



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE ON THE REVISION OF THE LABOUR FORCE SURVEY DATA: THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The estimates obtained from the Labour Force Survey for the 2nd quarter of 2020 to the 2nd quarter of 2023 were revised following the results of the analysis of the impact of the suspension of the face-to-face collection mode, which occurred due to the public health safeguard measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic period. In this context, Statistics Portugal presents the following methodological note.

The context of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the Labour Force Survey

Following the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures adopted by the competent authorities, Statistics Portugal suspended the face-to-face collection mode, replacing it, exclusively with telephone interviews, as it happened in other European Union countries.¹ This suspension began in the first fortnight of March 2020 and lasted until the end of the 2nd quarter of 2022 and did not affect the levels of accuracy of the Labour Force Survey results in a significant way, as Statistics Portugal has been informing.

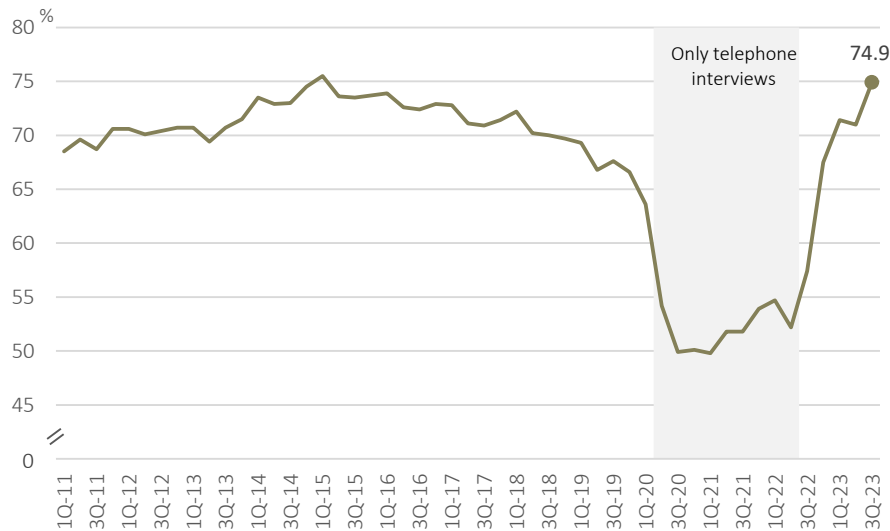
In the "Methodological note on the labour force survey data: the context of the COVID-19 pandemic"², published on 19 May 2023, Statistics Portugal clarified that the results published had an underlying response rate (Figure 1) corresponding to the ratio between the number of households with interviews and the number of households selected for the sample. In the case of the Labour Force Survey, this response rate is sensitive to the lack of households in the sampling frame that can be interviewed by telephone. The face-to-face collection method in the first interview makes it possible to remedy this situation. With its suspension in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the response rate decreased in the quarters in which face-to-face collection was suspended.

It should also be noted that, due to the entry into force of the Integrated European Social Statistics Framework in the European Union, in January 2021, a gradual increase of the sample was introduced between the 1st quarter of 2021 and the 2nd quarter of 2022, corresponding to an increment of one-third of the initial sample size, which made it possible to meet the new precision requirements introduced with the new legislation and compensate the response rate decline during this period. Currently, the Labour Force Survey sample includes 30,096 households, and information is obtained on all persons residing in the household.

¹ Under standard conditions, the information is obtained directly, through a computer-assisted interview conducted by an interviewer, using a mixed collection mode: the initial interview is done face-to-face by an interviewer visiting the household and the other five are done by telephone if certain requirements are met.

² Available at <http://www.ine.pt/xurl/dest/612944288>.

Figure 1. Response rates in the Labour Force Survey



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

In this context, Statistics Portugal monitored the impact of suspending the face-to-face collection method, not only on the main indicators following the labour market evolution, but also on the composition of the respondents, analysing process changes that could minimise the changes observed. It was following these studies that it was decided to restrict the sampling frame to accommodation units for which telephone interviews were possible.

Another analysis was carried out on the possible inclusion of additional variables, including the "completed level of education", in the calibration process of the individual weights, in addition to the information usually used (monthly estimates of the resident population by sex, age group and region).³ However, since the countries were in a period of great instability and change, and because changes in the calibration processes could introduce an additional source of incomparability in the estimates at European level and even create a break in the series, making direct comparison with previously released estimates impossible, Eurostat asked the countries not to make any changes to the method of calculating the Labour Force Survey weights.⁴

In these circumstances, Statistics Portugal has opted to make supplementary indicators available in its Press Releases to monitor the evolution of the labour market, always warning when the impacts of the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic could interfere with the normal evolution or interpretation of the estimates released.

With the resuming of the mixed collection mode from the 3rd quarter of 2022 onwards, by reintroducing face-to-face interviews, a gradual reversion of the response rates to the levels observed in the pre-pandemic period took place and year-on-year variations different from those expected were observed in some indicators, as presented in detail in the above mentioned "Methodological note on the labour force survey data: the context of the COVID-19 pandemic".

³ For more detailed information on the Labour Force Survey weighting process, consult its [methodological document](#) (only in Portuguese) available at Statistics Portugal website.

⁴ As presented by Eurostat at the Conference of European Statisticians in November 2020 and [available at the conference website](#).



Estimates revision

In that Note, a set of figures and tables with results on the evolution of the population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education was presented and in them negative year-on-year changes were observed since the 3rd quarter of 2022. In particular, there was a decrease in the total population and in the employed population in this population group since the 3rd quarter of 2022, as well as in the corresponding inactive population since the 4th quarter of 2022, showing a trend towards pre-pandemic levels (Figures 2, 6 and 10). However, the same could not be said for the unemployed population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education, which showed recurrent oscillations throughout the data series (Figure 8).

The indicator regarding tertiary educational attainment rate⁵ (which corresponds to the share of people aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education) also showed a decrease since the 3rd quarter of 2022 (Figure 12), consistent with the approximation to the values observed before the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, when comparing the results of this indicator for the year 2021 with those obtained in the Census of that same year, safeguarding the differences between the two statistical operations, there was an overestimation of the estimates from the Labour Force Survey which was not present when comparing the results of this indicator in 2011 based on the two statistical operations (Labour Force Survey and 2011 Census). In particular, in 2011, the tertiary educational attainment rate was 28.6% based on the Census of that year and 26.7% based on the Labour Force Survey, 1.9 percentage points (pp) less; in 2021, the rate was 36.9% based on the Census and 43.0% based on the Labour Force Survey, 6.1 pp more.⁶

Although there might be other factors behind the developments observed in these indicators, related with the dynamics of the labour market itself and which the Labour Force Survey was not able to capture, it was considered that these year-on-year changes might be the result, in part, of the reintroduction of the face-to-face data collection mode and the reversion to pre-pandemic levels.

In this context, Statistics Portugal resumed the aforementioned analysis of including additional variables in the process of calibrating the individual weights in addition to the information usually used (monthly estimates of the resident population by sex, age group and region), opting, after comparative tests and because it was one of the most sensitive variables to the change to the exclusively telephone data collection mode, to add only the variable "completed level of education" for six breakdown levels (no level of education; primary education (1st cycle); primary education (2nd cycle); lower secondary education; upper secondary and post-secondary education; tertiary education).

This change to the normal calibration process of the Labour Force Survey covered the period affected by the suspension of face-to-face interviews, so the estimates for the 2nd quarter of 2020 to the 2nd quarter of 2023 were revised. The estimation of the results for the 3rd quarter of 2023, the last quarter affected by the suspension of face-to-face interviews⁷, was carried out in a similar way.

⁵ This indicator was one of those monitored under the Europe 2020 Strategy and a target of at least 40% was set to be achieved in that year. The monitoring of this indicator continues under the Portugal 2030 Strategy, with a target now set of at least 50% by the year 2030.

⁶ After revising the series, in 2021, the tertiary educational attainment rate based on the Labour Force Survey was 41.2%, 4.3 pp more.

⁷ The reintroduction of the face-to-face collection mode was done through the entry rotation and took place in stages from the 3rd quarter of 2022. Thus, the 3rd quarter of 2023 is the last in which one of its six sample rotations has not been started in this collection mode, which still influenced, albeit to a lesser extent, the estimates produced from this statistical operation.



Impact of the revision

The figures and tables below show the impact of the revision on the population aged 16 to 89 by labour status (employment, unemployment, inactivity), also restricting the analysis to those with tertiary education.

These figures reinforce what was stated in the Note published in May 2023, that the resumption of the mixed collection mode made it possible to increase the response rates to pre-pandemic levels at the beginning of 2023 (Figure 1), which in turn led the estimates to pre-pandemic levels, with absolute differences between the original and revised series barely perceptible graphically in the quarters of 2023.

Focusing on the population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education, with the revision, there are no negative year-on-year changes since 2021, either in the total population or in the employed population of this population group, in line with what was observed in the pre-pandemic period (Figures 2 and 6). However, between the 2nd quarter of 2021 and the 1st quarter of 2022, there are negative year-on-year variations in the inactive population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education, as well as in the unemployed population of this population group since the 3rd quarter of 2021, which, as previously indicated, already showed recurring oscillations throughout the series (Figures 8 and 10).

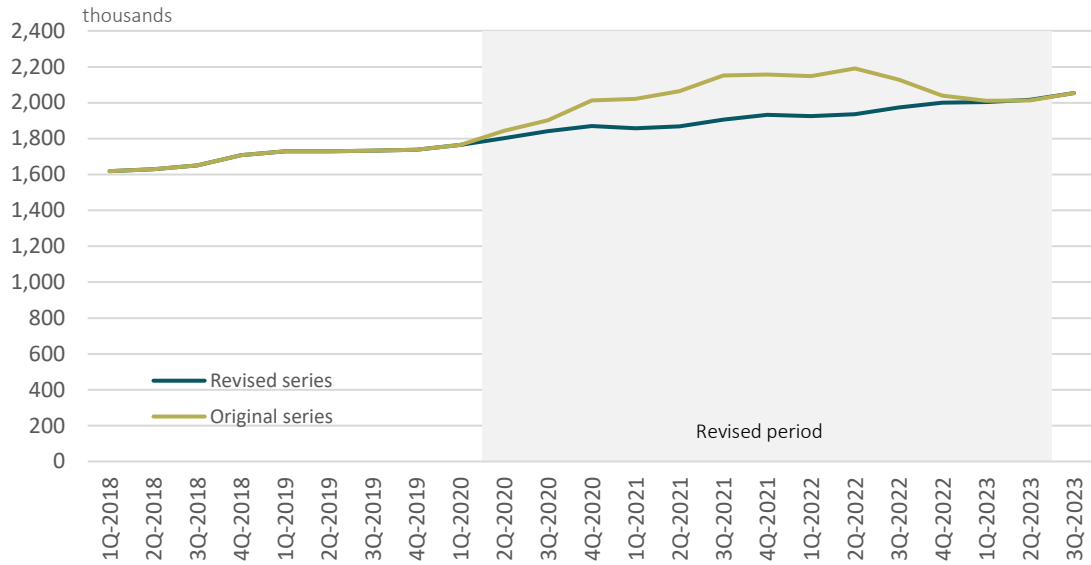
With the revision of the Labour Force Survey estimates, the indicator for the tertiary educational attainment rate was revised downwards in all periods covered, between 0.1 pp in the 2nd quarter of 2023 and 2.6 pp in the 2nd quarter of 2022, closer to the value observed in the 1st quarter of 2020 (37.4%). In the 3rd quarter of 2023, the tertiary educational attainment rate was 39.4%, 1.3 pp more than in the previous quarter and 0.6 pp less than the Europe 2020 target of 40% (Figure 12). Looking at the annual figures, in 2020 the tertiary education attainment rate was revised downwards (0.6 pp less than the originally published estimate), standing at 39.0%, when the Europe 2020 Strategy target was of 40% for that year. Similarly, the estimates for 2021 and 2022 were also revised downwards and now stand at 41.6% and 41.2%, respectively (Table 6).

Analysing the totals for the active population and for the employed population, it can be seen that their values were underestimated between the 2nd quarter of 2020 and the 4th quarter of 2022, and overestimated in the first two quarters of 2023. It should be noted, however, that the maximum underestimation was -0.8% (39.9 thousand people) and -1.0% (47.1 thousand), respectively, in the 2nd quarter of 2022, and that the highest overestimation was 0.2% in both population (9.5 thousand and 9.3 thousand, respectively) in the 2nd quarter of 2023 (Figures 3 and 5). On the other hand, the unemployed population was revised upwards in the period under analysis, with a maximum difference of 7.2 thousand people (2.4%) in the 2nd quarter of 2022 (Figure 7).

These revisions were reflected in the unemployment rate, which was underestimated between the 1st quarter of 2021 and the 3rd quarter of 2022 by 0.1 pp and 0.2 pp (Figure 11).

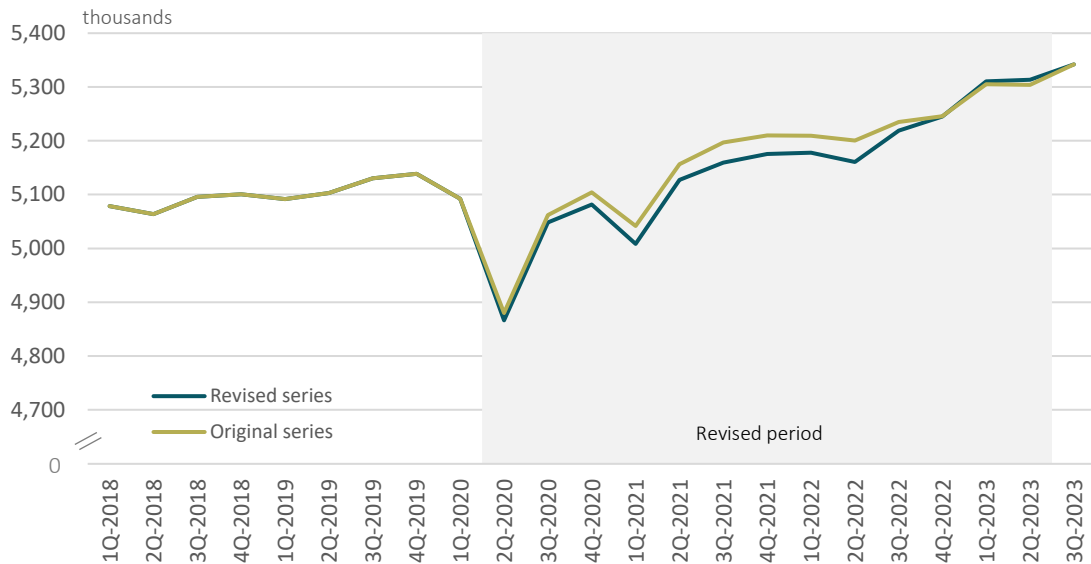


Figure 2. Resident population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

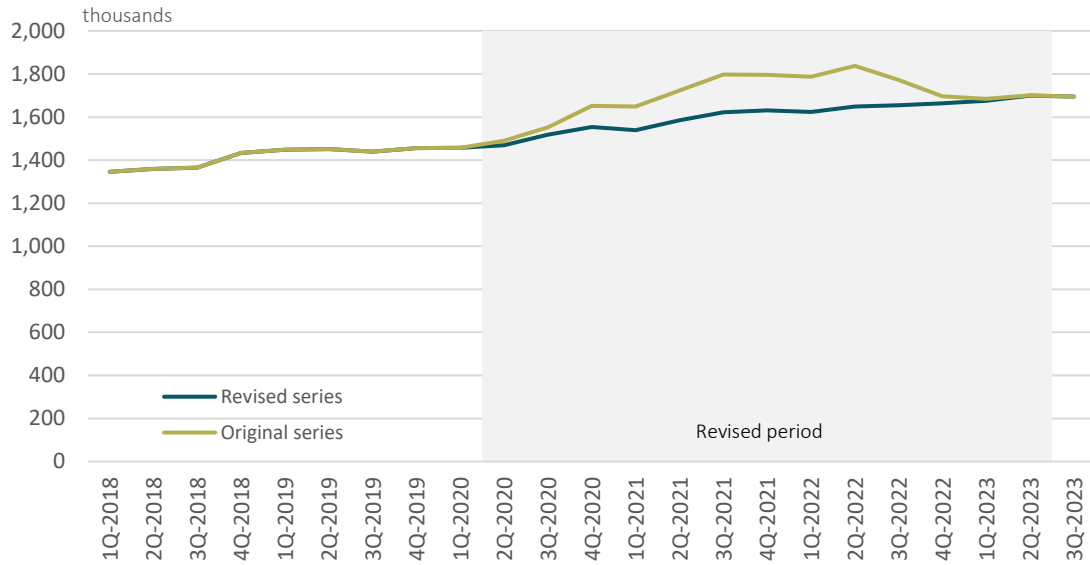
Figure 3. Active population



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

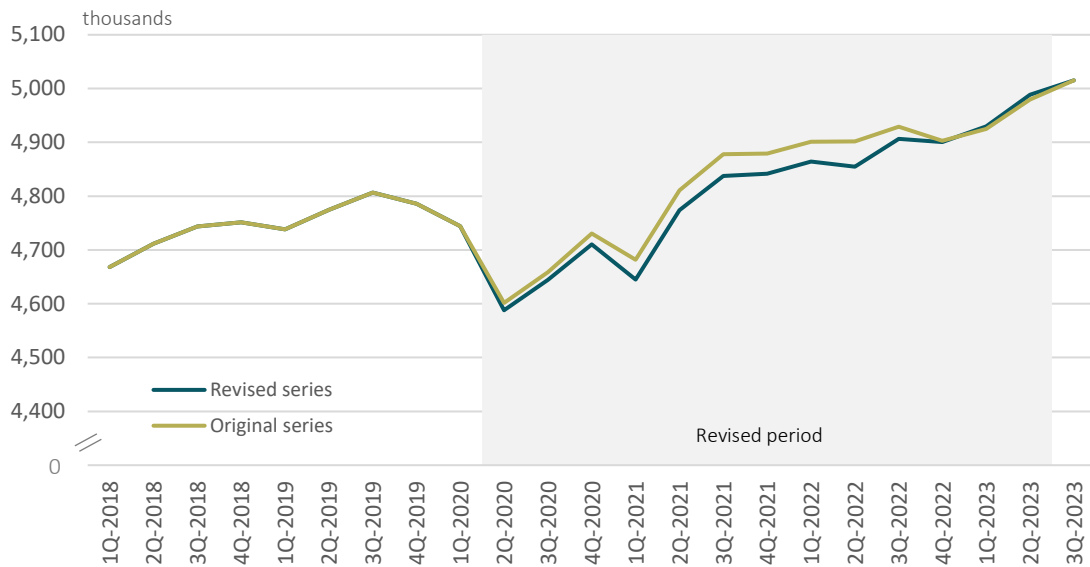


Figure 4. Active population with tertiary education



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

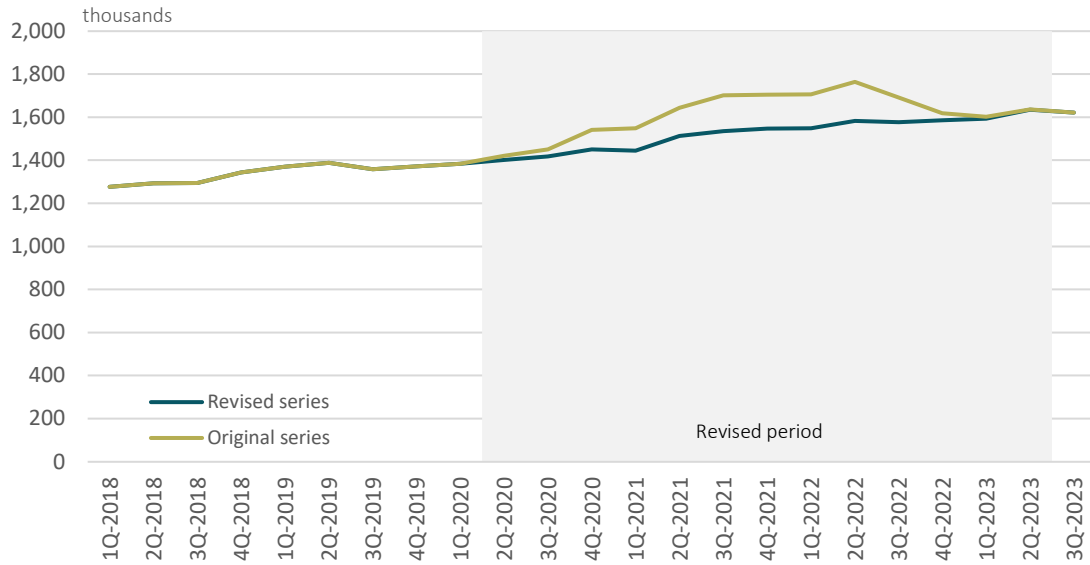
Figure 5. Employed population



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

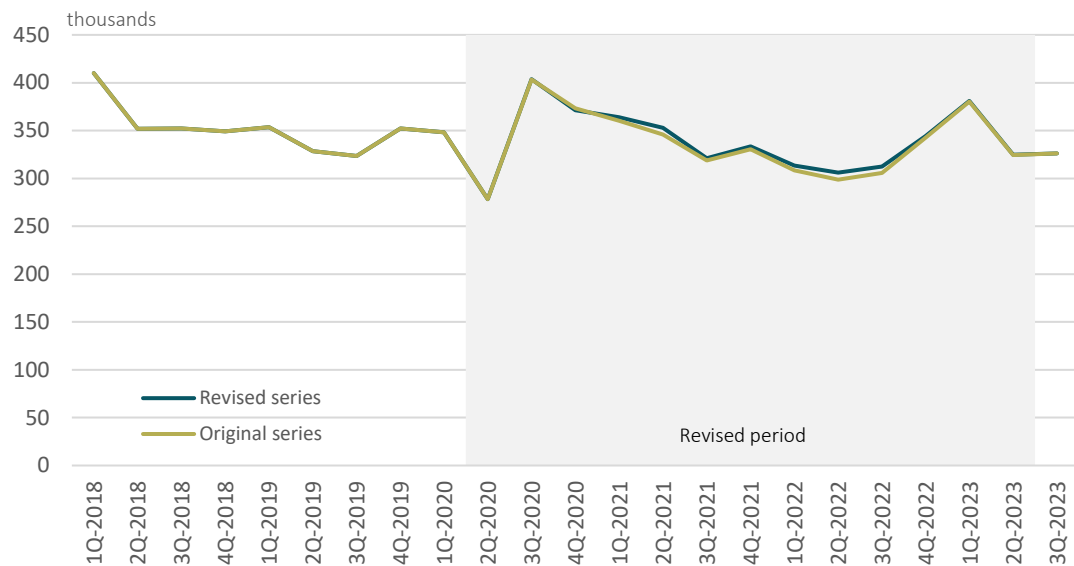


Figure 6. Employed population with tertiary education



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

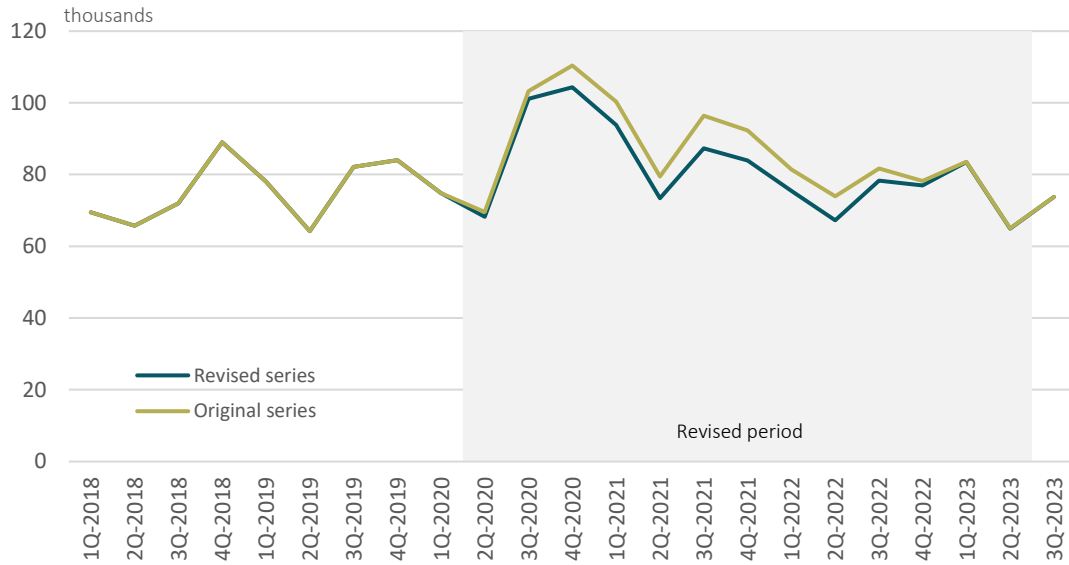
Figure 7. Unemployed population



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

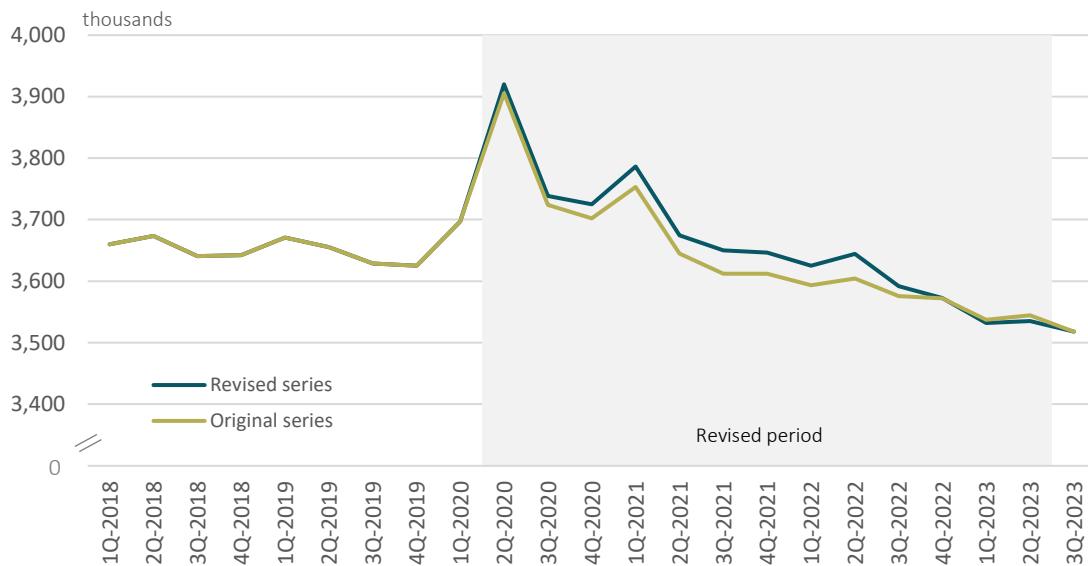


Figure 8. Unemployed population with tertiary education



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

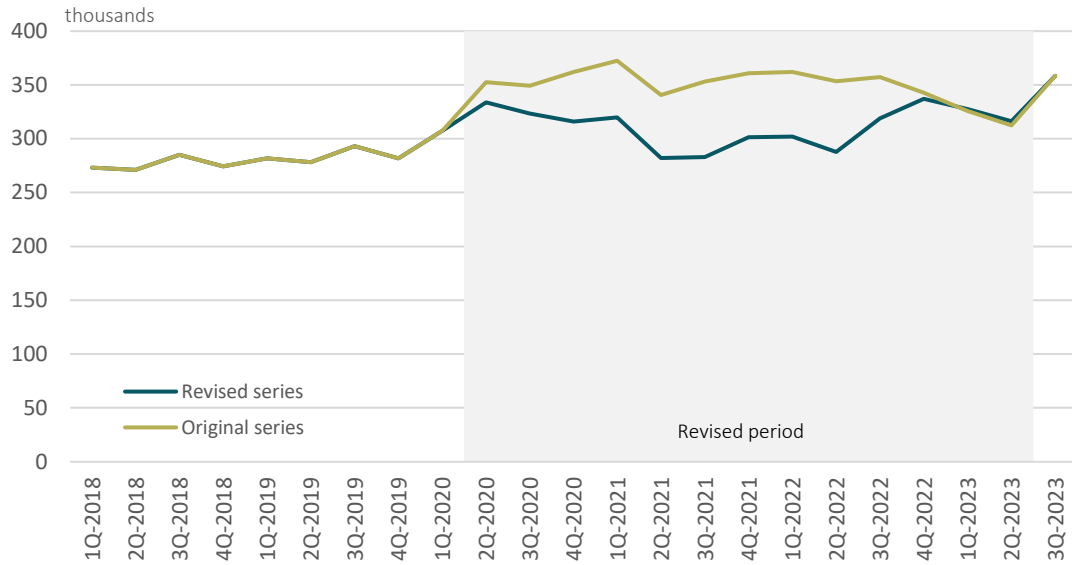
Figure 9. Inactive population aged 16 and over



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

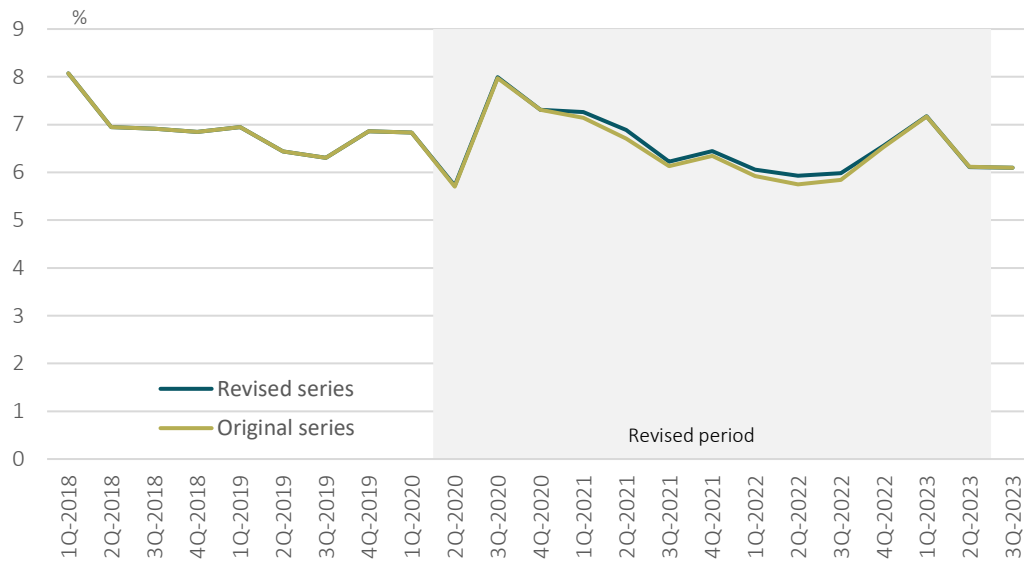


Figure 10. Inactive population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

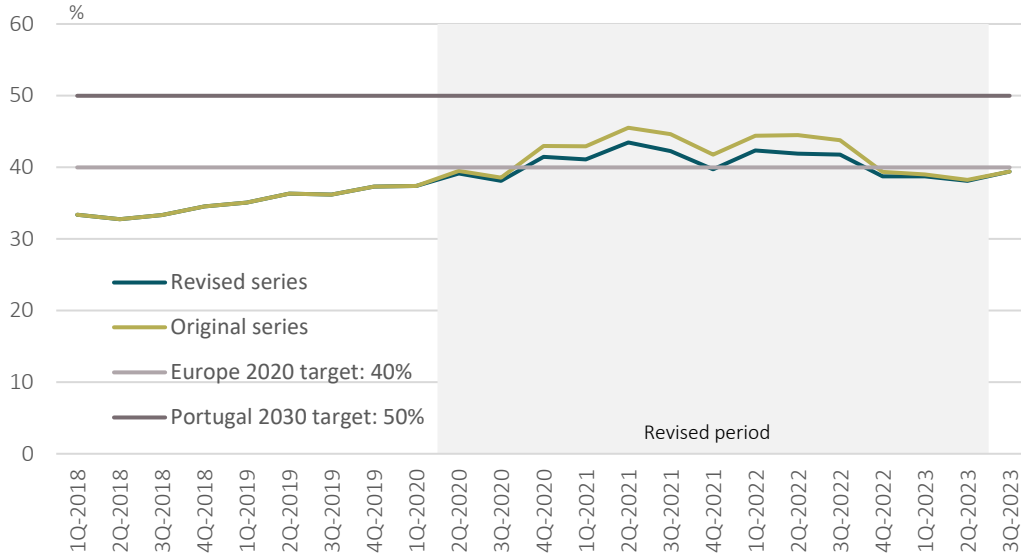
Figure 11. Unemployment rate



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.



Figure 12. Tertiary educational attainment rate



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.



Table 1. Population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education

Portugal	1Q-2020	2Q-2020	3Q-2020	4Q-2020	1Q-2021	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	4Q-2021	1Q-2022	2Q-2022	3Q-2022	4Q-2022	1Q-2023	2Q-2023	3Q-2023
Revised series	Thousands														
Total population	1,765.3	1,803.2	1,841.6	1,869.9	1,858.3	1,867.8	1,905.6	1,932.6	1,925.7	1,936.8	1,973.4	2,000.4	2,003.7	2,015.5	2,054.1
Active population	1,457.9	1,469.5	1,518.1	1,554.0	1,538.4	1,585.6	1,622.6	1,631.3	1,623.9	1,649.1	1,654.5	1,663.2	1,676.2	1,699.3	1,695.7
Employed population	1,383.1	1,401.3	1,417.0	1,449.7	1,444.6	1,512.3	1,535.3	1,547.4	1,548.4	1,581.9	1,576.2	1,586.2	1,592.7	1,634.4	1,621.9
Unemployed population	74.8	68.3	101.1	104.3	93.8	73.4	87.3	83.9	75.4	67.2	78.3	77.0	83.4	65.0	73.8
Inactive population	307.4	333.7	323.4	315.9	319.8	282.2	283.0	301.3	301.9	287.7	318.9	337.1	327.6	316.2	358.4
Original series	Thousands														
Total population	1,765.3	1,842.7	1,902.3	2,013.6	2,021.0	2,064.2	2,151.3	2,157.3	2,149.0	2,191.0	2,129.4	2,038.8	2,010.6	2,012.8	2,054.1
Active population	1,457.9	1,490.3	1,553.2	1,651.7	1,648.7	1,723.6	1,798.2	1,796.4	1,787.2	1,837.7	1,772.2	1,696.1	1,684.8	1,700.6	1,695.7
Employed population	1,383.1	1,420.7	1,449.9	1,541.4	1,548.4	1,644.1	1,701.8	1,704.2	1,705.8	1,763.7	1,690.5	1,617.8	1,601.2	1,635.7	1,621.9
Unemployed population	74.8	69.6	103.3	110.4	100.3	79.5	96.4	92.3	81.4	73.9	81.7	78.2	83.6	65.0	73.8
Inactive population	307.4	352.4	349.1	361.9	372.3	340.5	353.1	360.9	361.9	353.4	357.2	342.7	325.8	312.2	358.4
Differences (r-o)	Thousands														
Total population	0.0	- 39.5	- 60.7	- 143.7	- 162.7	- 196.4	- 245.7	- 224.7	- 223.3	- 254.2	- 156.0	- 38.4	- 6.9	2.7	0.0
Active population	0.0	- 20.8	- 35.1	- 97.7	- 110.3	- 138.0	- 175.6	- 165.1	- 163.3	- 188.6	- 117.7	- 32.9	- 8.6	- 1.3	0.0
Employed population	0.0	- 19.4	- 32.9	- 91.7	- 103.8	- 131.8	- 166.5	- 156.8	- 157.4	- 181.8	- 114.3	- 31.6	- 8.5	- 1.3	0.0
Unemployed population	0.0	- 1.3	- 2.2	- 6.1	- 6.5	- 6.1	- 9.1	- 8.4	- 6.0	- 6.7	- 3.4	- 1.2	- 0.2	0.0	0.0
Inactive population	0.0	- 18.7	- 25.7	- 46.0	- 52.5	- 58.3	- 70.1	- 59.6	- 60.0	- 65.7	- 38.3	- 5.6	1.8	4.0	0.0

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

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.



Table 2. Tertiary educational attainment rate (Europe 2020 and Portugal 2030 indicator)

Portugal	1Q-2020	2Q-2020	3Q-2020	4Q-2020	1Q-2021	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	4Q-2021	1Q-2022	2Q-2022	3Q-2022	4Q-2022	1Q-2023	2Q-2023	3Q-2023
Revised series	Thousands														
Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)	37.4	39.1	38.1	41.5	41.1	43.5	42.3	39.7	42.4	41.9	41.8	38.7	38.8	38.1	39.4
Population aged 30 to 34	565.2	564.9	564.5	565.3	565.6	566.3	566.8	568.1	566.6	566.8	567.1	567.9	574.6	575.6	576.9
Population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education	211.5	221.0	215.2	234.5	232.5	246.2	239.6	225.6	240.0	237.5	237.0	220.0	222.6	219.5	227.4
Original series	Thousands														
Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)	37.4	39.5	38.6	43.0	43.0	45.5	44.7	41.8	44.4	44.5	43.8	39.4	39.0	38.3	39.4
Population aged 30 to 34	565.2	564.9	564.5	565.3	565.6	566.3	566.8	568.1	566.6	566.8	567.1	567.9	574.6	575.6	576.9
Population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education	211.5	223.1	217.8	243.0	242.9	257.8	253.1	237.3	251.8	252.3	248.4	223.5	224.1	220.2	227.4
Differences (r-o)	Thousands														
Tertiary educational attainment rate (percentage points)	0.0	-0.4	-0.5	-1.5	-1.9	-2.0	-2.4	-2.1	-2.0	-2.6	-2.0	-0.7	-0.2	-0.2	0.0
Population aged 30 to 34	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education	0.0	-2.1	-2.6	-8.5	-10.4	-11.6	-13.5	-11.7	-11.8	-14.8	-11.4	-3.5	-1.5	-0.7	0.0

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes:

- The tertiary educational attainment rate corresponds to the share of the population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education. This indicator was one of those monitored under the Europe 2020 Strategy and a target of at least 40% was set to be achieved in that year. The monitoring of this indicator continues under the Portugal 2030 Strategy, with a target now set of at least 50% by the year 2030.

- 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 3. Total, active, employed, unemployed and inactive population

Portugal	1Q-2020	2Q-2020	3Q-2020	4Q-2020	1Q-2021	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	4Q-2021	1Q-2022	2Q-2022	3Q-2022	4Q-2022	1Q-2023	2Q-2023	3Q-2023
Revised series	Thousands														
Total population	10,284.1	10,286.0	10,291.3	10,305.3	10,277.5	10,279.0	10,282.5	10,292.9	10,267.2	10,264.9	10,266.5	10,271.8	10,301.5	10,304.8	10,314.3
Active population	5,092.3	4,866.5	5,048.0	5,081.4	5,008.6	5,127.1	5,159.0	5,175.4	5,177.6	5,160.7	5,218.7	5,244.9	5,310.5	5,313.3	5,341.6
Employed population	4,744.2	4,588.1	4,644.4	4,710.1	4,644.7	4,774.1	4,837.7	4,841.8	4,864.0	4,854.7	4,906.3	4,900.7	4,929.5	4,988.7	5,015.5
Unemployed population	348.1	278.4	403.6	371.3	363.9	353.0	321.3	333.6	313.6	306.1	312.4	344.2	381.1	324.7	326.1
Inactive population (aged 16 and over)	3,696.9	3,920.1	3,738.7	3,724.7	3,786.0	3,674.2	3,650.0	3,646.2	3,624.9	3,644.2	3,591.7	3,572.6	3,531.7	3,535.2	3,518.0
Original series	Thousands														
Total population	10,284.1	10,286.0	10,291.3	10,305.3	10,277.5	10,279.0	10,282.5	10,292.9	10,267.2	10,264.9	10,266.5	10,271.8	10,301.5	10,304.8	10,314.3
Active population	5,092.3	4,880.1	5,061.9	5,103.8	5,041.7	5,156.2	5,196.8	5,209.6	5,209.3	5,200.6	5,234.9	5,245.6	5,305.0	5,303.9	5,341.6
Employed population	4,744.2	4,601.6	4,658.4	4,730.6	4,681.6	4,810.5	4,878.1	4,879.0	4,900.9	4,901.8	4,929.1	4,902.9	4,924.7	4,979.4	5,015.5
Unemployed population	348.1	278.4	403.5	373.2	360.1	345.7	318.7	330.6	308.4	298.8	305.8	342.7	380.3	324.5	326.1
Inactive population (aged 16 and over)	3,696.9	3,905.4	3,724.0	3,702.1	3,752.9	3,645.1	3,612.2	3,612.1	3,593.1	3,604.4	3,575.4	3,571.9	3,537.3	3,544.7	3,518.0
Differences (r-o)	Thousands														
Total population	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Active population	0.0	-13.6	-13.9	-22.4	-33.1	-29.1	-37.8	-34.2	-31.7	-39.9	-16.2	-0.7	5.5	9.4	0.0
Employed population	0.0	-13.5	-14.0	-20.5	-36.9	-36.4	-40.4	-37.2	-36.9	-47.1	-22.8	-2.2	4.8	9.3	0.0
Unemployed population	0.0	0.0	0.1	-1.9	3.8	7.3	2.6	3.0	5.2	7.3	6.6	1.5	0.8	0.2	0.0
Inactive population (aged 16 and over)	0.0	14.7	14.7	22.6	33.1	29.1	37.8	34.1	31.8	39.8	16.3	0.7	-5.6	-9.5	0.0

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

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.



Table 4. Unemployment rate

Portugal	1Q-2020	2Q-2020	3Q-2020	4Q-2020	1Q-2021	2Q-2021	3Q-2021	4Q-2021	1Q-2022	2Q-2022	3Q-2022	4Q-2022	1Q-2023	2Q-2023	3Q-2023
	%														
Revised series	6.8	5.7	8.0	7.3	7.3	6.9	6.2	6.4	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.6	7.2	6.1	6.1
Original series	6.8	5.7	8.0	7.3	7.1	6.7	6.1	6.3	5.9	5.7	5.8	6.5	7.2	6.1	6.1
Differences (r-o) (percentage points)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

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.



Table 5. Population aged 16 to 89 with tertiary education

Portugal	2020	2021	2022
Revised series	Thousands		
Total population	1,820.0	1,891.1	1,959.1
Active population	1,499.9	1,594.5	1,647.7
Employed population	1,412.8	1,509.9	1,573.2
Unemployed population	87.1	84.6	74.5
Inactive population	320.1	296.6	311.4
Original series	Thousands		
Total population	1,881.0	2,098.5	2,127.1
Active population	1,538.3	1,741.8	1,773.3
Employed population	1,448.8	1,649.6	1,694.5
Unemployed population	89.5	92.1	78.8
Inactive population	342.7	356.7	353.8
Differences (r-o)	Thousands		
Total population	- 61.0	- 207.4	- 168.0
Active population	- 38.4	- 147.3	- 125.6
Employed population	- 36.0	- 139.7	- 121.3
Unemployed population	- 2.4	- 7.5	- 4.3
Inactive population	- 22.6	- 60.1	- 42.4

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

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.



Table 6. Tertiary educational attainment rate (Europe 2020 and Portugal 2030 indicator)

Portugal	2020	2021	2022
Revised series	Thousands		
Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)	39.0	41.6	41.2
Population aged 30 to 34	565.0	566.7	567.1
Population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education	220.5	236.0	233.6
Original series	Thousands		
Tertiary educational attainment rate (%)	39.6	43.7	43.0
Population aged 30 to 34	565.0	566.7	567.1
Population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education	223.8	247.8	244.0
Differences (r-o)	Thousands		
Tertiary educational attainment rate (percentage points)	- 0.6	- 2.1	- 1.8
Population aged 30 to 34	0.0	0.0	0.0
Population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education	- 3.3	- 11.8	- 10.4

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes:

- The tertiary educational attainment rate corresponds to the share of the population aged 30 to 34 with tertiary education. This indicator was one of those monitored under the Europe 2020 Strategy and a target of at least 40% was set to be achieved in that year. The monitoring of this indicator continues under the Portugal 2030 Strategy, with a target now set of at least 50% by the year 2030.

- 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 7. Total, active, employed, unemployed and inactive population

Portugal	2020	2021	2022
Revised series	Thousands		
Total population	10,291.7	10,283.0	10,267.6
Active population	5,022.0	5,117.5	5,200.5
Employed population	4,671.7	4,774.6	4,881.4
Unemployed population	350.3	343.0	319.1
Inactive population (aged 16 and over)	3,770.1	3,689.1	3,608.3

Original series	Thousands		
Total population	10,291.7	10,283.0	10,267.6
Active population	5,034.5	5,151.1	5,222.6
Employed population	4,683.7	4,812.3	4,908.7
Unemployed population	350.8	338.8	313.9
Inactive population (aged 16 and over)	3,757.1	3,655.6	3,586.2

Differences (r-o)	Thousands		
Total population	0.0	0.0	0.0
Active population	- 12.5	- 33.6	- 22.1
Employed population	- 12.0	- 37.7	- 27.3
Unemployed population	- 0.5	4.2	5.2
Inactive population (aged 16 and over)	13.0	33.5	22.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

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.



Table 8. Unemployment rate

Portugal	2020	2021	2022
	%		
Revised series	7.0	6.7	6.1
Original series	7.0	6.6	6.0
Differences (r-o) (percentage points)	0.0	0.1	0.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

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.