14.8% OF SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS IN ECONOMICAL DEPENDENCE
AND 12.0% IN ORGANISATIONAL DEPENDENCE

Of the total of 711.4 thousand self-employed workers in 2022, 14.8% (105.1 thousand; 0.4 percentage points (pp) less than in 2021) had a client which represented 75% or more of their income (after taxes), an indicator of economic dependence. From that same total, 12.0% (85.4 thousand; up 0.6 pp) stated that their working hours are determined by their clients, an indicator of organisational dependence. Combining these two types of dependence, it can be said that 2.5% (17.7 thousand; in relation to 2021, this indicator has remained practically unchanged) of the self-employed workers are, simultaneously, economically and organisationally dependent.

Of the total of 7,660.3 thousand people aged 16 to 74 years, 12.2% (932.0 thousand) attended formal education and 26.0% (1,990.3 thousand) attended a non-formal education course in the last 12 months. Combining these two types of education, it was observed that 33.8% (2,588.5 thousand) of that population participated in at least one type of education and training activities in the past 12 months.

Of the total of 8,693.7 thousand people aged 16 to 89 years, 39.6% (3,443.4 thousand) assessed their general health status as good. However, 5.3% (457.2 thousand) considered themselves to be severely limited by health problems, for at least 6 months, to perform activities or tasks considered usual for most people.

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1. Introduction

In 2021, a new series of the Labour Force Survey began, introducing some changes to this statistical operation, of which stand out, for the purposes of this Press Release, the modularization of the questionnaire (which now includes questions of different periodicities), the introduction, redefinition and elimination of variables, and the implementation of a subsampling strategy in the estimation of non-quarterly variables.[1]

In this Press Release, Statistics Portugal analyses some variables with an annual or biennial periodicity, collected through a subsampling strategy[2] in 2022, namely on self-employment (number and importance of clients and who defines the daily working hours) in order to assess the degree of dependence of this type of work; on participation in education and training activities in the last 12 months, focusing on adult learning; and on the general health status of the population aged 16 to 89 years old and the existence of limitations due to health problems in performing usual activities. Other non-quarterly variables are available on request and subject to an analysis of the reliability of the estimates obtained.

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[1] For a more detailed analysis of the new features introduced by the new series of the Labour Force Survey, see the note attached to the Press Release "Employment Statistics - 1st quarter 2021" available at http://www.ine.pt/xurl/dest/472918526.
[2] The subsampling strategy is explained in more detail in the Methodological Note at the end of this Press Release.

2. Economically dependent self-employed workers

From the annual and biennial variables on the characterisation of employment collected according to the aforementioned subsampling system, in 2022, Statistics Portugal selected, for dissemination in this Press Release, two variables that measure the impact of clients on the activity of self-employed workers, namely the existence of clients who, alone, represent a high share of the worker's income and who stipulate the worker's working hours. These variables are collected annually, allowing for comparison with the 2021 results.[3]

From the total of 711.4 thousand self-employed workers in 2022, 68.0% (483.5 thousand) had 10 or more clients and none of them was considered dominant, that is, none of them represented individually 75% or more of the workers income (after paying taxes). That share is 2.6 percentage points (pp) higher than that of 2021 (65.4%).

Additionally, 8.3% (59.4 thousand) of self-employed workers stated that, in the last twelve months, they only had one client (which represents a decrease of 1.8 pp from the previous year), 4.7% (33.3 thousand; 1.0 pp more) had between 2 and 9 clients, one of which dominant, and 1.7% (12.4 thousand; 0.4 pp more) had 10 or more clients, also one of which was dominant. In other words, 14.8% (105.1 thousand) of the self-employed workers had a dominant client, which represents a slight decrease of 0.4 pp from 2021.

When a self-employed person has only one client or, if he has two or more clients, one of them is dominant, this is considered as "economic dependence".This is more frequent among men (15.6%) than among women (13.5%), young people between 16 and 34 years (15.5%), individuals who have completed tertiary education (15.5%), those working in the agriculture, farming of animals, hunting and forestry sector (46.9%) and in *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (24.5%).
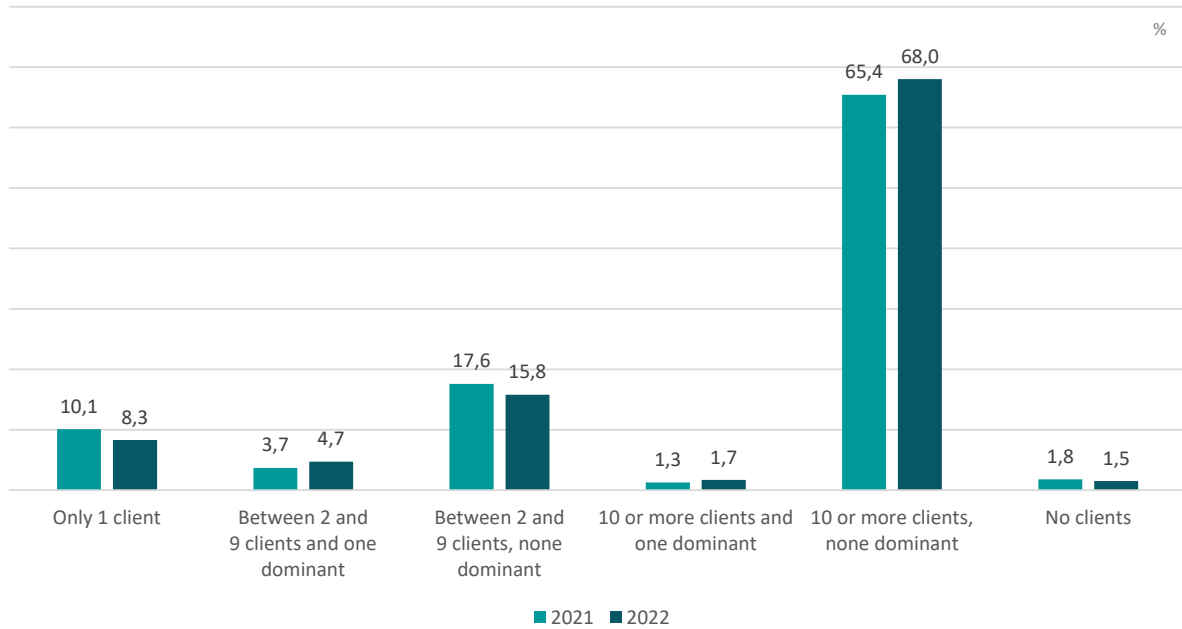
Another measure that allows for the analysis of the impact of clients on the self-employed's activity is related to the determination of daily working hours.

Of the total of 711.4 thousand self-employed workers, 71.6% (509.6 thousand) considered that they determine their daily working hours without restrictions, a lower share than observed in 2021 (0.8 pp less), while 16.4% (116.4 thousand; 0.3 pp more) reported that their working hours are determined by circumstances other than their clients (for example, legal provisions) and 12.0% (85.4 thousand; 0.6 pp more) that it is their clients who establish their working hours.

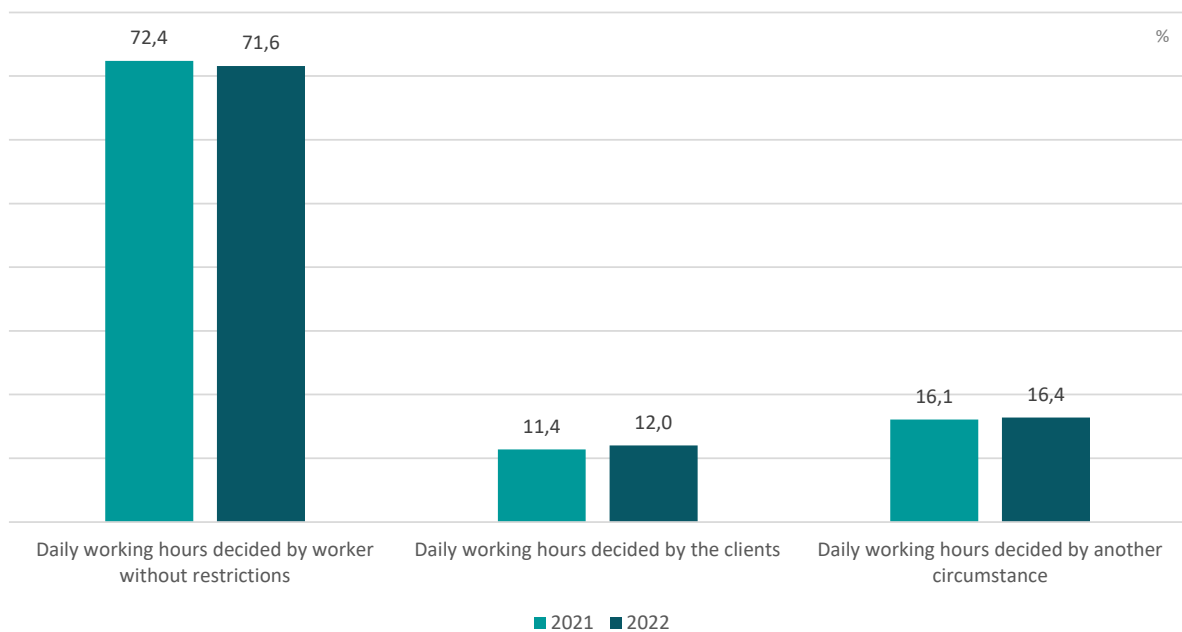[3] Published in the Press Release"Annual Employment Statistics - 2021", available at http://www.ine.pt/xurl/dest/540864721.

Figure 1. **Self-employed workers by number and importance of clients in the last 12 months**

%

	2021	2022
Only 1 client	10,1	8,3
Between 2 and 9 clients and one dominant	3,7	4,7
Between 2 and 9 clients, none dominant	17,6	15,8
10 or more clients and one dominant	1,3	1,7
10 or more clients, none dominant	65,4	68,0
No clients	1,8	1,5

■ 2021 ■ 2022

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2022.

Figure 2. **Self-employed workers according to who decides the daily working hours**

%

	2021	2022
Daily working hours decided by worker without restrictions	72,4	71,6
Daily working hours decided by the clients	11,4	12,0
Daily working hours decided by another circumstance	16,1	16,4

■ 2021 ■ 2022

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2022.

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When clients determine the working hours, this is considered to be "organisational dependence". Similarly to economic dependence, organisational dependence is more common among the young people between 16 and 34 years (17.6%) and among men (12.3%) - but with a smaller difference (0.8 p.p.) for the share among women (11.5%) - being, however, higher among those with upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education (13.0%), in the services sector (14.1%) and in *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (16.0%).

The two measures analysed, economic dependence (a single client or the existence of a dominant client) and organisational dependence (clients who determine the daily working hours), are part of the indicator on "economically dependent self-employed workers", which corresponds to the number of self-employed workers economically dependent on a single client or on a dominant client, with that client determining the daily working hours. [4]

In 2022, this indicator covered 17.7 thousand people, corresponding to 0.3% of the total employed population and 2.5% of the self-employed workers. In relation to 2021, this indicator remained practically unchanged.

Table 1. **Self-employed workers by economic and organisational dependence**

	2022					
	Total	**Organisational dependence**	**Organisational independence**	**Total**	**Organisational dependence**	**Organisational independence**
	Thousands			%		
Total	**711,4**	**85,4**	**626,0**	**100,0**	**12,0**	**88,0**
Economic dependence	**105,1**	17,7	87,4	**14,8**	16,8	83,2
Economic independence	**606,3**	67,7	538,6	**85,2**	11,2	88,8

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2022.

3. Attendance of education and training activities by adults

The set of biennial questions (even years) include a group of questions on the participation in education and training activities in the last 12 months (as in AES[5]), in addition to the quarterly questions about the last 4 reference weeks. These questions are fundamental for the calculation of public policy monitoring indicators in this area.

Thus, the population from 16 to 74 years of age was asked about the attendance, in the last 12 months, of formal education activities (that which confers an education level) or of non-formal education (those which, despite

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[4] Eurostat restricts this indicator to the self-employed persons without employees. Considering this population group, in 2022, the indicator "economically dependent self-employed persons" covered to 15.3 thousand people, representing 0.3% of the total employed population, 2.2% of self-employed workers and 3.3% of self-employed workers without employees.
[5] Adult Education Survey.

being institutionalized, only confer a certificate of attendance and not a level of education; for example, an English course at a language institute).[6]

Figure 3. **Attendance of education and training activities in the last 12 months**
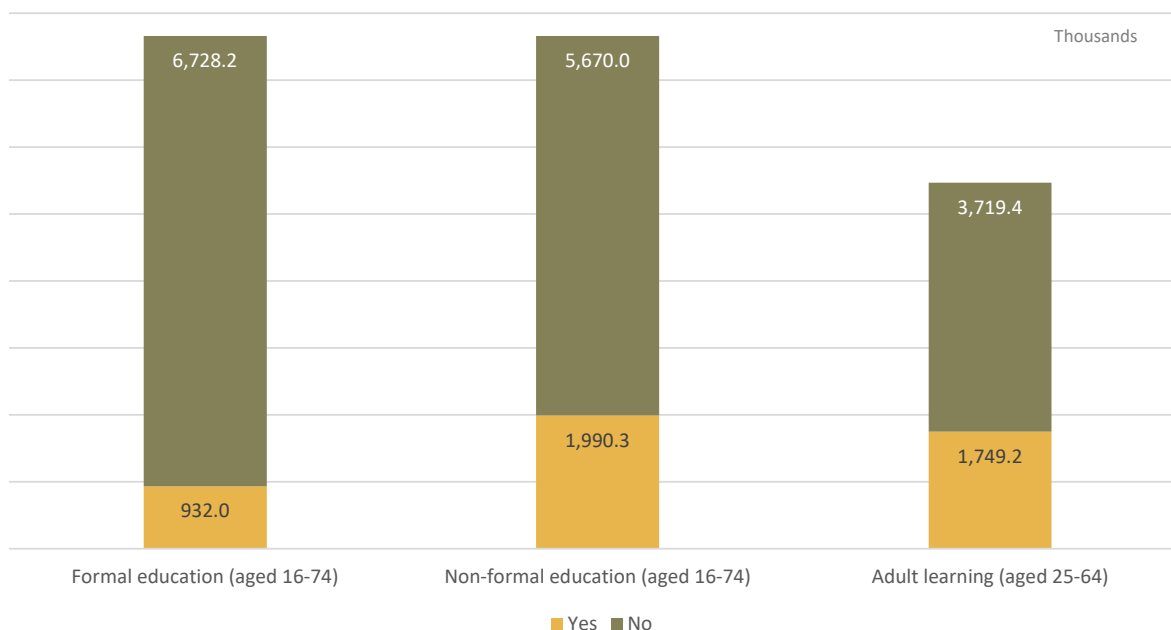
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2022.

Of the total of 7,660.3 thousand people aged 16 to 74, 12.2% (932.0 thousand) indicated having attended formal education activities and 26.0% (1,990.3 thousand) a non-formal education course in the last 12 months.

Attending formal education was more common in *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (13.7%; 282.4 thousand), among men (12.6%; 460.3 thousand), in the 16 to 24 age group (71.8%; 706.5 thousand) and among the inactive population (26.6%; 655.7 thousand). However, 4.6% (223.7 thousand) of the employed population stated having attended one of these activities. Of these, 90.5% (202.4 thousand) were employees, 81.5% (182.4 thousand) worked in the service sector and 38.3% (85.7 thousand) were Professionals.

The attendance of non-formal education activities, despite being also higher in *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* (29.5%; 608.2 thousand), did not reveal relative differences between men (26.0%; 947.6 thousand) and women (26.0%; 1,042.6 thousand). The group of those aged 35 to 44 had the highest share of people who attended these courses (36.0%; 483.7 thousand) and participation in this type of activities occurred more frequently among the employed population (32.8% ; 1,598.1 thousand), unlike what was observed in the attendance of formal education activities. Nevertheless, the profile of the set of employees who attended non- -formal education activities in the last 12 months was similar to that of those who attended formal education:

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[6] A more precise definition of the concepts of formal and non-formal education can be found in the Methodological Note at the end of this Press Release.

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89.1% (1,423.2 thousand) were employees, 80,2% (1,281.3 thousand) worked in the service sector and 36.6% (585.1 thousand) were Professionals.

Combining the answers on the attendance of these two types of education allows to conclude that, in 2022, from the total of 7,660.3 thousand people aged between 16 and 74 years, 33.8% (2,588.5 thousand) attended education and training activities in the last 12 months, either formal education or non-formal education. Restricting the analysis to those aged between 25 and 64 years, it is possible to determine the indicator "Adult learning", which covered 1,749.2 thousand people, 32.0% of the population in this age group.[7]

4. Health status perception and its impact in the labour market

With the start of the new Labour Force Survey data series, a biennial (even years) module on health was introduced and it is composed of three questions, addressed to the population aged 16 to 89, on the perception of their general health, the existence of limitations due to health problems and their duration.

Figure 4. Population aged 16 to 89 by general health status
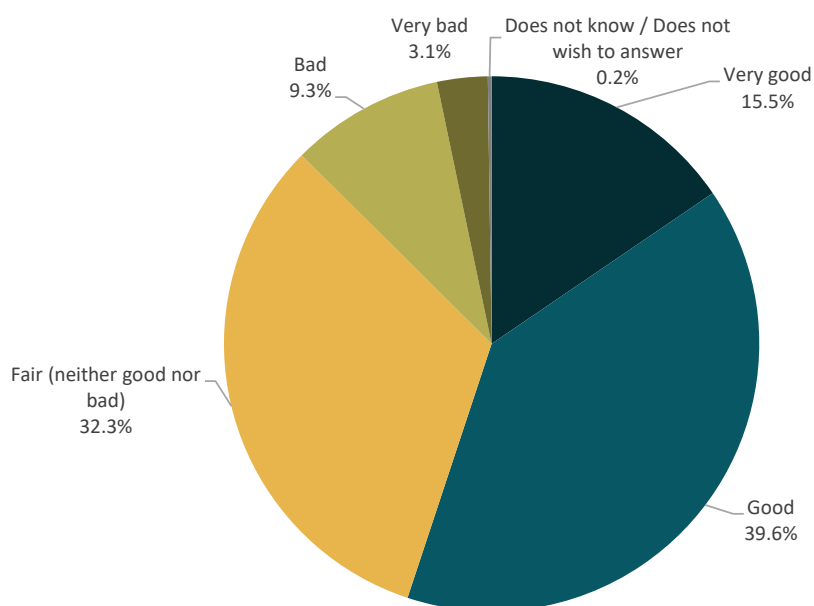
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2022.

Of the total of 8,693.7 thousand people aged 16 to 89 years, 39.6% (3,443.4 thousand) assessed their general health as good and 32.3% (2,812.2 thousand) said it was fair. Only 15.5% (1,345.9 thousand) considered themselves to be in very good health. This proportion is, however, higher than those who considered their health to be poor (9.3%; 807.2 thousand) or very poor (3.1%; 265.3 thousand).

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[7] This indicator is similar to the better known "Lifelong Learning" indicator. The difference between them concerns to the reference period: Adult learning refers to the last 12 months, while Lifelong Learning focuses on the last 4 weeks. In 2022, the Lifelong Learning rate was 13.8%.

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It was in the *Centro* region that a greater share of people aged 16 to 89 years rated their general health as very bad (4.5%) and it was in the *Área Metropolitana de Lisboa* that it was most classified as very good (19.0%). Comparing men and women, the share of men who reported having a very good (17.5%) or good (41.7%) health status was higher than that of women (13.7% and 37.8 %, respectively). As expected, the perception of a very good general health status decreased with increasing age: 42.2% among those aged 16 to 24 and only 2.4% of those aged 65 to 89. Analysing the labour status, the employed population and the unemployed population have considered, mainly, to have a good general health (50.4% and 45.9%, respectively), while the inactive population tended to rate their general health as fair (39.4%).

The two other questions in the Labour Force Survey module on health focused on the existence of limitations due to health problems that prevented the respondent, for at least 6 months, from carrying out activities or tasks considered usual for most people. Of the total of 8,693.7 thousand people aged 16 to 89 years, 76.1% (6,618.4 thousand) said that they had no limitation, while 18.3% (1,594.6 thousand) said they were limited, but not severely, and 5.3% (457.2 thousand) considered themselves to be severely limited.

Figure 5. **Population aged 16 to 89 by limitations due to health problems for the past 6 months (at least)**
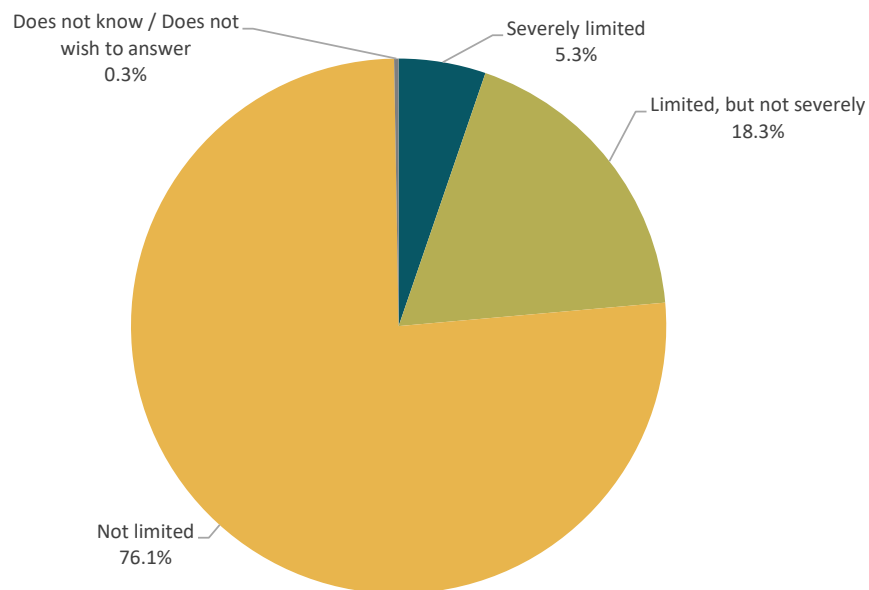
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 2022.

The highest share of people who indicated to be severely limited for at least 6 months was observed in the *Centro* region (6.8%), with more men reporting not being limited (79.7%) than women (73.0%). As expected, as age increases there were more people stating to be severely limited (13.5% of those aged 65 to 89 compared to 0.6% of those aged 16 to 24) and fewer indicating that they were not limited at all (50.7% from the first group and 95.5% from the second). Only 1.0% of the employed population said they were severely limited, for at least 6 months, to carry out activities or tasks considered normal for most people.

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METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The main purpose of the Labour Force Survey is to classify the population in terms of their participation in the labour market. It is a quarterly sample survey, addressed to all persons living in the national territory.

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. It should be noticed that, following the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted by the competent authorities, Statistics Portugal has decided, between the first fortnight of March 2020 and the end of the collection of the 2nd quarter of 2022, to suspend the face-to-face collection mode, replacing it exclusively with telephone interviews.

The LFS sample is divided into six subsamples (rotations/waves), and in each quarter a subsample is replaced by a new one (selected under the same design) after being observed for six consecutive quarters. This rotation design introduces a longitudinal component, thus allowing the follow-up of persons who remain in the sample for a maximum period of one and a half year.

The subsampling strategy (wave approach) consists of taking advantage of the organisation of the LFS sample in waves. This feature enables the construction of an annual microdata base composed of four subsamples, each one corresponding to the wave that enters in the sample for the first time (new rotation) in each quarter. This means that, in each quarter, the annual, biennial and eight-yearly questions will be placed only in 1/6 of the quarterly sample's households (new rotation). In subsequent interviews, only quarterly questions will be applied to these households, regardless of the result of the first interview. Therefore, the microdata base with non-quarterly questions will only be complete after the end of the 4th quarter of each year.

This methodology makes it possible to reduce the statistical burden on families and, consequently, the interview time, as they only respond to the entire questionnaire in only one of the six survey quarters (in the quarter in which they enter the sample for the first time).

The weighting factors of persons in the subsample wave approach are adjusted to ensure their consistency with the weighting factors for the annual averages obtained from the complete sample at labour status level (employed, unemployed and inactive population), sex (male, female) and age groups (16-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64), type of the employees' employment contract (permanent job, temporary job, other contractual arrangements) and work duration regime (full-time, part-time).

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.

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SOME CONCEPTS

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.

Self-employed person: an individual who pursues an independent occupation, alone or with 1, or various, associates, benefiting from a remuneration that is directly linked to profits (gained or potential) from goods or services produced and who, in general, does not hire employees to work with him/her. The associates may or may not be immediate family members.

Formal education: Intentional, institutionalized and planned education that materializes in education and training offers, confers an academic certification or a dual certification (academic and professional), comprises a hierarchical succession of education levels, and is provided by public or private entities recognized by the competent national authorities in matters of education and training.

Non-formal education: Intentional, institutionalized and planned education that adds and/or complements formal education in the context of lifelong learning process and assigns a certificate of attendance, but not a level of education.

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