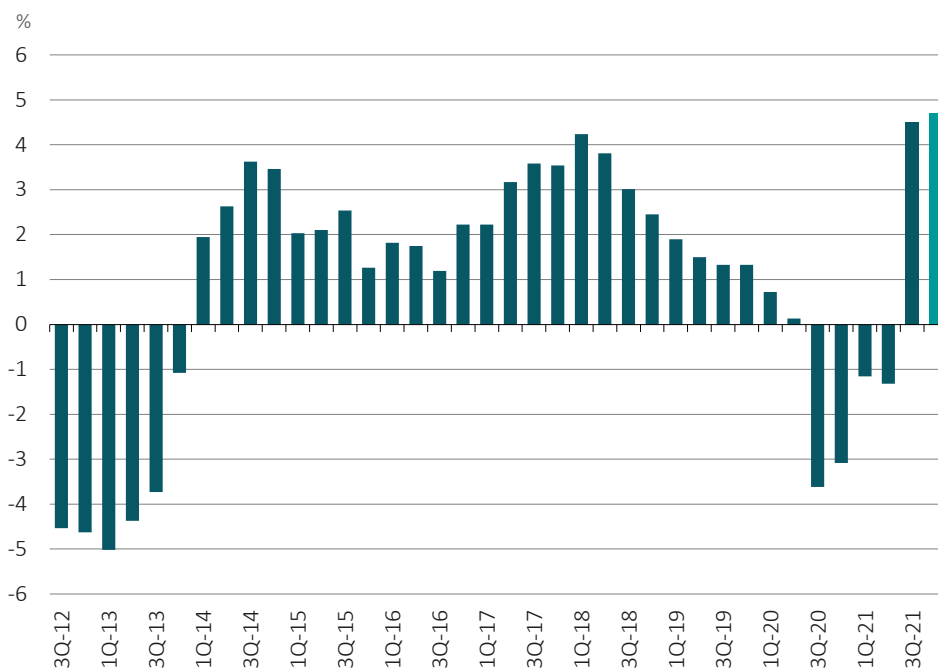
Considering the total employed population, 13.1% (638.3 thousand) reported having always or almost always worked from home, 71.6% of which due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among those working mainly at home, 96.8% (617.6 thousand) have worked remotely. This work practice covered 12.7% of the total employed population, 2.2 pp less than in the previous quarter, which corresponds to the fifth highest share of this indicator since it started to be analysed six quarters ago².

2.2. Year-on-year changes

From the 3rd quarter of 2020, the employed population has increased by 4.7% (219.7 thousand), in line with the series of positive year-on-year changes observed in this quarter since 2014 (except in 2020). From the 3rd quarter of 2019, the employed population has increased by 1.5% (71.5 thousand).

Figure 3: Employed population year-on-year rate of change



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

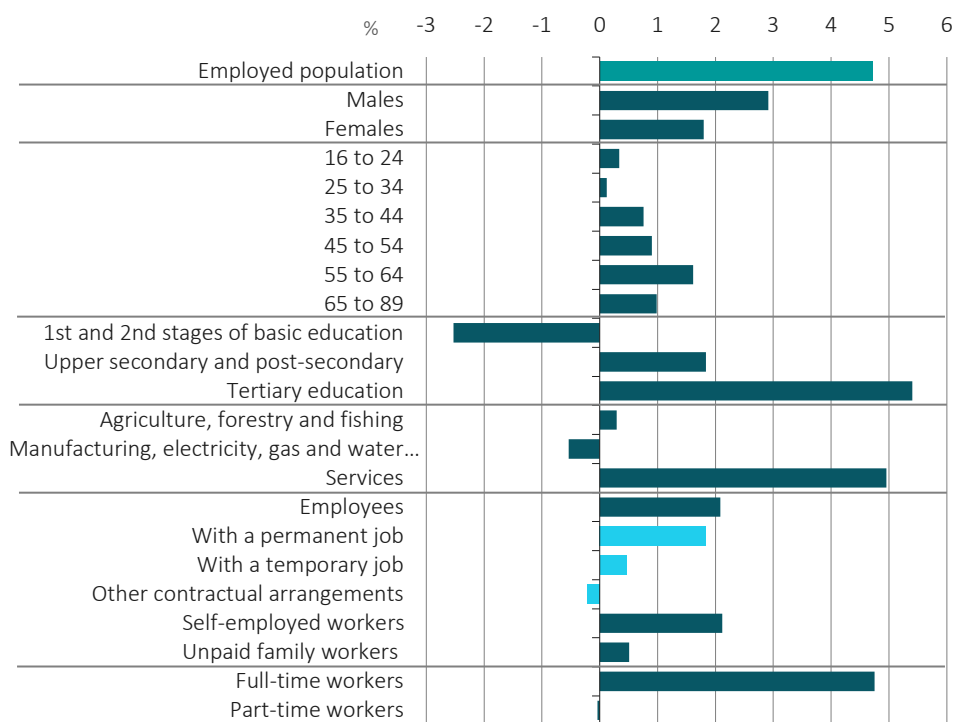
² This indicator is computed from the data collected in the Labour Force Survey ad hoc module - Working from home, whose collection started in the 2nd quarter of 2020. Other indicators related to this subject are available in the Excel tables published together with the current Press Release.



The employment rate had positive a year-on-year rate of change of 2.6 pp from 2020 and of 0.7 pp from 2019.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of the year-on-year change of the employed population by different characterisation variables: sex, age group, highest completed level of education, activity sector, labour status, type of employment contract of employees, and work duration regime.

Figure 4. Contributions to the year-on-year rate of change of the employed population in the 3rd quarter of 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

In summary, for the year-on-year change in the employed population, the variations in the following population groups mainly contributed:

- Employed population of men, which has increased by 5.8% (135.9 thousand).
- Employed population aged 55 to 64 that has grown by 8.9% (75.2 thousand).
- Employed population that has tertiary education and whose growth was of 17.4% and covered 251.9 thousand people.
- Employed population in the services sector that has increased by 6.9% (231.0 thousand). The changes in the “public administration and defence; compulsory social security” activities and in the “education” activity contributed together to 47.7% of the services sector variation, in a year-on-year total change of 110.1 thousand people (15.6%).
- Self-employed workers whose number has increased by 15.6% (98.8 thousand).

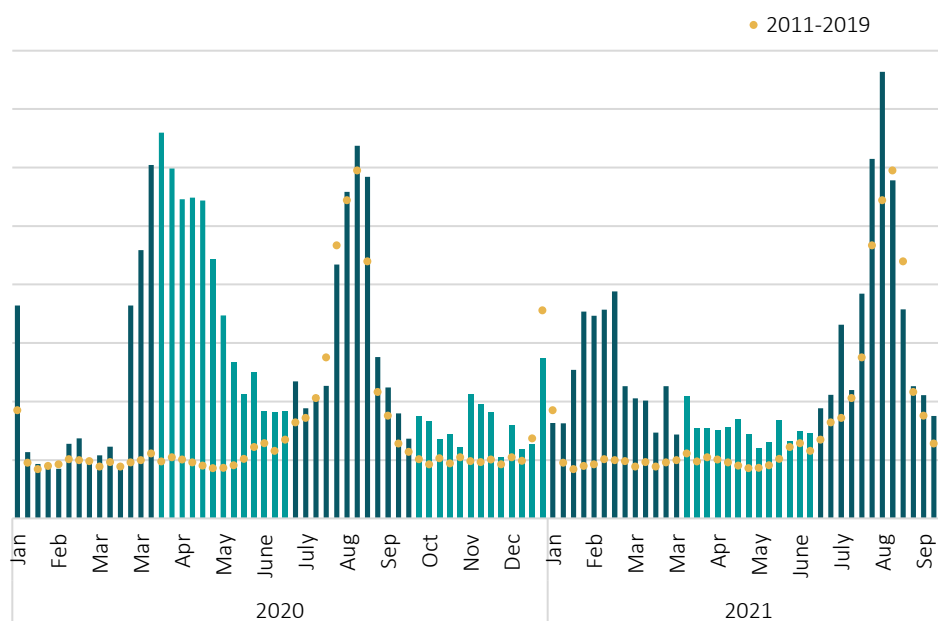


- Full-time workers, whose number has increased by 5.2% and covered 221.5 thousand people.

Analysing absences by reference weeks (figure 5), between 2011 and 2019 there were systematically two peaks evident in each year (variable with seasonal component): one corresponding to weeks 32 to 35 (August and beginning of September) and another to weeks 51 and 52 (end of December), which sometimes also covers the 1st week of the following year.

In the 3rd quarter of 2021, the employed population absent from work in the reference week has increased by 7.6% (62.1 thousand) from a year earlier and by 14.6% (111.5 thousand) from two years earlier.

Figure 5. Employed population absent from work in the reference week – 2020, 2021 and 2011-2019 average



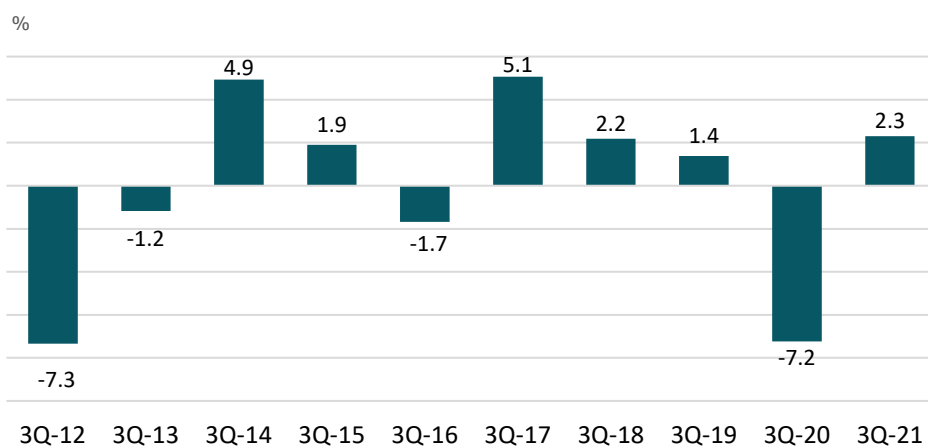
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

“Annual or bank holidays” the reason for absence with the highest absolute year-on-year change, indicated by 101.2 thousand more people (18.8%) than a year earlier, followed by “slack work for technical or economic reasons (it includes the contract temporary suspension and layoff)”, cited by 51.7 thousand fewer people (78.2%) than in the 3rd quarter of 2020. However, from the same quarter of 2019, this reason of absence was now mentioned by 10.5 thousand more people (269.6%).

Despite the year-on-year increase of the employed population absent from work (lower than the year-on-year increase in the employed population) and of the volume of hours actually worked (2.3%), the average number of hours worked per week in the 3rd quarter of 2021 by those that has worked at least 1 hour in the reference week (39 hours) was the same as in the 3rd quarter of 2020, still below the average of the equivalent weeks for the period 2011 to 2019 (40 hours).



Figure 6. Year-on-year rate of change in the 3rd quarter of each year of the volume of hours actually worked per week



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

The share of the employed population working remotely in the 3rd quarter of 2021 (12.7%) is lower by 1.2 pp to the one observed one year before.

3. Unemployed population

3.1. Quarterly changes

The unemployed population (318.7 thousand people) has decreased by 7.8% (27.0 thousand) from the previous quarter. This change came from the decreases observed, mainly, in the following groups: men (23.0 thousand; 13.8%); people aged 35 to 44 (19.7 thousand; 30.3%); having completed, at most, an education level corresponding to the first or second stages of basic education (33.4 thousand; 24.7%); looking for a new job (30.7 thousand; 10.0%); unemployed for less than 12 months (26.0 thousand; 13.6%).

It should be noted that less than half of the unemployed population (48.1%) was in this situation for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment), up 3.4 pp from the quarter before. The share of this type of unemployment is higher among women (52.7%) than among men (42.6%), it increases with the age of the unemployed person (it ranges between 28.6% in the 16 to 24 age group and 65.3% in the group of those aged 55 to 74) and it decreases with the level of education (covers 59.1% of the unemployed persons having completed, at most, an education level corresponding to the first or second stages of basic education, 45.9% of those with secondary education and 39.4% of those with tertiary education). Among the long-term unemployed population, 47.4% has been in this situation for 2 or more years, down 4.4 pp from the previous quarter.



Un employed population for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment)

Portugal	Quarterly level		
	3Q-2020	2Q-2021	3Q-2021
Number	Thousands		
Total	125.1	154.4	153.4
Males	64.4	74.4	61.2
Females	60.7	80.1	92.2
16 to 24	14.5	18.7	21.8
25 to 34	25.3	29.8	39.9
35 to 44	13.7	39.0	22.0
45 to 54	32.0	39.0	36.7
55 to 74	39.7	27.8	33.0
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	61.8	72.2	60.1
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	41.9	54.2	55.3
Tertiary education	21.4	28.1	38.0
Unemployed for less than 24 months	54.6	74.4	80.7
Unemployed for 24 months or longer	70.6	80.0	72.8
Proportion	%		
Total	31.0	44.7	48.1
Males	32.3	44.5	42.6
Females	29.8	44.8	52.7
16 to 24	16.6	23.7	28.6
25 to 34	24.4	37.1	47.3
35 to 44	18.8	59.9	48.6
45 to 54	43.0	58.9	59.1
55 to 74	61.0	50.5	65.3
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	40.4	53.4	59.1
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	28.5	41.3	45.9
Tertiary education	20.8	35.3	39.4
Unemployed for less than 24 months	43.6	48.2	52.6
Unemployed for 24 months or longer	56.4	51.8	47.4

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Note: All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.

The unemployment rate for the 3rd quarter of 2021 stood at 6.1%³, which corresponds to a decrease by 0.6 pp from the 2nd quarter of 2021. A greater change was observed in the youth unemployment rate (16 to 24 years old), estimated at 22.6%, down 1.1 pp from the previous quarter.

³ This unemployment rate was calculated for those aged 16 to 89 (in line with the concepts in force of the International Labour Organization). The unemployment rate for the moving quarter centered in August 2021 (which corresponds to the 3rd quarter 2021), published in the Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates Press Release of September 2021 (released in 2-11-2021), was calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 16 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release). This rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 6.2%.



Figure 7. Unemployed population and unemployment rate



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Figure 8. Total and youth unemployment rate and share of long term unemployment

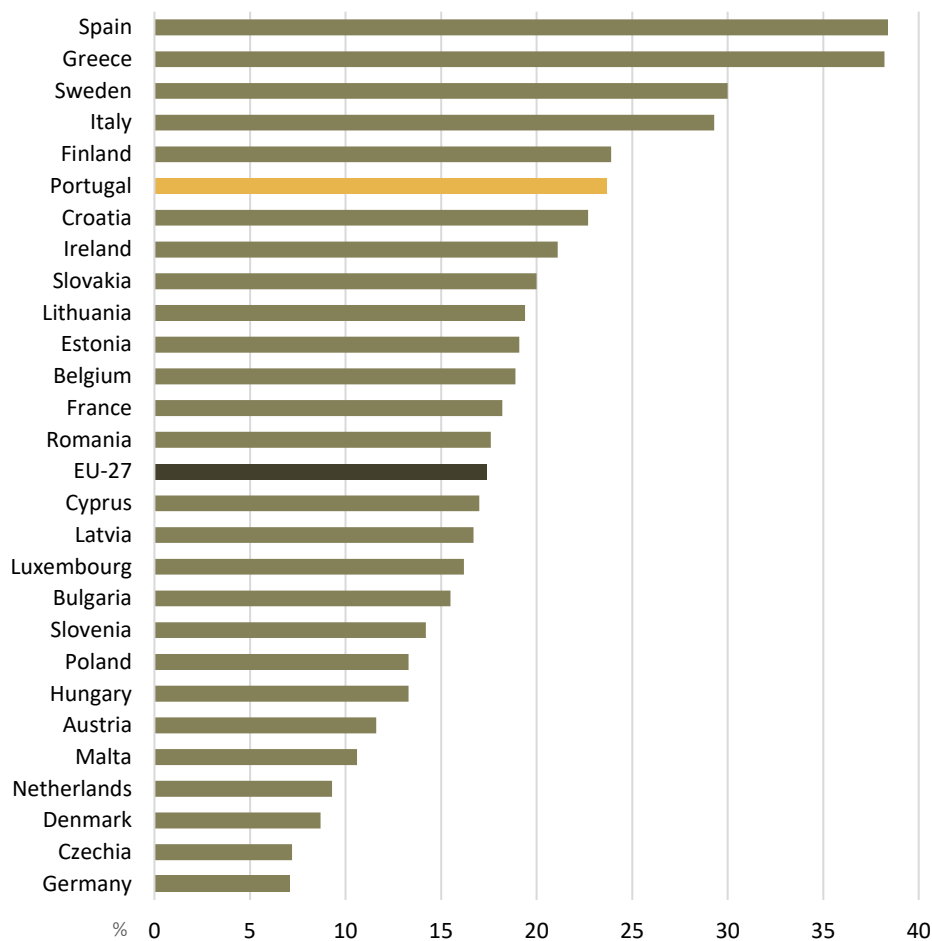


Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.



Using the figures for the 2nd quarter of 2021 for comparison purposes in the European Union⁴, the youth unemployment rate in the 27 countries average was estimated at 17.4%, 6.3 pp less than in Portugal (23.7%), having decreased by 1.3 pp from the 1st quarter of 2021, a steeper quarter-on-quarter change than that seen in Portugal in the same period (0.4 pp).

Youth unemployment rate in the European Union in the 2nd quarter of 2021



Source: Eurostat, Unemployment by sex and age – quarterly data [UNE_RT_Q]

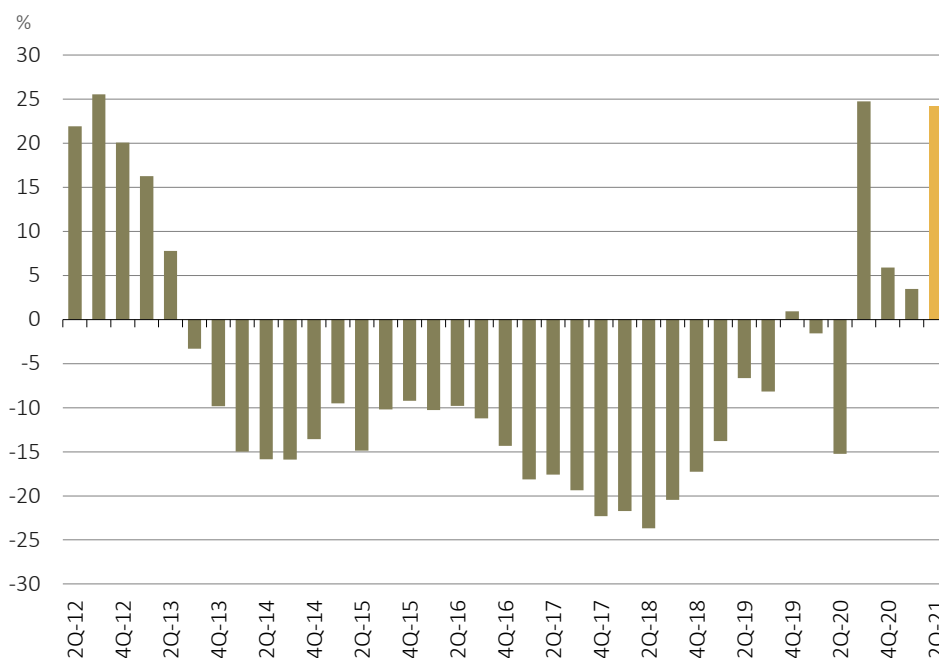
⁴ The estimates for the 3rd quarter of 2021 at European Union level will be released on January 13, 2022. It should be noted that the reference age group is that of 15 to 24 years old, except for Portugal, Spain and Italy, whose lower age limit is 16.



3.2. Year-on-year changes

From the same quarter of 2020, the unemployed population has decreased by 21.0% (84.8 thousand).

Gráfico 9. Taxa de variação homóloga da população desempregada



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

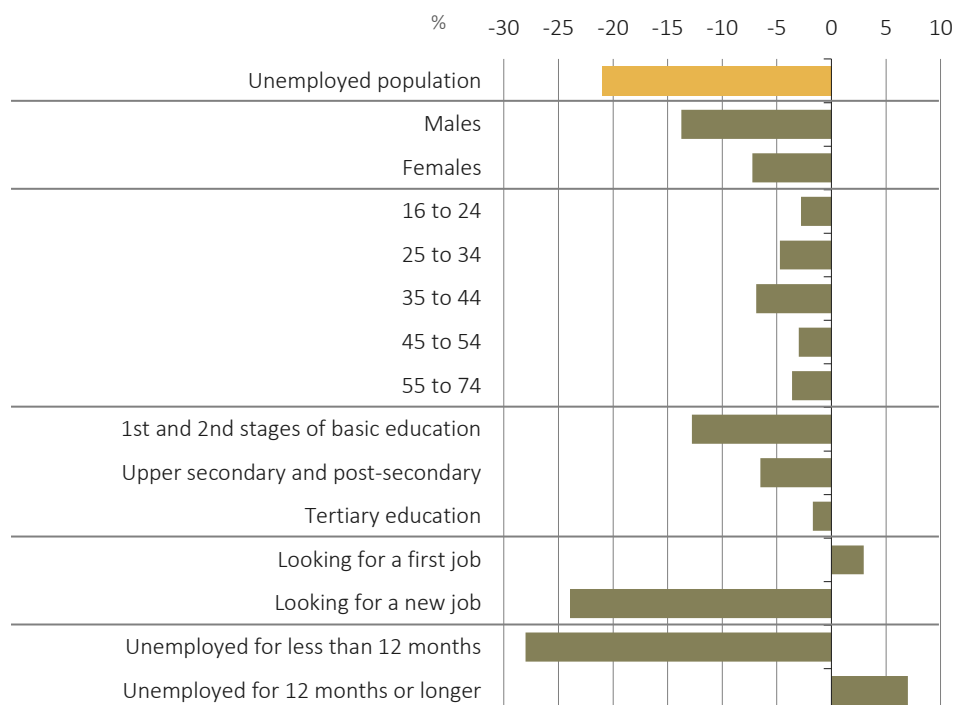
To the year-on-year evolution of the unemployed population contributed mainly the following population groups (Figure 10):

- Unemployment of men, that has decreased by 27.8% (55.5 thousand).
- Unemployment of those aged 35 to 44, whose decrease stood at 38.0% (27.8 thousand).
- Unemployed population having completed, at most, an education level corresponding to the first or second stages of basic education, which has decreased by 33.7%, covering 51.6 thousand people.
- Unemployed persons looking for a new job. This group has decreased by 26.0% (96.6 thousand).
- Persons unemployed for less than 12 months, whose number has been reduced by 40.6% (113.0 thousand).

The proportion of long-term unemployment increased by 17.1 pp from the 3rd quarter of 2020, driven by increases among women (22.9 pp), those aged 35 to 44 (29.8 pp) and, similarly, among those with tertiary education (18.6 pp) and those who have completed, at most, an education level corresponding to the first or second stages of basic education (18.7 pp). The share of very long-term unemployment (24 or more months) in the long-term unemployment has decreased by 9.0 p.p. from the 3rd quarter of 2020 and by 18.4 p.p. from the 3rd quarter of 2019.



Figure 10. Contributions to the year-on-year rate of change of the unemployed population in the 3rd quarter of 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

From the 3rd quarter of 2020, the unemployment rate decreased by 1.9 pp. In turn, the unemployment rate of young people aged 16 to 24 has decreased by 3.7 pp, while the share of people unemployed for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment) has increased by 17.1 pp.

In the European comparison, the youth unemployment rate in the 2nd quarter of 2021 has increased from the same period of 2020 more sharply in Portugal (3.8 pp) than in the 27 countries European Union (0.3 pp).

In the 3rd quarter of 2021, the unemployment rate was higher than the national average in four NUTS II regions of the country (*Região Autónoma da Madeira*: 7.3%; *Região Autónoma dos Açores*: 6.9%; *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa*: 6.7%; *Norte*: 6.2%) and was below it in the remaining regions – *Alentejo* and *Algarve* (5.8% in both regions) and *Centro* (5.3%).

When comparing to a year earlier, the unemployment rate has decreased in all regions except in the *Região Autónoma dos Açores*, that has increased by 0.1 pp. The two largest year-on-year increases were observed in *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (2.8 p.p.) and in *Algarve* (2.7 p.p.).



Table 1. Unemployment rates by NUTS II (NUTS-2013)

	3Q-2020	2Q-2021	3Q-2021
Portugal	8,0	6,7	6,1
Norte	8,1	6,3	6,2
Centro	6,1	6,2	5,3
Área Metropolitana de Lisboa	9,5	6,7	6,7
Alentejo	6,2	7,9	5,8
Algarve	8,5	10,2	5,8
Região Autónoma dos Açores	6,8	6,8	6,9
Região Autónoma da Madeira	9,1	8,4	7,3

Unit: %

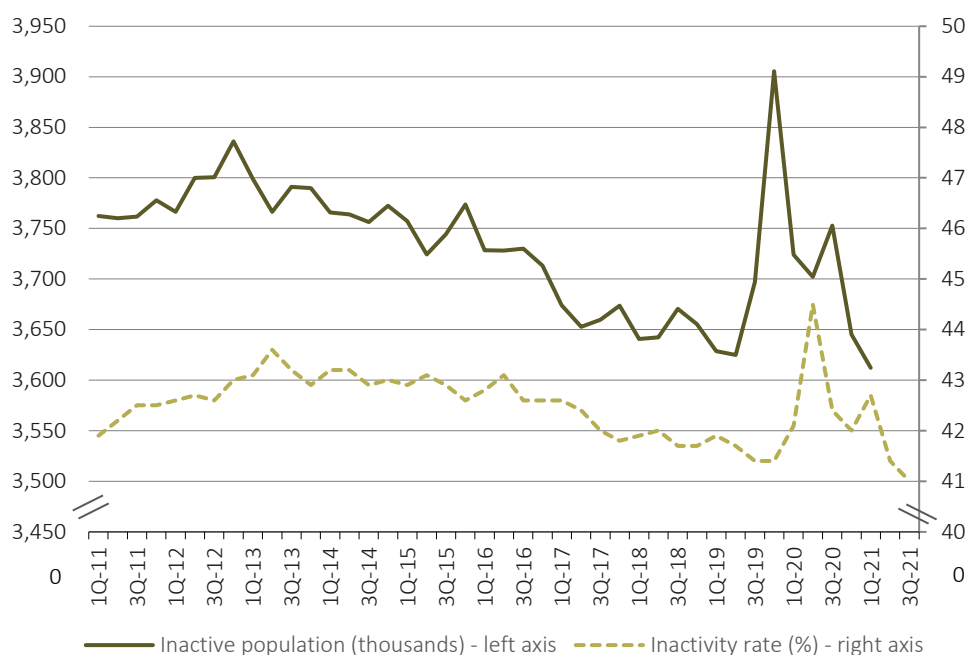
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Note: All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.

4. Inactive population

The inactive population, estimated at 5,085.6 thousand people in the 3rd quarter of 2021 has decreased both from the previous quarter (0.7%; 37.2 thousand) and from the same quarter of 2020 (2.8%; 143.9 thousand).

Figure 11. Inactive population (aged 16 and over)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.



The inactive population aged 16 or over stood at 3,612.2 thousand people, accounting for 71.0% of total inactive population and following a similar pattern: it has decreased by 0.9% (32.9 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 3.0% (111.8 thousand) from the 3rd quarter of 2020.

The inactivity rate (16 years old or over) stood at 41.0%, having decreased both from the previous quarter (0.4 pp) and from the same period of 2020 (1.4 pp).

To find out what kind of inactivity subgroups of the 2nd quarter of 2021 moved to unemployment in the 3rd quarter of the same year, the inactive population was divided into two groups: one referred to as “Potential workforce”, composed of the two types of inactive people who are closest to the labour market since they fulfil one of the two criteria needed to be in the unemployed population (active search for work or availability to start working in the reference period); and another one called “Other inactivity”, which aggregates the remaining inactive persons.

Quarterly flows between employment, unemployment and two types of inactivity (in % of initial status)

	Unit: %
	3Q-2021
Stayed in employment	96,7
Employment - Potential workforce	0,4
Employment - Other inactivity	1,9
Stayed in Unemployment	50,0
Unemployment - Potential workforce	11,8
Unemployment - Other inactivity	9,2
Stayed in Potential workforce	25,3
Potential workforce - Employment	17,6
Potential workforce - Unemployment	30,2
Potential workforce - Other inactivity	27,0
Stayed in Other inactivity	93,4
Other inactivity - Employment	2,9
Other inactivity - Unemployment	1,4
Other inactivity - Potential workforce	2,3

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Notes:

- By “Potential workforce” is understood the group of inactives available to work, but not looking for a job and of inactives searching for a job, but not available to work.
- “Other inactivity” includes every inactive person who is not part of “Potential workforce”.

In the 3rd quarter of 2021, 30.2% of those who, in the 2nd quarter of 2021, were in the group “Potential workforce” moved to unemployment. These are non-employed persons who, in the 2nd quarter of 2021, have not actively sought for work, nor have mentioned to be available to start working in the reference week or in the two following weeks if they had found a job and that, in the 3rd quarter of 2021, started to fulfil both criteria (active demand and availability to work in the reference period), thus integrating the unemployed population.



In that same quarter, moved to employment 17.6% of those who, in the 2nd quarter of 2021, were in the group “Potential workforce”.

In addition, it should be noted that 27.0% of those in “Potential workforce” in the 2nd quarter of 2021 moved to “Other inactivity” group in the 3rd quarter of that year being further away from the labour market, since they have stopped actively searching for work or have ceased to be available to start working in the reference period.

5. Quarterly flows between labour market status

5.1. Gross and net flows (number of persons)

From the 2nd to the 3rd quarter of 2021, 48.9 thousand persons moved from employment to unemployment and 111.0 thousand moved from employment to inactivity. Therefore, the number of persons moving out of employment, within a quarter, was 159.9 thousand.

At the same time, the employment inflows from unemployment were 100.3 thousand persons, while those from inactivity were 127.1 thousand. Hence, the number of persons moving into employment, within this quarter, was 227.5 thousand.

Therefore, between the two quarters there was a positive net flow into employment (that is, total inflows minus total outflows) of 67.6 thousand persons (which corresponds to the employed population quarterly change)⁵.

On the other hand, the net flow into unemployment was negative and comprised 27.0 thousand people (which corresponds to the unemployed population quarterly change) and resulted from the number of people becoming unemployed (145.9 thousand) being smaller than the total of those leaving that status (172.9 thousand).

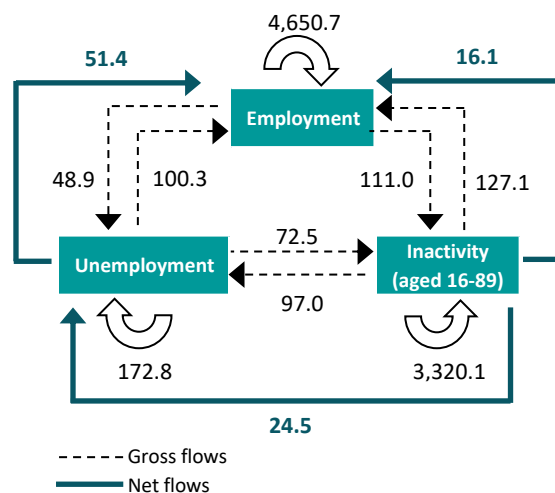
The unemployment inflows from employment (48.9 thousand) were lower than those from inactivity (97.0 thousand). On the other hand, the unemployment outflows to employment (100.3 thousand) were also higher than those to inactivity (72.5 thousand).

From these estimates analysis, it is possible to conclude that:

- The employment quarterly increase resulted from the positive net flow both between employment and unemployment (51.5 thousand) and between employment and inactivity (16.1 thousand).
- On the other hand, the unemployment decrease between quarters (27.0 thousand) was explained by the negative net flow between unemployment and employment (51.5 thousand) having more than compensate the positive net flow between unemployment and inactivity (24.5 thousand). In other words, in net terms, the outflows from unemployment to employment more than compensated for the unemployment inflows from inactivity.

⁵ With the introduction of an upper age limit in the working age population, all 89-year-old classified as employed in a given quarter are automatically included in the inactive population in the following quarter if they have turned 90 in the meantime. Since the quarterly flows methodology considers only the same individuals in two consecutive quarters within the age group of 16 to 89, the employed population quarterly change may not fully coincide with the net flow into employment. However, this does not affect the analysis carried out.

Diagram 1. Quarterly flows between labour force status (thousand people)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

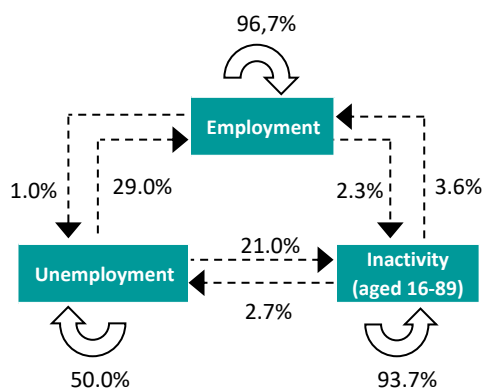
5.2. Transition rates (%)

From the 2nd to the 3rd quarter of 2021, 1.0% of the people initially employed moved into unemployment and 2.3% moved into inactivity, with the proportion of employed persons moving out of this situation totalling 3.3% in the 3rd quarter of 2021 (96.7% remained employed, which corresponds to 4,650.7 thousand people, as in Diagram 1).

From the total of unemployed persons in the 2nd quarter of 2021, 50.0% moved out of this labour market state in the 3rd quarter of 2021: 29.0% became employed and 21.0% moved into inactivity.

From the total of people aged 16 to 89 considered to be inactive in the 2nd quarter of 2021, 3.6% moved into employment and 2.7% moved into unemployment in the 3rd quarter of 2021.

Diagram 2. Quarterly flows between labour force status (in % of initial status)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

6. Supplementary indicators to unemployment and the labour underutilisation

The labour underutilisation is an 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 work⁶. This indicator is supplemented by its corresponding rate – the labour underutilisation rate⁷. This indicator is a broader measure of the labour underutilisation than the unemployment rate⁸.

In the 3rd quarter of 2021, the labour underutilisation was estimated at 642.4 thousand people and the corresponding rate was 11.9%.

The labour underutilisation has decreased by 1.8% (11.8 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 20.1% (162.0 thousand) from a year earlier. Similarly, the labour underutilisation rate has decreased both from the previous quarter (0.4 pp) and from a year before (3.2 pp).

By component, the following is observed:

- The unemployed population was estimated at 318.7 thousand people and, as previously mentioned, decreased by 7.8% (27.0 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 21.0% (84.8 thousand) from the same quarter of 2020. The unemployment rate was 6.1%, down 0.6 pp from the previous quarter and down 1.9 pp from a year earlier.

⁶ For a more detail definition of these indicators, read the publication “Estatísticas do Emprego – 2.º trimestre de 2012” (only available in Portuguese) – chapter 4 (Concepts) and 6 (Theme under analysis) available at: <http://www.ine.pt/xurl/pub/143643471>.

⁷ See concepts in the technical note.

⁸ The labour underutilisation rate corresponds, with the due adaptations to the European context and to the information obtained from the Labour Force Survey (named *Inquérito ao Emprego* in Portugal), to the U6 measure regularly published by the US Bureau of Labour Statistics in addition to the official unemployment rate (U3). Eurostat also regularly publishes this indicator for the European Union countries under the designation *Labour market slack*, following the ILO recommendation set in the Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization of the 19th International Conference of Labour Statisticians, but does it for the age group 15 to 74.



- The number of underemployed part-time workers was 144.3 thousand people, 6.2% (8.5 thousand) more than in the previous quarter and 5.6% (8.5 thousand) less than in the year-on-year comparison.
- The number of inactive persons seeking work but not immediately available stood at 24.2 thousand, the same value as in the previous quarter, but higher by 6.5 thousand people (36.9%) to the one observed in the 3rd quarter of 2020.
- The number of inactive persons available to work but not seeking a job (155.2 thousand) has increased by 4.6% (6.8 thousand) from the previous quarter and has decreased by 32.6% (75.2 thousand) from a year earlier.

Table 2. Labour underutilisation by component

Portugal	Quarterly level			Rate of change	
	3Q-2020	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	On year	On quarter
Number	Thousands			%	
Total	804,4	654,2	642,4	-20,1	-1,8
Unemployed population	403,5	345,7	318,7	-21,0	-7,8
Underemployed part-time workers	152,8	135,8	144,3	-5,6	6,2
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	17,7	24,2	24,2	36,9	0
Persons available to work but not seeking	230,4	148,4	155,2	-32,6	4,6
Rate	%			p.p.	
Unemployment rate	8,0	6,7	6,1	-1,9	-0,6
Labour underutilisation rate	15,1	12,3	11,9	-3,2	-0,4

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Note: All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.

Conventional sign: ◦ Less than half of the unit used.

7. Young people not in employment, education or training

In the 3rd quarter of 2021, from the total of 2,105.2 thousand young people aged 16 to 34, 213.2 thousand were not in employment, education or training. This estimate as increased by 2.7 thousand people from the previous quarter and has decreased by 64.5 thousand from the same quarter of 2020. Regarding the labour market, they were classified as unemployed (51.5%) or as part of the inactive population (48.5%).

The correspondent rate of young people not in employment, education or training was 10.1%, has increased by 0.1 pp from the previous quarter and has decreased by 3.2 pp from the same quarter of 2020.



Table 3. Young people aged 16 to 34 not in employment, education or training

Portugal	Quarterly level		
	3Q-2020	2Q-2021	3Q-2021
Number	Thousands		
Total	277.7	210.5	213.2
Males	142.6	110.1	106.2
Females	135.1	100.5	107.0
16 to 19	30.9	11,1 §	16.3
20 to 24	85.1	67.5	67.5
25 to 34	161.7	131.9	129.4
First and second stages of basic (Upper) secondary and post- Tertiary education	97.3	73.3	66.1
Unemployed population	123.2	91.5	85.2
Inactive population	57.2	45.7	61.9
	139.0	107.1	109.7
	138.7	103.5	103.5
Rate	%		
Total	13.3	10.0	10.1
Males	13.7	10.4	10.0
Females	12.9	9.6	10.2
16 to 19	7.4	2,6 §	3.8
20 to 24	15.3	12.0	12.0
25 to 34	14.6	11.9	11.6
First and second stages of basic (Upper) secondary and post- Tertiary education	17.2	13.6	14.2
Unemployed population	13.3	10.4	9.1
Inactive population	9.6	6.6	8.8
Proportion of			
Unemployed population	50.0	50.9	51.4
Inactive population	50.0	49.1	48.6

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Note: All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.

Conventional sign: § Value with low reliability.



Table 4: Main indicators – active and employed population

Portugal	Quarterly level			Rate of change	
	3Q-2020	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	On year	On quarter
	Thousands			%	
Labour force (active population)	5 061,9	5 156,2	5 196,8	2,7	0,8
Males	2 531,0	2 586,1	2 611,4	3,2	1,0
Females	2 530,8	2 570,2	2 585,4	2,2	0,6
16 to 24	332,8	333,1	337,3	1,4	1,3
25 to 34	994,7	979,8	981,3	-1,3	0,1
35 to 44	1 291,9	1 296,2	1 299,4	0,6	0,2
45 to 54	1 379,4	1 394,4	1 409,2	2,2	1,1
55 to 64	905,1	959,8	967,9	6,9	0,8
65 to 89	158,0	192,8	201,7	27,6	4,6
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	1 955,2	1 839,7	1 785,8	-8,7	-2,9
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	1 553,5	1 592,9	1 612,8	3,8	1,2
Tertiary education	1 553,2	1 723,6	1 798,2	15,8	4,3
Activity rate (%)	58,2	59,3	59,7		
Males	62,4	63,6	64,1		
Females	54,4	55,5	55,9		
Employed population	4 658,4	4 810,5	4 878,1	4,7	1,4
Males	2 331,6	2 419,1	2 467,5	5,8	2,0
Females	2 326,8	2 391,4	2 410,6	3,6	0,8
16 to 24	245,2	254,2	261,0	6,4	2,7
25 to 34	891,3	899,4	897,0	0,6	-0,3
35 to 44	1 218,7	1 231,1	1 254,0	2,9	1,9
45 to 54	1 305,1	1 328,3	1 347,2	3,2	1,4
55 to 64	843,7	914,2	918,9	8,9	0,5
65 to 89	154,3	183,4	200,1	29,7	9,1
First and second stages of basic education	1 801,9	1 704,6	1 684,1	-6,5	-1,2
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1 406,6	1 461,8	1 492,2	6,1	2,1
Tertiary education	1 449,9	1 644,1	1 701,8	17,4	3,5
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (a)	121,7	124,2	135,3	11,1	8,9
Manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction	1 193,6	1 206,4	1 168,7	-2,1	-3,1
Services (a)	3 343,1	3 479,9	3 574,1	6,9	2,7
Employees	4 006,1	4 088,6	4 103,2	2,4	0,4
With a permanent job (work contract of unlimited duration)	3 311,7	3 387,3	3 397,5	2,6	0,3
With a temporary job (work contract of limited duration)	577,9	601,2	599,4	3,7	-0,3
Other contractual arrangements	116,5	100,0	106,3	-8,8	6,3
Self-employed workers	634,1	681,2	732,9	15,6	7,6
Unpaid family workers	18,2	40,7	42,0	131,1	3,1
Full-time workers	4 278,6	4 446,5	4 500,1	5,2	1,2
Part-time workers	379,8	364,0	378,0	-0,5	3,8
Underemployed part-time workers	152,8	135,8	144,3	-5,6	6,2
Employment rate (%)	53,5	55,3	56,1		
Males	57,5	59,5	60,6		
Females	50,1	51,7	52,1		

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Notes:

(a) The estimates are presented by NACE-Rev. 2.

All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.



Table 5: Main indicators – unemployed and inactive population

Portugal	Quarterly level			Rate of change	
	3Q-2020	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	On year	On quarter
	Thousands			%	
Unemployed population	403,5	345,7	318,7	-21,0	-7,8
Males	199,4	166,9	143,9	-27,8	-13,8
Females	204,0	178,8	174,8	-14,3	-2,2
16 to 24	87,6	78,9	76,4	-12,8	-3,2
25 to 34	103,3	80,4	84,3	-18,4	4,9
35 to 44	73,2	65,1	45,4	-38,0	-30,3
45 to 54	74,2	66,2	62,1	-16,4	-6,2
55 to 74	65,1	55,1	50,6	-22,3	-8,2
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	153,3	135,1	101,7	-33,7	-24,7
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	146,9	131,1	120,6	-17,9	-8,0
Tertiary education	103,3	79,5	96,4	-6,6	21,3
Looking for a first job	31,4	39,7	43,3	37,7	9,1
Looking for a new job	372,0	306,1	275,4	-26,0	-10,0
Unemployed for less than 12 months (short-term)	278,3	191,3	165,3	-40,6	-13,6
Unemployed for 12 months or longer (long-term)	125,1	154,4	153,4	22,6	-0,6
Unemployment rate (%)	8,0	6,7	6,1		
Males	7,9	6,5	5,5		
Females	8,1	7,0	6,8		
Youth (16 to 24)	26,3	23,7	22,6		
Long-term	2,5	3,0	3,0		
Inactive population	5 229,5	5 122,8	5 085,6	-2,8	-0,7
Inactive population (16 and over)	3 724,0	3 645,1	3 612,2	-3,0	-0,9
Males	1 545,0	1 512,1	1 490,4	-3,5	-1,4
Females	2 178,9	2 133,0	2 121,8	-2,6	-0,5
16 to 24	644,6	659,4	655,3	1,7	-0,6
25 to 34	116,1	132,4	131,2	13,0	-0,9
35 to 44	134,6	99,9	85,6	-36,4	-14,3
45 to 54	162,1	158,9	147,9	-8,8	-7,0
55 to 64	519,7	474,2	469,7	-9,6	-1,0
65 to 89	2 065,4	2 014,5	2 014,0	-2,5	o
Students (16 to 89)	675,1	731,9	724,7	7,3	-1,0
Fulfilled domestic tasks (16 to 89)	355,8	339,6	361,6	1,6	6,5
Retired (16 to 89)	1 906,3	2 007,3	1 989,3	4,4	-0,9
Other inactive	786,8	566,3	536,6	-31,8	-5,2
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	17,7	24,2	24,2	36,9	o
Persons available to work but not seeking	230,4	148,4	155,2	-32,6	4,6
Inactivity rate (16 and over) (%)	42,4	41,4	41,0		
Males	37,9	36,9	36,3		
Females	46,3	45,4	45,1		

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Notes:

All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.

Conventional sign:

◦ Less than half of the unit used.



Table 6: Population aged 16 to 89 absent from work in the reference week, by labour market status and absence reason

Portugal	Quarterly level			Structure		
	3Q-2020	1Q-2021	3Q-2021	3Q-2020	1Q-2021	3Q-2021
	Thousands			%		
Total	828,8	413,5	891,9	100,0	100,0	100,0
Employed population	814,9	397,1	877,0	98,3	96,0	98,3
Unemployed population	x	x	x	x	x	x
Inactive population	12,1	12,9	12,7	1,5	3,1	1,4
Employed population absent from work	814,9	397,1	877,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
<i>Due to:</i>						
Annual or bank holidays	538,8	95,3	640,0	66,1	24,0	73,0
Own illness, injury or temporary disability (includes "sick leave")	164,8	182,8	166,6	20,2	46,0	19,0
Maternity/paternity leave/adoption	33,0	40,7	32,2	4,0	10,3	3,7
Slack work for technical or economic reasons (includes layoff)	66,2	53,6	14,4	8,1	13,5	1,6
Other reasons (a)	x	21,1	16,0	x	5,3	1,8
Other reasons than the above listed (b)	x	x	7,8§	x	x	0,9§

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 3rd quarter of 2021.

Notes:

(a) In the 2020 quarters, it includes, for example, marriage leave, general government special mobility – “supernumerary plan”, pre-retirement, irregular/occasional activity. In the 2021 quarters, it includes, among other, bad weather, strike, unpaid leave, leave for taking care of family member (not parental leave), pre-retirement, military reserve.

(b) In the 2020 quarters, it includes for following reasons, individually presented to the respondent but whose values are herein aggregated for being extremely unreliable: parental leave; flexible (working time banking) or variable working hours; bad weather; strike or other labour dispute; school education or training; seasonal work; unpaid leave. In the 2021 quarters, it includes: flexible working hours; parental leave; job-related training; seasonal work; new job.

All estimates for the 2011 data series (in force from the 1st quarter of 2011 to the 4th quarter of 2020) in this table have been revised in the light of the reconciliation exercise with the 2021 series, thus allowing direct comparison with the estimates of this series.

Conventional signs:

x Not available.

§ Value with low reliability.



TECHNICAL NOTE

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.

Due to rounding, the totals in tables and diagrams do not always match the sum of parts.

For more detailed information consult the Labour Force Survey [methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese) available at the Statistics Portugal website.

SOME CONCEPTS

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

- 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 and 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. All these population groups consider the age group 16 to 74.

Young people not in employment, education or training: population of young people of a given age group who, in the reference period, was not employed (i.e., was unemployed or inactive) and was not involved in education or training over a specific period of time (the reference week or in the previous three weeks).

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

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

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

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

Unemployment rate: rate that defines the relation between the unemployed population and the labour force.

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

Long term unemployment rate: rate that defines the relation between the unemployed population seeking employment for 12 months or over and the labour force.

$$L.T.U.R. (\%) = (\text{Unemployed population seeking employment for 12 months or over} / \text{Labour force}) \times 100$$

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

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

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

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

Rate of young people not in employment, education or training: rate that defines the relation between the population of young people of a given age group not in employment, education or training and the total population of young people of the same age group.



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STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release

DIÍSTAQUE

On year change

The year-on-year change compares the level of the variable in the current quarter with that of the corresponding quarter of the previous year. This change considering a seasonal stable pattern is not affected by this type of fluctuation but may, however, be influenced by specific effects in a given quarter.

On quarter change

The quarterly change compares the level of the variable over two consecutive periods. Although this indicator allows to monitor the recent pace of the variable, its computation is particularly influenced by seasonal effects and other more specific effects in one (or both) of the quarters under comparison.

Next Press Release - 9 February 2022
