15th May 2009

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

1st Quarter 2009

## Gross Domestic Product down by 3.7% in real terms in the 1st quarter 2009

Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) diminished 3.7% in volume in the 1st quarter 2009, comparing with the same quarter of the previous year (change rate of -2.0% in the previous quarter). The first estimate for the quarter-on-quarter change rate on the Portuguese GDP points to a decrease of 1.5%.

The year-on year GDP reduction in the 1st quarter 2009 was mainly driven by pronounced declines of Exports of Goods and Services, of Investment and, to a lesser degree, of Final Consumption Expenditures of Households.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain-linked volume data (reference year=2000)

Year on year quarterly growth rate, %
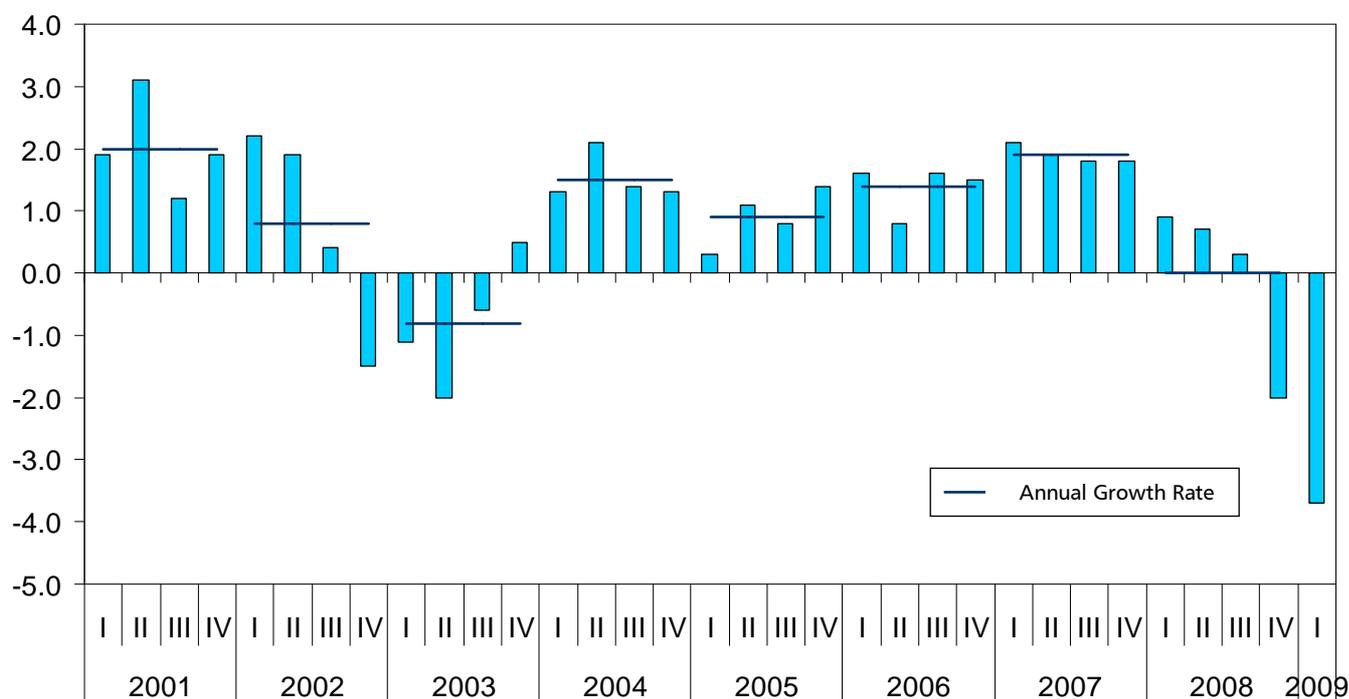
This Flash estimate includes revisions in the data for the previous quarters, namely due to changes in the external trade deflators and in the Balance of Payments Statistics.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2000)

	Year on Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)								
	1Q 07	2Q 07	3Q 07	4Q 07	1Q 08	2Q 08	3Q 08	4Q 08	1Q 09
Flash 1Q 2009	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	0.9	0.7	0.3	-2.0	-3.7
QNA 4Q 2008	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.0	0.8	0.6	0.4	-1.8	
Flash 4Q 2008	2.1	1.9	1.8	2.0	0.9	0.6	0.5	-2.1	

	Quarter on Quarter Growth Rate (%)								
	1Q 07	2Q 07	3Q 07	4Q 07	1Q 08	2Q 08	3Q 08	4Q 08	1Q 09
Flash 1Q 2009	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.1	-0.4	-1.9	-1.5
QNA 4Q 2008	0.9	0.4	0.0	0.6	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	-1.6	
Flash 4Q 2008	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.6	-0.3	0.3	-0.1	-2.0	

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days); QNA - Quarterly National Accounts (70 days)

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2000)

	Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	2006	2007	2008
Flash 1Q 2009	1.4	1.9	0.0
QNA 4Q 2008	1.4	1.9	0.0

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)
QNA - Quarterly National Accounts (70 days)
2006: definitive data
2007 and 2008: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 1st quarter 2009 will be published 9th June 2009.

Methodological information about the flash estimate

Flash estimates for GDP constitutes the first synthetic indication on the quarterly behaviour for the Portuguese economy and does not replace the main estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (also designated as current estimates), more accurate and detailed, which is published 70 days after the end of the reference quarter.

These flash estimates are calculated using the same methodology, and preferably the same basic information, compared to the Quarterly National Accounts current estimate. The percentage of basic information available for flash estimates is over 80%. Methods for imputation and forecasting are used in those cases where basic information is not complete, selected after a series of tests performed over a large sample. One must take into consideration that these flash estimates are eventually subject to larger revisions (when compared to current estimates), although the percentage of basic information available is high.

In the real time tests carried out from 2nd quarter 2005 onwards, the mean absolute error for the flash estimate was 0.1 percentage points for both year-on-year quarterly growth rate and quarter-on-quarter growth rate, when compared to the current estimate. However, it must be stressed that in the current economic juncture, characterised by significant price decelerations or even reductions, the difficulty in measuring the behaviour of main macroeconomic aggregates is particularly high, mainly in splitting the nominal change of exports and imports in price and volume changes. It should be reminded that when this estimate is produced the usual information on external trade deflators used in the Quarterly National Accounts compilation is not available.

This press release only includes information on quarter-on-quarter and year-on-ear quarterly growth rates in real terms.

Growth rates included in this press release are calculated from chain linked volume data (2000=100). Data is seasonally adjusted.

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