

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate
First Quarter 2015

Year-on-year change rate of Gross Domestic Product was 1.4% in volume

The Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 1.4% in volume in the first quarter 2015, compared with the same period of 2014 (0.6% in the fourth quarter 2014), according to the flash estimate of the Quarterly National Accounts.

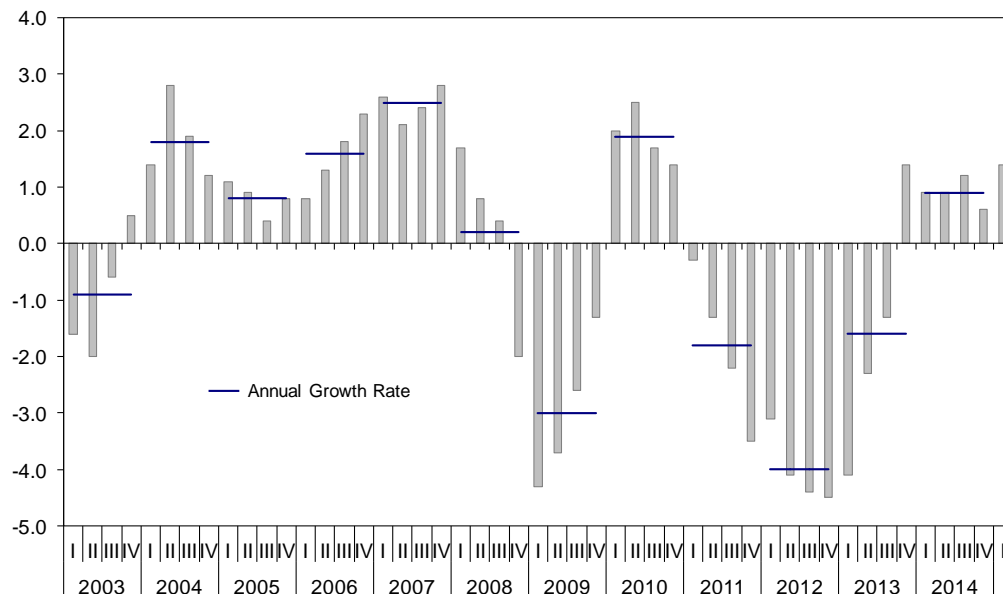
Comparing with the previous quarter, GDP increased by 0.4% in real terms in the first quarter (similar change rate in the fourth quarter), led by the positive contribution of domestic demand.

The year-on-year acceleration of GDP was associated with the increase of the net external demand contribution, driven by the deceleration of Imports and by the acceleration of Exports. It should also be noted that this flash estimate has implicit a larger gain in the terms of trade than in the previous quarter, with a significantly negative deflator of the Imports of Goods and Services, mainly reflecting the reduction in the energy products prices.

In terms of year-on-year change, the domestic demand recorded a less significant positive contribution in the first quarter, due to the strong negative contribution of changes in inventories. However, in terms of quarter-on-quarter change, GDP growth reflected the positive contribution of the domestic demand.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain-linked volume data (reference year=2011)
Year-on-year quarterly change rate, %



This flash estimate includes data revisions, particularly due to updated information on external trade of goods, with revisions in nominal terms and in deflators for the fourth quarter 2014. Additionally, the revision for 2014 of the Short-Term Indicators was considered. This new information led to a downward revision of 0.1 percentage points in the GDP year-on-year and quarter-on-quarter change rates for the fourth quarter 2014.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2011)

	Year-on-Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)									
	1Q 13	2Q 13	3Q 13	4Q 13	1Q 14	2Q 14	3Q 14	4Q 14	1Q 15	
Flash 1Q 2015	-4.1	-2.3	-1.3	1.4	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.6	1.4	
QNA 4Q 2014 (85 days)	-4.1	-2.3	-1.3	1.4	0.9	0.9	1.2	0.7		
QNA 4Q 2014 (60 days)	-3.8	-2.1	-1.0	1.6	1.0	0.9	1.1	0.7		

	Quarter-on-Quarter Growth Rate (%)									
	1Q 13	2Q 13	3Q 13	4Q 13	1Q 14	2Q 14	3Q 14	4Q 14	1Q 15	
Flash 1Q 2015	0.0	0.5	-0.1	1.0	-0.5	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	
QNA 4Q 2014 (85 days)	0.0	0.5	-0.1	1.0	-0.5	0.5	0.2	0.5		
QNA 4Q 2014 (60 days)	0.2	0.4	0.1	1.0	-0.4	0.3	0.3	0.5		

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days); QNA - Quarterly National Accounts; QNA (85 days) - Data released on the 26th March 2015 in the section of National Accounts available at Statistics Portugal website, with the incorporation of the final results of the annual national accounts for 2012, as well as updated information for the general government and international trade of goods and services.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2011)

	Annual Growth Rate (%)		
	2012	2013	2014
Flash 1Q 2015	-4.0	-1.6	0.9
QNA 4Q 2014 (85 days)	-4.0	-1.6	0.9
QNA 4Q 2014 (60 days)	-3.3	-1.4	0.9

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts

2012: final data; 2013 and 2014: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the first quarter 2015 will be published in 29th May 2015.

Methodological information about the flash estimates

Flash estimates for GDP constitute the first synthetic indication on the quarterly behaviour for the Portuguese economy and do not replace the main estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (also designated as current estimates), more accurate and detailed, which are published at t+2 months (approximately 60 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 the cases where basic information is not complete, selected after a series of tests performed over a large sample. One must take into consideration that the flash estimates might be 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 the second quarter 2005 onwards, the mean absolute error for the flash estimate was 0.1 percentage points for both year-on-year quarterly change rate and quarter-on-quarter change 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 the usual information on external trade deflators used in the compilation of the current estimates of the Quarterly National Accounts is not available when this flash estimate is produced.

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

Change rates included in this press release are calculated from chain-linked volume data (2011=100). Data are calendar and seasonally adjusted.