



THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED TO 6.6% IN THE 4TH QUARTER OF 2023 AND TO 6.5% IN 2023

In the **4th quarter of 2023**, the employed population (4,980.5 thousand people) decreased by 0.7% (35.0 thousand) from the previous quarter and increased by 1.6% (79.8 thousand) from one year before.

The share of the employed population who has teleworked, that is, who has worked from home using information and communication technologies was 17.8% (886.6 thousand people), 1.2 percentage points (pp) more than in the 3rd quarter of 2023.

The unemployed population, estimated at 354.6 thousand people, has increased by 8.7% (28.5 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 3.0% (10.4 thousand) from a year earlier.

The unemployment rate stood at 6.6%, 0.5 pp more than in the 3rd quarter of 2023 and the same value as in the 4th quarter of 2022.

The labour underutilisation covered 636.8 thousand people, having increased by 2.6% (15.9 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 0.4% (2.3 thousand) from a year before. The labour underutilisation rate (11.6%) has increased from the previous quarter (0.3 pp) and decreased from the same quarter of 2022 (0.2 pp).

The inactive population aged 16 and over (3,537.5 thousand people) has increased by 0.6% (19.5 thousand) from the previous quarter and decreased by 1.0% (35.1 thousand) in the year-on-year comparison.

In **2023**, the annual average employed population stood at 4,978.5 thousand people and has increased by 2.0% (97.1 thousand) from the previous year. Similarly, the unemployed population, estimated at 346.6 thousand people, has also increased from 2022 (8.6%; 27.5 thousand).

The unemployment rate stood at 6.5% and the labour underutilisation rate at 11.7%, both up from 2022 (0.4 pp and 0.1 pp, respectively).

The young people (aged 16 to 24) unemployment rate stood at 20.3%, 1.2 pp more than in the previous year, while the proportion of long-term unemployment was 37.7%, down 7.4 pp from 2022.

In the context of Portugal 2030 Strategy, in 2023, the two education indicators estimated with Labour Force Survey data closest to their target were the proportion of the unemployed population aged 25 to 64 who have attended to education or training activities in the last four weeks (17.9%), which was at 2.1 pp from the minimum target of 20%, and the share of people aged 20 to 24 with at least an upper secondary qualification (87.3%), which was at 2.7 pp from the minimum target of 90%.



1. Labour force (active population)

The Labour Force Survey results for the 4th quarter of 2023 indicate that the labour force (active population), estimated at 5,335.1 thousand people, has decreased by 0.1% (6.5 thousand people) from the previous quarter and has increased by 1.7% (90.2 thousand) from the same quarter of 2022.

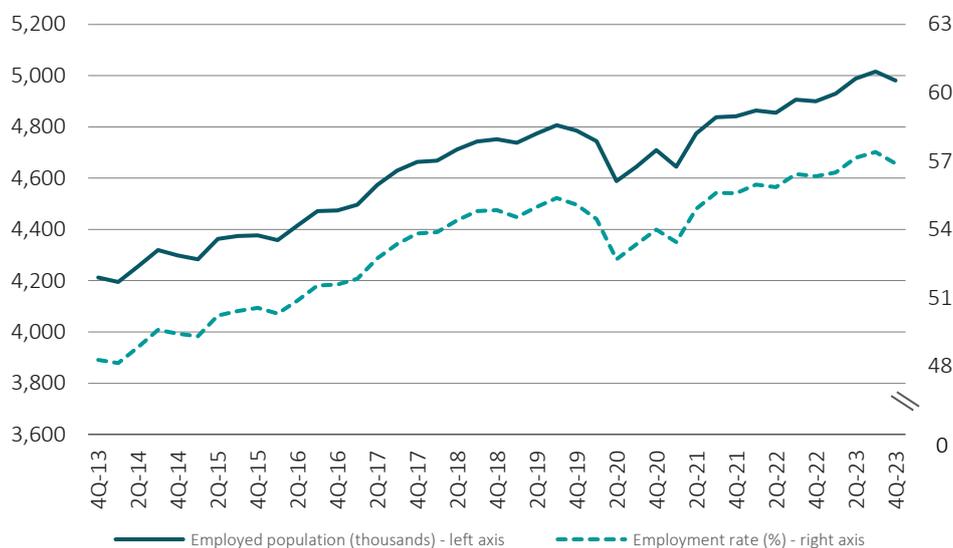
Therefore, the activity rate of the working age population (those aged 16 to 89) stood at 61.0%, down 0.1 percentage points (pp) from the preceding quarter and up 0.7 pp from the 4th quarter of 2022.

In terms of the annual average, in 2023, the active population was estimated at 5,325.2 thousand people and has increased by 2.4% from the previous year (124.7 thousand). The participation rate of the working age population was 61.0%, up 1.2 pp from 2022.

2. Employed population

In the 4th quarter of 2023, the employed population stood at 4,980.5 thousand people, having decreased by 0.7% (35.0 thousand) from the previous quarter and increased by 1.6% (79.8 thousand) from one year before. The corresponding employment rate stood at 56.9% and decreased by 0.5 pp from the 3rd quarter of 2023 and increased by 0.6 pp from the 4th quarter of 2022.

Figure 1. Employed population and employment rate



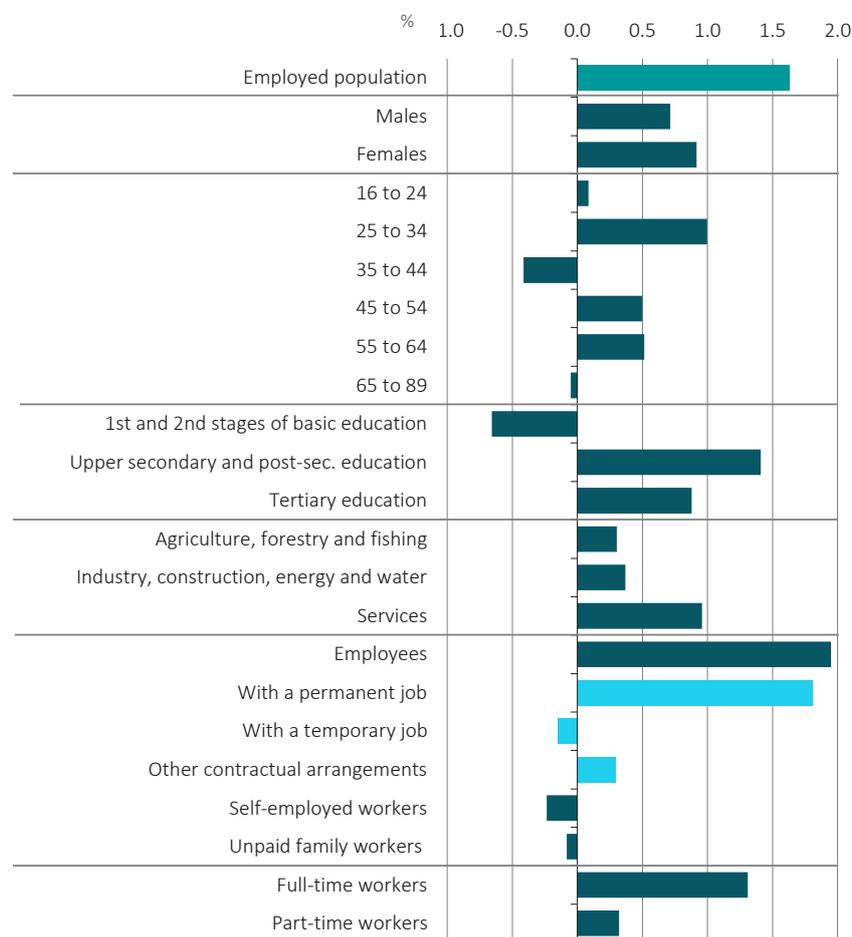
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

Figure 2 shows the breakdown of the year-on-year change of the employed population by different characterisation variables: sex, age group, highest level of education completed, activity sector, labour status, type of employment contract of employees, and work duration regime.



In summary, the year-on-year change in the employed population was mainly due to the increases in the following population groups: women (44.9 thousand; 1.8%); people aged 25 to 34 (48.9 thousand; 5.3%); with upper secondary and post-secondary education (69.1 thousand; 4.5%); employed in the services sector (46.9 thousand; 1.3%), namely in the section of economic activity G (Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles), whose increase (16.5 thousand; 2.3%) represented 35.2% of the sector change; employees (95.5 thousand; 2.3%), with a permanent contract (88.4 thousand; 2.6%); and working full-time (64.2 thousand; 1.4%).

Figure 2. Contributions to the year-on-year rate of change of the employed population in the 4th quarter of 2023



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

Considering the total employed population, 18.6% of them (928.8 thousand) reported having worked from home in the 4th quarter of 2023.¹ Among those who worked at home, 25.7% (238.7 thousand) did it always, 34.6%

¹ These indicators were computed from the data collected in the Labour Force Survey ad hoc module - Working from home. Other indicators related to this subject are available in the Excel tables published together with the current Press Release.



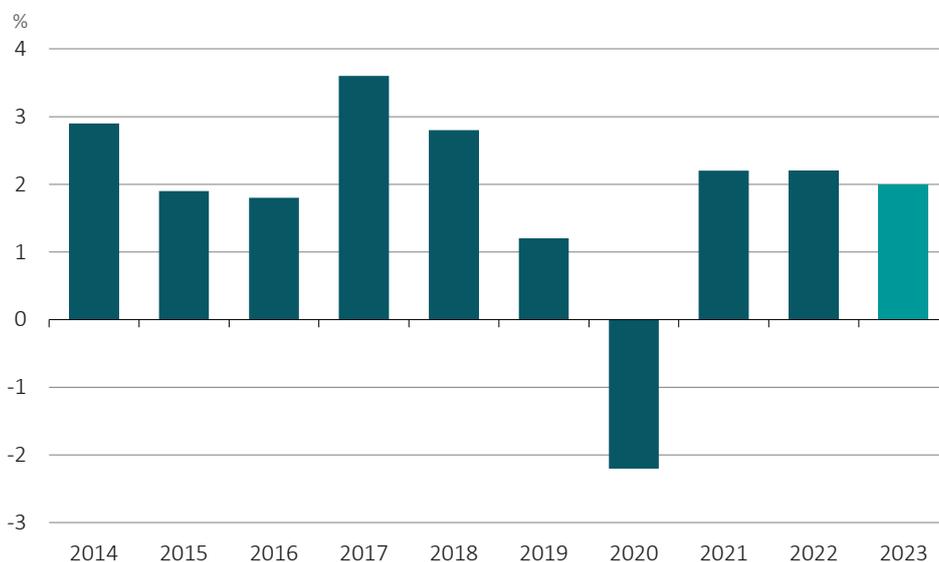
(320.9 thousand) did so regularly through a system that combines face-to-face work and work at home, 14.8% (137.7 thousand) worked from home on occasion, and 24.4% (226.6 thousand) did it outside working hours. Comparing these shares to those of the previous quarter, it stands out the increase in those who worked at home outside working hours (5.3 pp).

Among those working regularly through a system that combines face-to-face work and work at home, the most common combination system was the one that combines a few days a week at home in every week (72.5%; 232.6 thousand), being also the one that had the largest year-on-year increase (a share 3.8 pp higher, representing 51.8 thousand more people). Employed persons in a hybrid system worked at home on average three days a week.

Also, among those working at home, 95.5% (886.6 thousand) have teleworked, that is, they have used information and communication technologies (ICT) to perform their jobs from home. This work practice covered 17.8% of the total employed population, 1.2 pp more than in the previous quarter and 0.9 pp more than in the same quarter of 2022.

In 2023, the annual average of the employed population was 4,978.5 thousand people and increased by 2.0% (97.1 thousand) from the previous year, recording its highest value since 2011.

Figure 3. Employed population annual rate of change



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

For the annual rate of change in the employed population contributed mostly the employment increases in the following groups: women (53.1 thousand; 2.2%); people aged 55 to 64 (35.4 thousand; 3.8%); with tertiary education (46.4 thousand; 2.9%); employed in the services sector (75.6 thousand; 2.2%), especially in the group of “Accommodation and food services activities” (36.2 thousand; 12.4%), which represented 47.9% of the sector



change; as employees (109.2 thousand; 2.6%), with a permanent contract (56.9 thousand; 1.6%); and working full-time (69.6 thousand; 1.5%).

In 2023, the employment rate stood at 57.0%, up 0.9 pp from 2022.

3. Unemployed population

In the 4th quarter of 2023, the unemployed population (354.6 thousand people) increased from the previous quarter (28.5 thousand; 8.7%) and from a year earlier (10.4 thousand; 3.0%).

Figure 4. Unemployed population and unemployment rate



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

The year-on-year change of the unemployed population was mainly due to the increases in the following population groups: men (10.2 thousand; 6.3%); people aged 16 to 24 (20.8 thousand; 28.5%); with tertiary education (11.3 thousand; 14.6%); looking for a first job (12.5 thousand; 26.0%); and unemployed for less than 12 months (28.0 thousand; 14.1%).

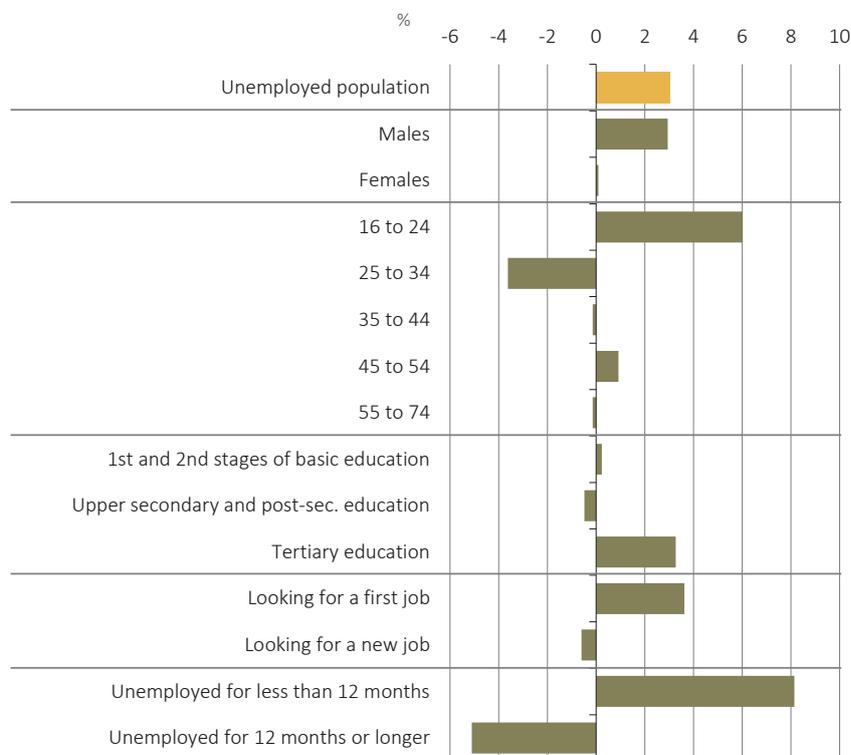
In the 4th quarter of 2023, 35.8% of the unemployed population was in this situation for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment), down 1.2 pp from the preceding quarter and down 6.2 pp from a year earlier.

The year-on-year change of the proportion of long-term unemployment was driven by decreases among women (8.4 pp), those aged 35 to 44 (12.1 pp), and those with upper secondary and post-secondary education (6.7 pp).

The share of very long-term unemployment (24 or more months) in the long-term unemployment (60.5%) has decreased by 2.0 pp from the previous quarter and by 4.5 pp from the same quarter of 2022.



Figure 5. Contributions to the year-on-year rate of change of the unemployed population in the 4th quarter of 2023



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

Table 1. Unemployed population for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment)

Portugal	Quarterly level			Annual level		Proportion ^(a)	
	4Q-2022	3Q-2023	4Q-2023	2022	2023	4Q-2023	2023
	Thousands					%	
Total	144.7	120.8	127.1	143.9	130.7	35.8	37.7
Males	62.4	56.0	60.2	64.1	61.5	35.3	37.5
Females	82.3	64.8	66.9	79.8	69.2	36.3	37.9
16 to 24	12.1	12.4	14.6	12.9	12.9	15.6	16.5
25 to 34	32.8	25.0	25.2	32.8	25.1	32.5	31.1
35 to 44	29.9	21.8	21.9	28.7	25.2	34.1	40.0
45 to 54	31.7	24.6	31.4	32.6	29.7	50.5	47.8
55 to 74	38.1	37.1	34.0	36.9	37.8	59.1	60.4
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	73.7	62.2	65.4	67.7	64.7	45.8	46.2
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	45.9	37.1	37.1	48.3	43.4	30.0	33.7
Tertiary education	25.1	21.5	24.6	27.9	22.6	27.9	29.1
Unemployed for less than 24 months	50.6	45.2	50.2	52.7	48.9	39.5	37.4
Unemployed for 24 months or longer	94.0	75.5	76.9	91.3	81.8	60.5	62.6

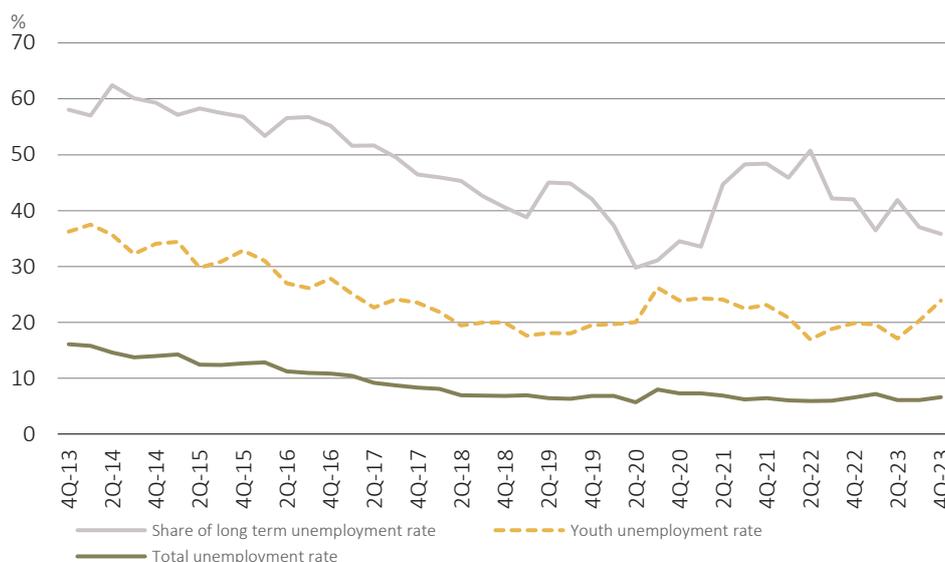
Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

Note: (a) The proportions shown, except for the last two, have been calculated considering the unemployed population. The proportions referring to the duration of long-term unemployment were based on the unemployed population for 12 months or longer.



The unemployment rate for the 4th quarter of 2023 stood at 6.6%², 0.5 pp more than in the 3rd quarter of 2023 but the same value as in the 4th quarter of 2022. The youth unemployment rate (16 to 24 years old) was estimated at 23.9%, up 3.6 pp from the previous quarter and up 4.0 pp from a year earlier.

Figure 6. Total and youth unemployment rate and share of long-term unemployment



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

In the 3rd quarter of 2023, the youth unemployment rate in the European Union (Figure 7)³, at 27 countries, was estimated at 14.9%, 5.4 pp less than in Portugal (20.3%), which corresponded to the 7th highest rate in the EU-27.

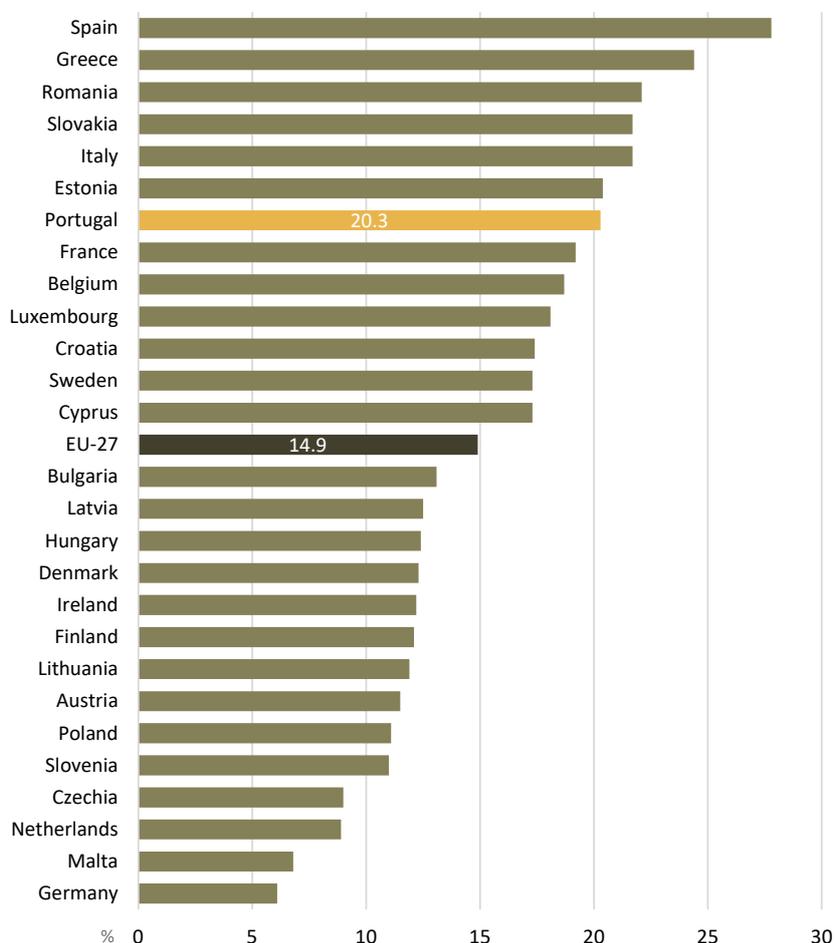
From the 2nd quarter of 2023, the youth unemployment rate increased by 0.6 pp in the EU-27 and by 3.2 pp in Portugal. From the 3rd quarter of 2022, it increased in Portugal (1.5 pp) and decreased in the EU-27 (0.4 pp).

² 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 November 2023 (which corresponds to the 4th quarter 2023), published in the Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates Press Release of December 2023 (released in 31-1-2024), was calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 16 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release). This rate (not seasonally adjusted) was 6.7%.

³ The estimates for the 4th quarter of 2023 at European Union level will be released on March 15, 2024. Its reference age group is that of 15 to 24 years old, except for Portugal, Spain and Italy, whose lower age limit is 16.



Figure 7. Youth unemployment rate in the European Union in the 3rd quarter of 2023



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

With the adoption of [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/674](#) of 26 December 2022⁴, Portugal now has nine level two territorial units (NUTS 2) used for statistical purposes of harmonised comparison with other European Union countries, as shown in Table 2 below.⁵

The changes, at level two, consisted of the breakdown of the previous NUTS 2 "Área Metropolitana de Lisboa" into two new regions - "Península de Setúbal" (municipalities south of the Tagus River in the "Área Metropolitana de Lisboa") and "Grande Lisboa" (municipalities north of the Tagus River in the "Área Metropolitana de Lisboa") -

⁴ This regulation amends the Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1059/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS), including changes to the Portuguese NUTS 2 and NUTS 3, with application in the European Statistical System (ESS) and the National Statistical System (SEN) as from 1 January 2024.

⁵ The indicators by NUTS-2013 geographical level (seven NUTS 2 regions) will continue to be updated on the Statistics Portugal website throughout 2024 and, predictably, 2025 in parallel with the same indicators by NUTS-2024 geographical level (nine NUTS 2 regions).



and of changing the boundaries of the NUTS 2 "Centro" and "Alentejo" by removing the municipalities from the NUTS 3 "Oeste", "Lezíria do Tejo" and "Médio Tejo" regions, which were merged into a new region called "Oeste e Vale do Tejo". The NUTS 2 regions "Norte", "Algarve", "Região Autónoma dos Açores" and "Região Autónoma da Madeira" remained unchanged.⁶

In the 4th quarter of 2023, the unemployment rate was higher than the national average (6.6%) in four NUTS 2 regions (*Península de Setúbal*: 7.9%; *Norte*: 7.3%; *Região Autónoma dos Açores*: 6.9%; *Grande Lisboa*: 6.7%) and lower in the remaining five (*Região Autónoma da Madeira*: 6.2%; *Alentejo*: 6.0%; *Algarve*: 5.9%; *Centro*: 5.8%; *Oeste e Vale do Tejo*: 5.0%).

Compared to the previous quarter, the unemployment rate rose in seven regions, particularly in *Região Autónoma da Madeira* (1.4 pp), and fell in the remaining two regions, with the biggest decrease being observed in the *Oeste e Vale do Tejo* (0.6 pp).

In the year-on-year comparison, there were increases in this indicator in four regions, the largest of which in the *Região Autónoma dos Açores* (1.4 pp), and decreases in five regions, standing out that of *Grande Lisboa* (0.7 pp).

Table 2. Unemployment rates by NUTS 2 (NUTS-2024)

Portugal	Quarterly level			Annual level		Rate of change		
	4Q-2022	3Q-2023	4Q-2023	2022	2023	On year	On quarter	Annual
	%					pp		
Portugal	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.1	6.5	0	0.5	0.4
Norte	6.8	6.7	7.3	6.0	7.0	0.5	0.6	1.0
Centro	5.4	4.9	5.8	4.8	5.3	0.4	0.9	0.5
Oeste e Vale do Tejo	5.4	5.6	5.0	6.0	5.4	-0.4	-0.6	-0.6
Grande Lisboa	7.4	6.1	6.7	6.7	6.8	-0.7	0.6	0.1
Península de Setúbal	8.1	8.0	7.9	9.1	8.3	-0.2	-0.1	-0.8
Alentejo	5.0	5.7	6.0	4.7	5.9	1.0	0.3	1.2
Algarve	6.4	4.8	5.9	6.0	5.7	-0.5	1.1	-0.3
Região Autónoma dos Açores	5.5	6.0	6.9	6.0	6.4	1.4	0.9	0.4
Região Autónoma da Madeira	6.8	4.8	6.2	7.0	5.9	-0.6	1.4	-1.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

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

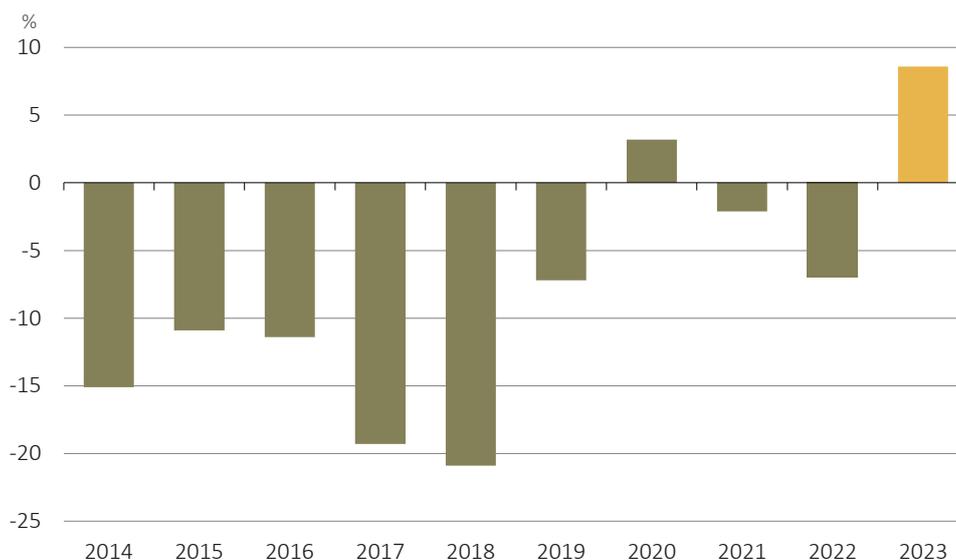
In 2023, the average annual unemployment population stood at 346.6 thousand people, having increased by 8.6% (27.5 thousand) from the previous year and interrupting the series, which began in 2014 and was only broken in 2020, of negative annual rates of change.

^{6 6} For more information, please consult the "[Statistics Portugal presentation – Implementing NUTS 2024](#)", from July 2023, available at Statistical Council Portugal website (in Portuguese only).



For the unemployed population annual rate of change contributed, mainly, the increases in the following groups: men (16.8 thousand; 11.4%); people aged 16 to 24 (12.4 thousand; 18.8%); with upper secondary and post-secondary education (15.5 thousand; 13.7%); looking for a new job (22.8 thousand; 8.4%); and unemployed for less than 12 months (40.8 thousand; 23.3%).

Figure 8. Unemployed population annual rate of change



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

The unemployment rate for 2023 stood at 6.5%, up 0.4 pp from 2022, which corresponded to the second lowest annual unemployment rate since 2011, after 2022 (6.1%). On the other hand, the young people (aged 16 to 24) unemployment rate stood at 20.3%, 1.2 pp more than in the previous year.

The share of those unemployed for 12 months or longer (long-term unemployment) was 37.7%, having decreased by 7.4 pp from the former year, and 62.6% of the long-term unemployed had been unemployed for 24 months or more.

In 2023, the unemployment rate of *Península de Setúbal* (8.3%), *Norte* (7.0%) and *Grande Lisboa* (6.8%) regions stood above the national average (6.5%), while the rates of the remaining six regions stood below that threshold. The lowest rate was observed at the *Centro* (5.3%) region.

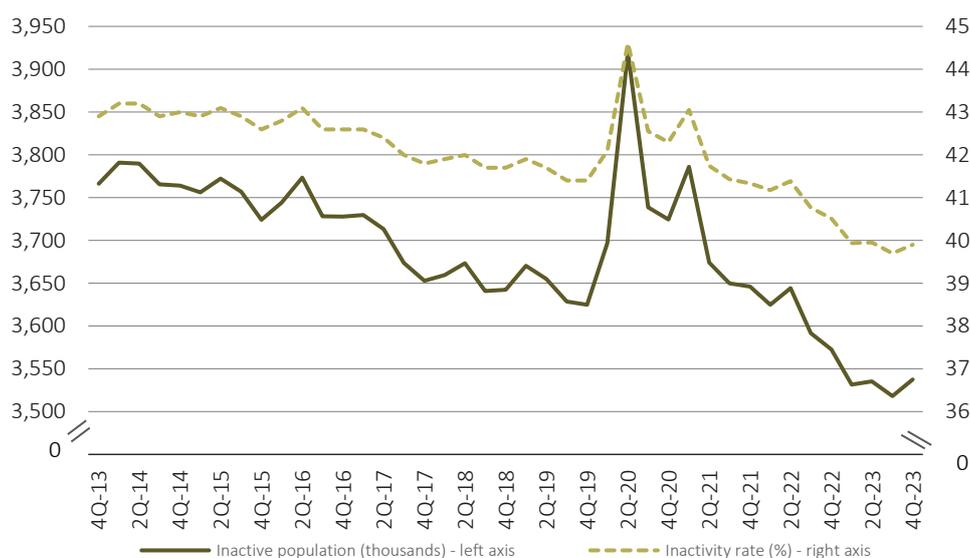
From 2022, the unemployment rate has increased between 0.1 pp (*Grande Lisboa*) and 1.2 pp (*Alentejo*) in five regions, and it has decreased between 0.3 pp (*Algarve*) and 1.1 pp (*Região Autónoma da Madeira*) in the remaining four regions.



4. Inactive population

The inactive population, estimated at 4,992.2 thousand people in the 4th quarter of 2023, has increased from the previous quarter (19.5 thousand; 0.4%) and decreased from the same quarter of 2022 (34.7 thousand; 0.7%).

Figure 9. Inactive population (aged 16 and over)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

The inactive population aged 16 or over, which stood at 3,537.5 thousand people, accounted for 70.9% of the total inactive population and has also increased from the previous quarter (19.5 thousand; 0.6%) and decreased from a year earlier (35.1 thousand; 1.0%).

The inactivity rate (16 years old or over) stood at 39.9% and presented identical evolution: it has increased from the 3rd quarter of 2023 (0.2 pp) and decreased from the 4th quarter of 2022 (0.6 pp).

In 2023, the total inactive population was estimated at 4,986.8 thousand people and decreased by 1.6% (80.3 thousand) from the previous year, corresponding to the lowest annual average since 2011. Similar pattern was followed by the inactive population aged 16 or over, which stood at 3,530.6 thousand people, has decreased by 2.2% (77.7 thousand) from 2022 and corresponded also to the lowest annual average since 2011.

The inactivity rate was 39.9%, down 1.1 pp from 2022. Therefore, this estimate corresponded also to the lowest inactivity rate since 2011.

5. 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 work⁷. This indicator is supplemented by its corresponding rate – the labour underutilisation rate⁸. This indicator is a broader measure of the labour underutilisation than the unemployment rate⁹.

In the 4th quarter of 2023, the labour underutilisation was estimated at 636.8 thousand people and the corresponding rate was 11.6%.

The labour underutilisation has increased by 2.6% (15.9 thousand) from the previous quarter and by 0.4% (2.3 thousand) from a year earlier. On the other hand, the labour underutilisation rate has increased by 0.3 pp from the 3rd quarter of 2023 and decreased by 0.2 pp from the 4th quarter of 2022.

By component, the following is observed:

- The unemployed population was estimated at 354.6 thousand people and, as previously mentioned, increased by 8.7% (28.5 thousand) from the 3rd quarter of 2023 and by 3.0% (10.4 thousand) from the 4th quarter of 2022. The unemployment rate was 6.6%, 0.5 pp higher than in the previous quarter and the same value as in than a year earlier.
- The number of underemployed part-time workers was 146.5 thousand people, remaining almost unchanged from the previous quarter and increasing by 4.2% (5.8 thousand) from a year earlier.
- The number of inactive persons seeking work but not immediately available stood at 31.3 thousand, having remained practically unchanged from the previous quarter and having increased by 7.9% (2.3 thousand) from the 4th quarter of 2022.
- The number of inactive persons available to work but not seeking a job covered 104.4 thousand, which corresponded to a quarterly decrease of 10.0% (11.6 thousand) and to a year-on-year decrease of 13.5% (16.2 thousand).

⁷ For a more detailed definition of these indicators, see 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>.

⁸ See concepts in the Technical note.

⁹ 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.



Table 1. Labour underutilisation by component

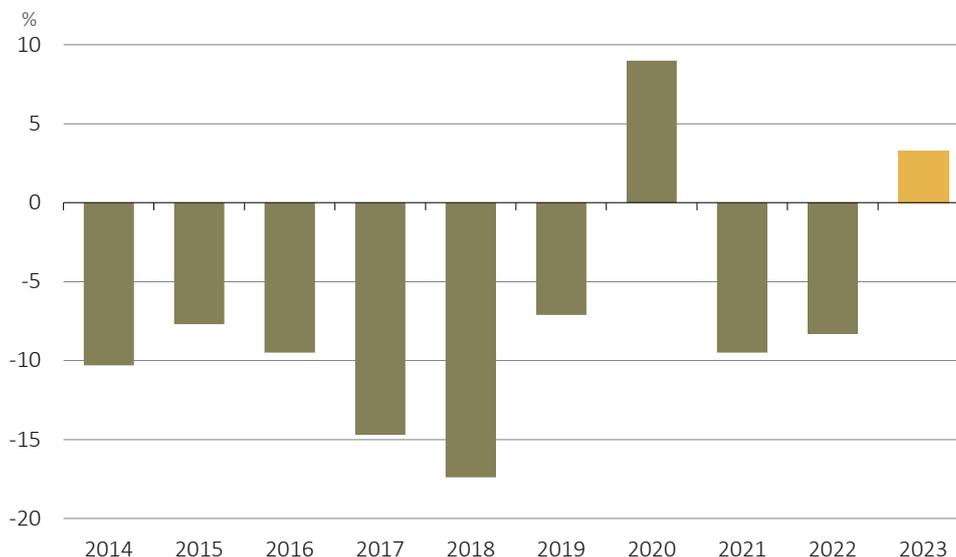
Portugal	Quarterly level			Annual level		Rate of change		
	4Q-2022	3Q-2023	4Q-2023	2022	2023	On year	On quarter	Annual
Number	Thousands					%		
Total	634.5	620.9	636.8	620.2	640.5	0.4	2.6	3.3
Unemployed population	344.2	326.1	354.6	319.1	346.6	3.0	8.7	8.6
Underemployed part-time workers	140.7	147.2	146.5	139.5	149.6	4.2	-0.5	7.3
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	29.0	31.6	31.3	31.0	31.4	7.9	-0.9	1.4
Persons available to work but not seeking	120.6	116.0	104.4	130.7	112.8	-13.5	-10.0	-13.7
Rate	%					pp		
Unemployment rate	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.1	6.5	0	0.5	0.4
Labour underutilisation rate	11.8	11.3	11.6	11.6	11.7	-0.2	0.3	0.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

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

In 2023, the average annual labour underutilisation covered 640.5 thousand people, 3.3% (20.3 thousand) more than in 2022, and the labour underutilisation rate was 11.7%, up 0.1 pp from the year before.

Figure 10. Labour underutilisation annual rate of change



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

The unemployed population (346.6 thousand) accounted for more than half (54.1%) of the labour underutilisation, while the underemployment of part-time workers (149.6 thousand) increased by 0.9 pp to 23.4%. The group of persons available to work, but not seeking remained as the third largest component of this indicator (17.6%) and covered 112.8 thousand people. Finally, the persons seeking work, but not immediately available (31.4 thousand) represented only 4.9% of the labour underutilisation.



6. Portugal 2030 Strategy

Europe 2020 was a ten-year strategy of the European Union, which set targets to be achieved in various indicators, two of which on education estimated with Labour Force Survey data. In the year of its evaluation, in 2020¹⁰, Portugal achieved one of the intended values and came close to another:

- The early leavers from education and training rate was estimated at 9.1%, complying with the target set for this indicator (maximum of 10%) by 0.9 pp. In 2011, Portugal was 13.0 p.p. from the goal.
- In turn, the tertiary education attainment rate (which corresponds to the share of people aged 30 to 34 with tertiary educational attainment) was estimated at 39.0%, 1.0 pp below the target for 2020 (minimum of 40%). In 2011, Portugal was 13.3 pp from the goal.

The Portugal 2030 Strategy¹¹ was set for the decade ending in 2030 and its programming was made around five strategic objectives of the European Union: a smarter, greener, more connected, and more social Europe that is closer to its citizens.

In this context, the following targets were set for three indicators on education, estimated with Labour Force Survey data:

- Increase the share of people aged 20 to 24 with at least an upper secondary qualification to at least 90% (target set for 2030).
- Increase the rate of tertiary education attainment to at least 50% (target set for 2030).
- Increase to at least 20% the share of unemployed adults aged 25 to 64 who have attended to education or training activities in the last four weeks (target set for 2025).

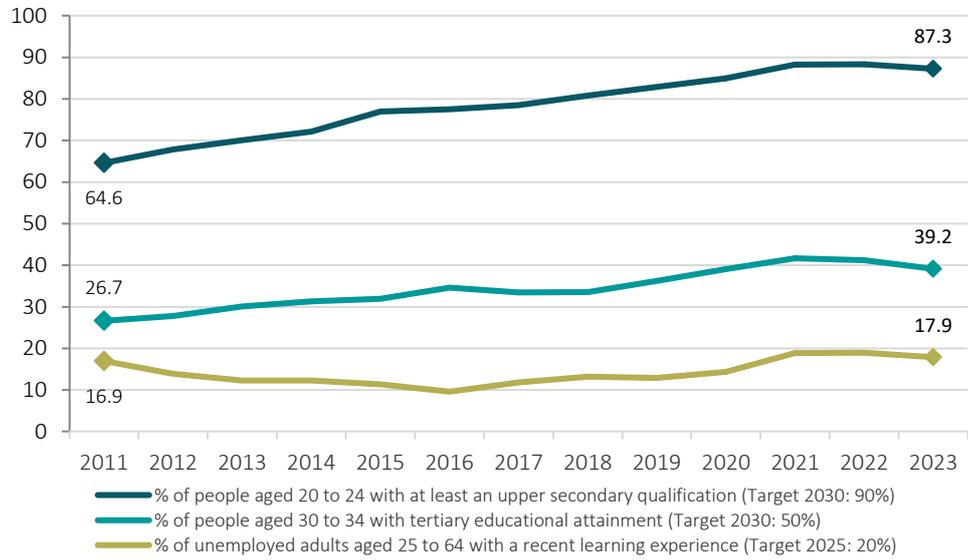
In 2023, the two indicators closest to their target were the proportion of the unemployed population aged 25 to 64 who have attended to education or training activities in the last four weeks (17.9%), which was at 2.1 pp from the minimum target of 20%, and the share of people aged 20 to 24 with at least an upper secondary qualification (87.3%), which was at 2.7 pp from the minimum target of 90%.

¹⁰ The figures presented in this analysis differ from those previously published due to the revision of the estimates from the 2nd quarter of 2020 to the 2nd quarter of 2023 following the results of the analysis on the impact of the suspension of face-to-face data collection mode due to the public health safeguard measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic period. For more details, please consult the methodological note released together with the Press Release "[Employment Statistics - 3rd quarter 2023](#)", published on the Statistics Portugal's website.

¹¹ For more information read: https://portugal2030.pt/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/11/RCM98_2020.pdf (only in Portuguese).



Figure 11. Portugal 2030 Strategy – Indicators on education



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.



Table 4. Main indicators – active and employed population

Portugal	Quarterly level			Annual level		Rate of change		
	4Q-2022	3Q-2023	4Q-2023	2022	2023	On year	On quarter	Annual
	Thousands					%		
Labour force (active population)	5,244.9	5,341.6	5,335.1	5,200.5	5,325.2	1.7	-0.1	2.4
Males	2,626.6	2,681.3	2,671.7	2,608.1	2,669.0	1.7	-0.4	2.3
Females	2,618.2	2,660.3	2,663.4	2,592.3	2,656.2	1.7	0.1	2.5
16 to 24	365.6	397.2	390.5	342.9	384.9	6.8	-1.7	12.2
25 to 34	1,006.1	1,031.2	1,042.4	993.8	1,030.5	3.6	1.1	3.7
35 to 44	1,244.4	1,223.0	1,223.6	1,258.3	1,230.1	-1.7	0.1	-2.2
45 to 54	1,402.1	1,425.5	1,429.7	1,408.9	1,425.1	2.0	0.3	1.2
55 to 64	1,008.9	1,038.0	1,033.1	990.7	1,031.2	2.4	-0.5	4.1
65 to 89	217.8	226.8	215.8	206.0	223.4	-0.9	-4.8	8.5
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	1,926.9	1,900.9	1,895.4	1,924.3	1,912.9	-1.6	-0.3	-0.6
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary	1,654.8	1,745.0	1,722.2	1,628.5	1,715.1	4.1	-1.3	5.3
Tertiary education	1,663.2	1,695.7	1,717.5	1,647.7	1,697.2	3.3	1.3	3.0
Activity rate (%)	60.3	61.1	61.0	59.8	61.0			
Males	64.7	65.5	65.2	64.3	65.2			
Females	56.5	57.3	57.3	55.9	57.2			
Employed population	4,900.7	5,015.5	4,980.5	4,881.4	4,978.5	1.6	-0.7	2.0
Males	2,466.4	2,532.5	2,501.4	2,461.1	2,505.1	1.4	-1.2	1.8
Females	2,434.3	2,483.0	2,479.2	2,420.3	2,473.4	1.8	-0.2	2.2
16 to 24	293.0	316.6	297.1	277.3	306.9	1.4	-6.2	10.7
25 to 34	916.2	958.0	965.1	912.6	949.6	5.3	0.7	4.1
35 to 44	1,179.8	1,165.4	1,159.5	1,198.0	1,167.0	-1.7	-0.5	-2.6
45 to 54	1,343.1	1,370.5	1,367.5	1,351.6	1,363.0	1.8	-0.2	0.8
55 to 64	956.5	984.6	981.7	939.8	975.2	2.6	-0.3	3.8
65 to 89	212.1	220.4	209.6	202.1	216.8	-1.2	-4.9	7.3
First and second stages of basic education	1,784.8	1,769.3	1,752.6	1,793.2	1,772.9	-1.8	-0.9	-1.1
(Upper) secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	1,529.6	1,624.3	1,598.7	1,515.0	1,586.1	4.5	-1.6	4.7
Tertiary education	1,586.2	1,621.9	1,629.3	1,573.2	1,619.6	2.7	0.5	2.9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing (a)	131.0	147.0	145.8	137.8	146.6	11.3	-0.8	6.4
Manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply and construction (a)	1,235.3	1,234.5	1,253.3	1,229.2	1,241.9	1.5	1.5	1.0
Services (a)	3,534.5	3,634.0	3,581.4	3,514.4	3,590.0	1.3	-1.4	2.2
Employees	4,181.0	4,291.6	4,276.5	4,144.9	4,254.1	2.3	-0.4	2.6
With a permanent job (work contract of unlimited duration)	3,460.7	3,539.3	3,549.1	3,459.2	3,516.1	2.6	0.3	1.6
With a temporary job (work contract of limited duration)	606.1	626.3	598.7	573.4	611.7	-1.2	-4.4	6.7
Other contractual arrangements	114.3	126.0	128.6	112.4	126.4	12.6	2.1	12.5
Self-employed workers	690.1	698.7	678.5	704.2	698.9	-1.7	-2.9	-0.8
Unpaid family workers	29.6	25.2	25.6	32.3	25.5	-13.7	1.5	-20.9
Full-time workers	4,515.8	4,606.3	4,580.0	4,501.6	4,571.2	1.4	-0.6	1.5
Part-time workers	384.8	409.1	400.6	379.8	407.3	4.1	-2.1	7.3
Underemployed part-time workers	140.7	147.2	146.5	139.5	149.6	4.2	-0.5	7.3
Employment rate (%)	56.3	57.4	56.9	56.1	57.0			
Males	60.7	61.9	61.0	60.6	61.2			
Females	52.5	53.5	53.3	52.2	53.3			

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.

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



Table 5. Main indicators – unemployed and inactive population

Portugal	Quarterly level			Annual level		Rate of change		
	4Q-2022	3Q-2023	4Q-2023	2022	2023	On year	On quarter	Annual
	Thousands					%		
Unemployed population	344.2	326.1	354.6	319.1	346.6	3.0	8.7	8.6
Males	160.2	148.8	170.4	147.1	163.9	6.3	14.5	11.4
Females	184.0	177.4	184.3	172.0	182.8	0.2	3.9	6.3
16 to 24	72.6	80.6	93.4	65.6	78.0	28.5	15.9	18.8
25 to 34	89.8	73.2	77.4	81.2	80.8	- 13.9	5.7	- 0.5
35 to 44	64.6	57.6	64.1	60.2	63.1	- 0.7	11.3	4.8
45 to 54	59.1	55.0	62.2	57.2	62.1	5.3	13.1	8.5
55 to 74	58.1	59.8	57.6	54.7	62.6	- 0.8	- 3.6	14.3
First and second stages of basic education (at most)	142.0	131.5	142.8	131.1	140.0	0.6	8.6	6.8
Upper secondary and post-secondary non-tertiary education	125.2	120.8	123.5	113.5	129.0	- 1.3	2.3	13.7
Tertiary education	77.0	73.8	88.3	74.5	77.6	14.6	19.5	4.2
Looking for a first job	48.0	51.4	60.5	46.0	50.7	26.0	17.6	10.3
Looking for a new job	296.2	274.7	294.2	273.1	295.9	- 0.7	7.1	8.4
Unemployed for less than 12 months (short-term)	199.5	205.4	227.5	175.1	215.9	14.1	10.8	23.3
Unemployed for 12 months or longer (long-term)	144.7	120.8	127.1	143.9	130.7	- 12.2	5.2	- 9.2
Unemployment rate (%)	6.6	6.1	6.6	6.1	6.5			
Males	6.1	5.5	6.4	5.6	6.1			
Females	7.0	6.7	6.9	6.6	6.9			
Youth (16 to 24)	19.9	20.3	23.9	19.1	20.3			
Long-term	2.8	2.3	2.4	2.8	2.5			
Inactive population	5,026.9	4,972.7	4,992.2	5,067.1	4,986.8	- 0.7	0.4	- 1.6
Inactive population (16 and over)	3,572.6	3,518.0	3,537.5	3,608.3	3,530.6	- 1.0	0.6	- 2.2
Males	1,467.9	1,446.3	1,462.1	1,483.2	1,456.1	- 0.4	1.1	- 1.8
Females	2,104.7	2,071.7	2,075.4	2,125.2	2,074.6	- 1.4	0.2	- 2.4
16 to 24	616.0	589.0	594.7	641.6	602.2	- 3.5	1.0	- 6.1
25 to 34	110.6	101.5	94.2	121.0	101.1	- 14.9	- 7.2	- 16.5
35 to 44	84.1	91.3	85.5	85.5	87.3	1.7	- 6.3	2.2
45 to 54	168.8	155.0	152.3	157.3	154.8	- 9.8	- 1.7	- 1.6
55 to 64	438.1	415.8	423.0	453.3	421.6	- 3.4	1.7	- 7.0
65 to 89	2,036.4	2,043.7	2,064.0	2,034.6	2,042.8	1.4	1.0	0.4
Students (16 to 89)	698.5	647.6	657.5	723.0	673.2	- 5.9	1.5	- 6.9
Fulfilled domestic tasks (16 to 89)	344.6	320.3	316.9	357.3	318.3	- 8.0	- 1.1	- 10.9
Retired (16 to 89)	1,966.9	1,978.6	1,998.4	1,969.7	1,974.0	1.6	1.0	0.2
Other inactive	562.6	571.5	564.6	558.4	565.2	0.4	- 1.2	1.2
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	29.0	31.6	31.3	31.0	31.4	7.9	- 0.9	1.4
Persons available to work but not seeking	120.6	116.0	104.4	130.7	112.8	- 13.5	- 10.0	- 13.7
Inactivity rate (16 and over) (%)	40.5	39.7	39.9	41.0	39.9			
Males	35.9	35.0	35.4	36.3	35.3			
Females	44.6	43.8	43.8	45.0	43.9			

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey – 4th quarter of 2023.



TECHNICAL 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. However, it should be noted 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. After analysing the impact of adopting an exclusively telephone data collection mode, in November 2023 Statistics Portugal revised the estimates for the 2nd quarter of 2020 to the 2nd quarter of 2023 by incorporating the variable "completed level of education" into 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). The estimation of the results for the 3rd quarter of 2023 was carried out in a similar way.¹²

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 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.

¹² For more information on the context, methodology and impacts of this revision, see the "Methodological note on the revision of the Labour Force Survey data: the context of the COVID-19 pandemic", published together with the [Press Release "Employment Statistics – 3rd quarter of 2023"](#).



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.

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

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

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

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.

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 - 8 May 2024
