



12th May 2010

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

1st Quarter 2010

Gross Domestic Product up by 1.7% in real terms in the 1st quarter 2010

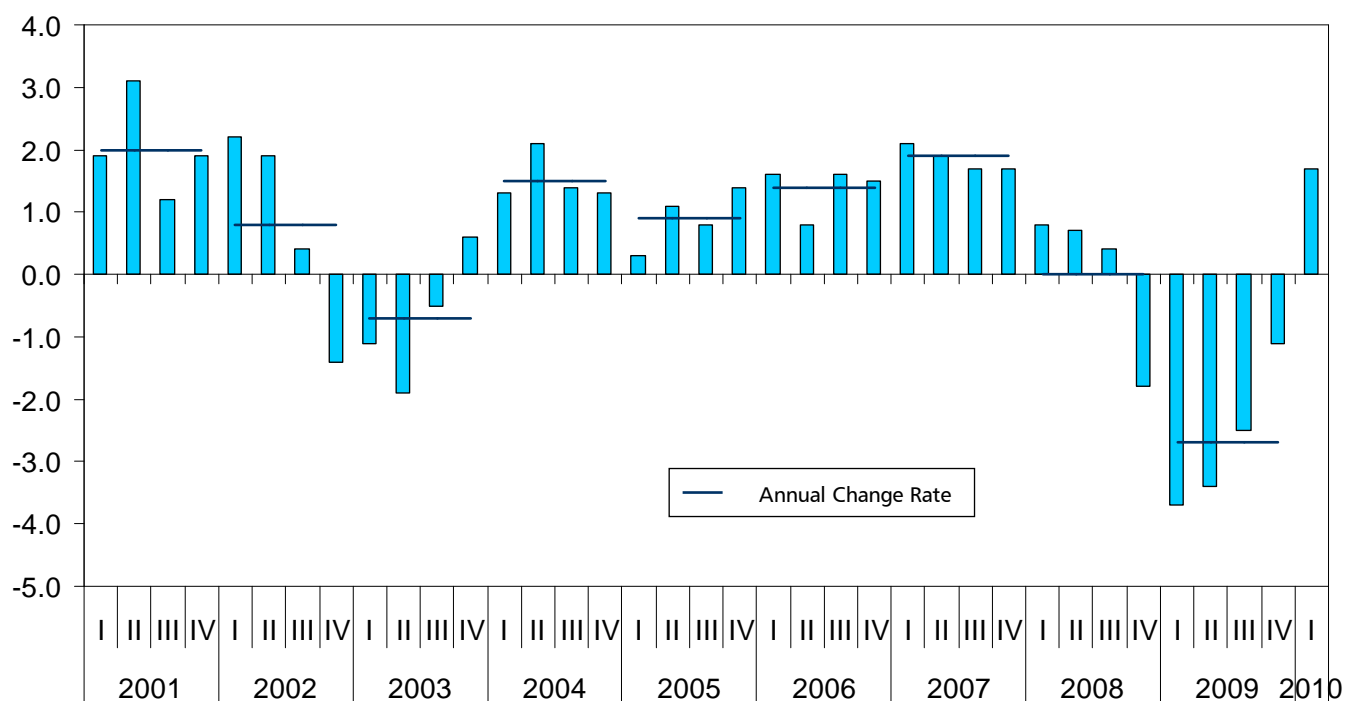
The Flash Estimate of the Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) points to a year on year growth rate of 1.7% in volume in the 1st quarter 2010 (the same rate was -1.1% in the previous quarter). Comparing with the previous quarter, the Portuguese GDP grew 1.0%.

The GDP year on year increase in the 1st quarter 2010 was partially associated to a base effect (in the 1st quarter 2009 GDP diminished 3.7% year on year), with Domestic Demand and External Demand Balance registering an increase in their respective contributions, more intense in the first case.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain-linked volume data (reference year=2000)

Year on year quarterly change rate, %





This flash estimate includes revisions in the data for the previous quarters, with the introduction of updated information on Final Consumption Expenditures of General Government from the last Excessive Deficit Procedure and the latest data on external trade of goods, namely deflators, with impact in the GDP change rates for the quarters previously released.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2000)

	Year on Year Quarterly Change Rate (%)								
	1Q 08	2Q 08	3Q 08	4Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10
Flash 1Q 2010	0.8	0.7	0.4	-1.8	-3.7	-3.4	-2.5	-1.1	1.7
QNA 4Q 2009	0.9	0.7	0.4	-1.8	-3.8	-3.4	-2.5	-1.0	
Flash 4Q 2009	0.9	0.7	0.4	-1.8	-3.9	-3.5	-2.5	-0.8	

	Quarter on Quarter Change Rate (%)								
	1Q 08	2Q 08	3Q 08	4Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10
Flash 1Q 2010	0.1	0.2	-0.4	-1.7	-1.8	0.5	0.5	-0.3	1.0
QNA 4Q 2009	0.1	0.2	-0.5	-1.7	-1.9	0.6	0.5	-0.2	
Flash 4Q 2009	0.2	0.2	-0.4	-1.7	-2.0	0.6	0.6	0.0	

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

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2000)

	Annual Change Rate (%)		
	2007	2008	2009
Flash 1Q 2010	1.9	0.0	-2.7
QNA 4Q 2009	1.9	0.0	-2.7

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts (70 days)

2007 to 2009: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 1st quarter 2010 will be published in 9th June 2010.



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-year 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.