

14th November 2011

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

3rd Quarter 2011

Gross Domestic Product down by 1.7% in real terms in the 3rd quarter 2011

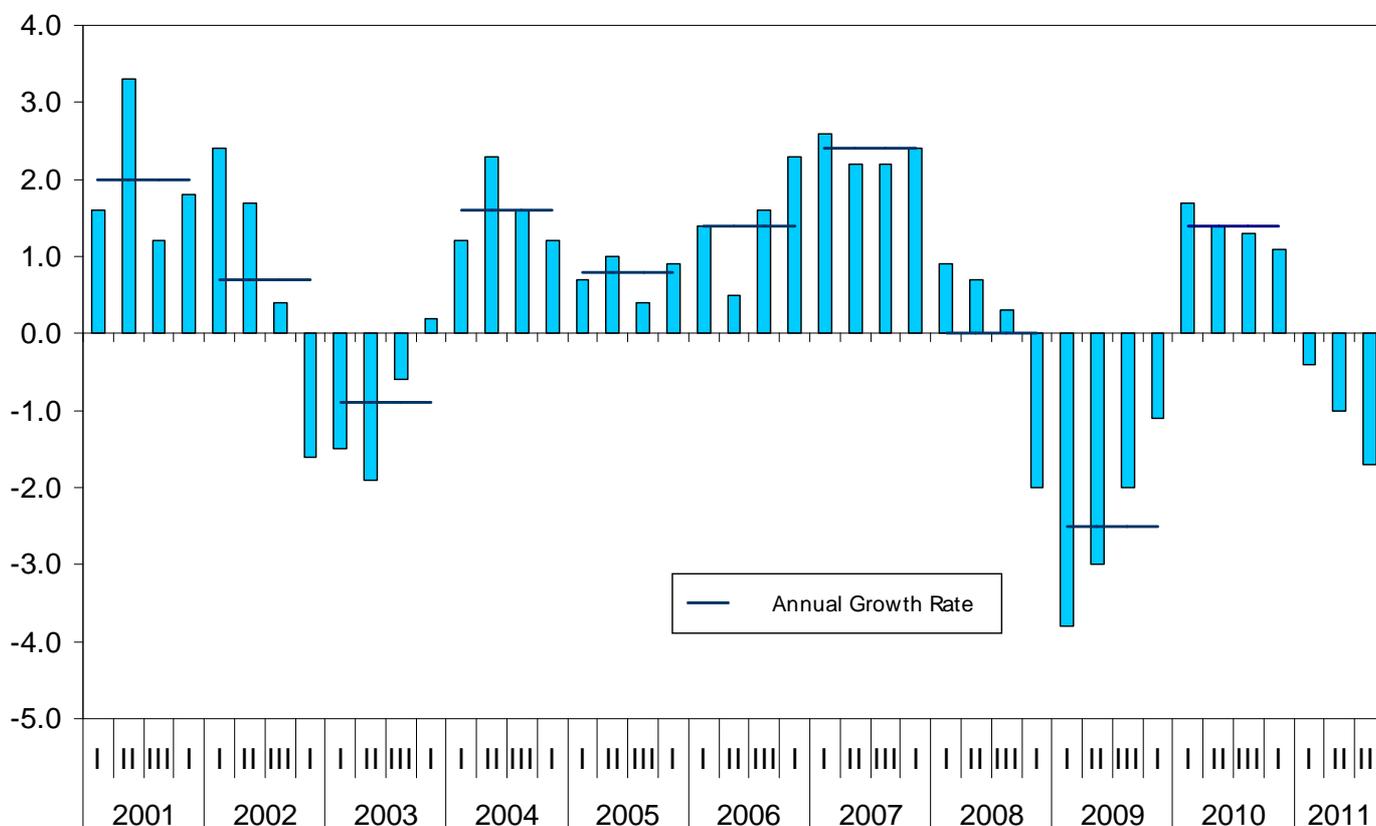
The Flash Estimate of the Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) points to a year-on-year change rate of -1.7% in volume in the 3rd quarter 2011 (-1.0% in the 2nd quarter 2011). Comparing with the previous quarter, the Portuguese GDP registered a change rate of -0.4%.

The more intense year-on-year GDP reduction in the 3rd quarter 2011 was mainly driven by the deceleration of Exports of Goods and Services, although maintaining a high growth, and by a stronger decrease in Investment. Final Consumption Expenditures of Households continued to present a strong reduction.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain-linked volume data (reference year=2006)

Year-on-year quarterly change rate, %



This flash estimate includes revisions in the data, particularly the updated information on external trade of goods for the 2nd quarter 2011. Based on this new information, the GDP year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter changes rates for the 2nd quarter 2011 were revised downward by 0.1 p.p..

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Year-on-Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)								
	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10	1Q 11	2Q 11	3Q 11
Flash 3Q 2011	-2.0	-1.1	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.1	-0.4	-1.0	-1.7
QNA 2Q 2011 (90 days)	-2.0	-1.1	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.1	-0.4	-0.9	
QNA 2Q 2011 (70 days)	-2.0	-1.1	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.1	-0.5	-0.9	

	Quarter-on-Quarter Growth Rate (%)								
	3Q 09	4Q 09	1Q 10	2Q 10	3Q 10	4Q 10	1Q 11	2Q 11	3Q 11
Flash 3Q 2011	0.5	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.5	-0.6	-0.1	-0.4
QNA 2Q 2011 (90 days)	0.5	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.5	-0.6	0.0	
QNA 2Q 2011 (70 days)	0.5	-0.4	0.9	0.4	0.3	-0.5	-0.6	0.0	

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days); QNA - Quarterly National Accounts; QNA (90 days) - Data released on 30th September 2011 in the section of National Accounts available at Statistics Portugal website, with the introduction of the latest Excessive Deficit Procedure.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2006)

	Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	2008	2009	2010
Flash 3Q 2011	0.0	-2.5	1.4
QNA 2Q 2011 (90 days)	0.0	-2.5	1.4
QNA 2Q 2011 (70 days)	0.0	-2.5	1.3

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts

2008: definitive data; 2009 and 2010: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 3rd quarter 2011 will be published on 9th December 2011.

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, characterized 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 (2006=100). Data is seasonally adjusted.