



# SYNTHESIS INE @ COVID-19

November 19, 2020

Statistics Portugal makes available the weekly report for monitoring the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report covers the press releases concerning:

- International trade statistics – September 2020, published on November 09;
- New housing construction cost index – September 2020, published on November 09;
- Indices of Production, Employment and Wages in Construction – September 2020, published on November 10;
- Business turnover, employment, wage and hours worked indices in industry – September 2020, published on November 10;
- Business turnover, employment, wage and hours worked indices in services – September 2020, published on November 11;
- Consumer price index – October 2020, published on November 11;
- Labour Force Survey ad hoc module - Accidents at work and work-related health problems – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020, published on November 11;
- Quarterly National Accounts - Flash Estimate, published on November 13;
- Labour cost index – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020, published on November 13;
- Weekly deaths – Preliminary data 2020, published on November 13.

For further details, see the links available throughout this press release.

## Exports and imports of goods have decreased in September in year-on-year terms

In September 2020, exports and imports of goods recorded nominal year-on-year growth rates of -0.4% and -9.9%, respectively (-1.9% and -10.4% in August 2020, in the same order).

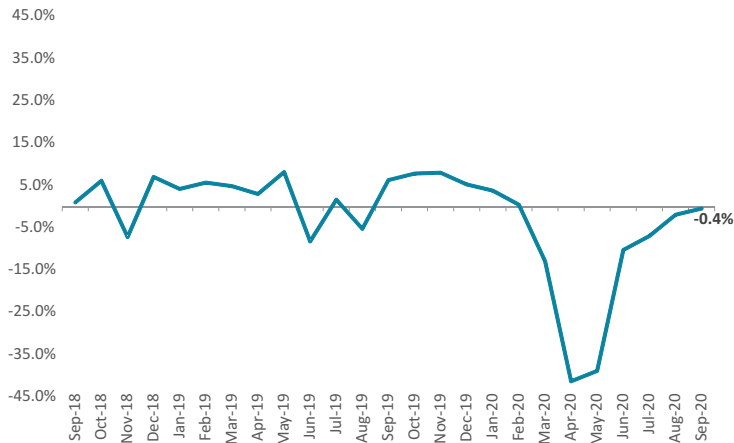
In September 2020, most international trade product categories presented decreases in both flows with the emphasis on:

- Exports:
  - » Increases in *Capital goods* (+12.1%) and *Food products and beverages* (+5.2%, mainly to Spain);
  - » Decrease in *Transport equipment* (-3.9%), mostly airplanes;
- Imports:
  - » Reductions in *Fuels and lubricants* (-39.4%, mostly from Angola) and *Transport equipment* (-19.9%, mostly airplanes from France).

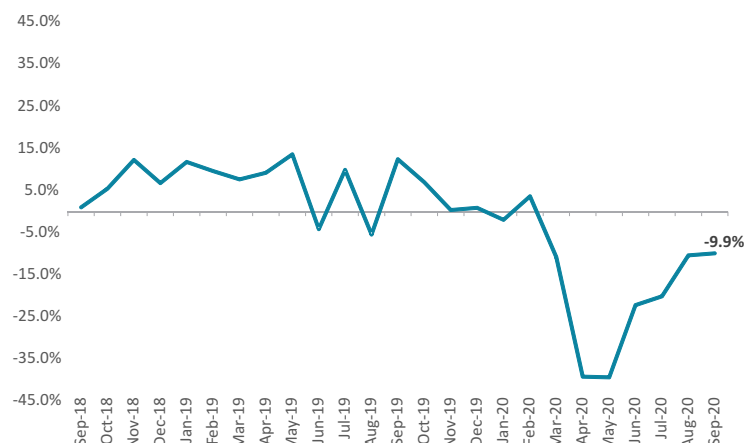
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Exports - Total  
(year-on-year rate of change)



Imports - Total  
(year-on-year rate of change)



## Excluding *Fuels and lubricants*:

- Exports increased by 0.2% (-1.0% in August);
- Imports decreased by 5.8% (-9.5% in August).

In September 2020, concerning the month-on-month rates of change, exports and imports of goods increased by 32.6% and 24.1% respectively (-25.4% and -15.9% in the previous month, in the same order).

In September 2020, considering the main partner countries in 2019, vis-à-vis September 2019:

- In exports, the emphasis goes to the increase towards Spain (+6.7%) and the decrease to the United Kingdom (-11.3%);
- In imports, there were declines in almost all the main partner countries, more so from France (-27.2%) and Spain (-6.7%).

In September 2020, the deficit of trade balance amounted to EUR 1,088 million (EUR -643 million in the deficit when compared to September 2019).

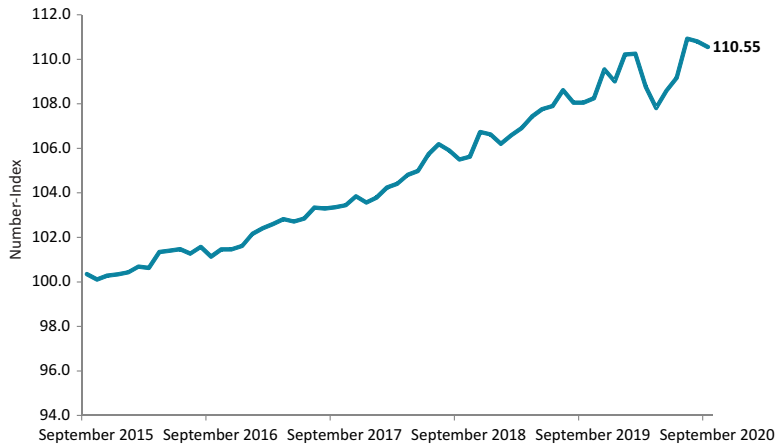
Excluding *Fuels and lubricants*, in September 2020, the trade balance stood at EUR -785 million, corresponding to a decrease of EUR 353 million in the trade deficit vis-à-vis September 2019.



More information available at:  
[International trade statistics – September 2020](#)  
(09 November 2020)

## Construction costs increased by 2.3% in year-on-year terms

Construction Costs Index for New Housing  
(100=2015)

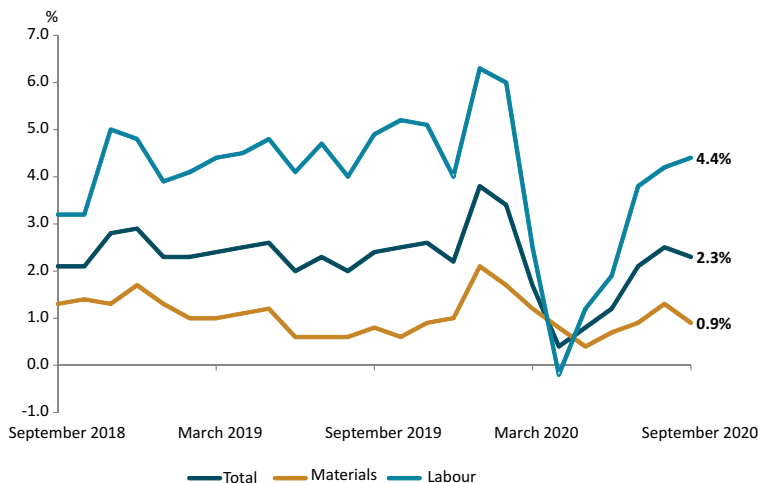


Note: The value of September 2020 is provisional.

In September, the year-on-year rate of change of the Construction Cost Index for New Housing (CCINH) was estimated at +2.3% (-0.2 percentage points (p.p.) compared to the previous month).

In the same month, also in year-on-year terms, the price of materials and labour costs increased by 0.9% and 4.4% respectively (+1.3% and +4.2% in August, in the same order).

Construction Costs Index for New Housing  
(year-on-year rate of change)



Note: The value of September 2020 is provisional.



In September, the CCINH decreased by 0.2% compared to the previous month (+0.3% in the previous month). The same rate of change was registered concerning the price of materials and the labour costs (+0.3% and -0.6% in August, in the same order).

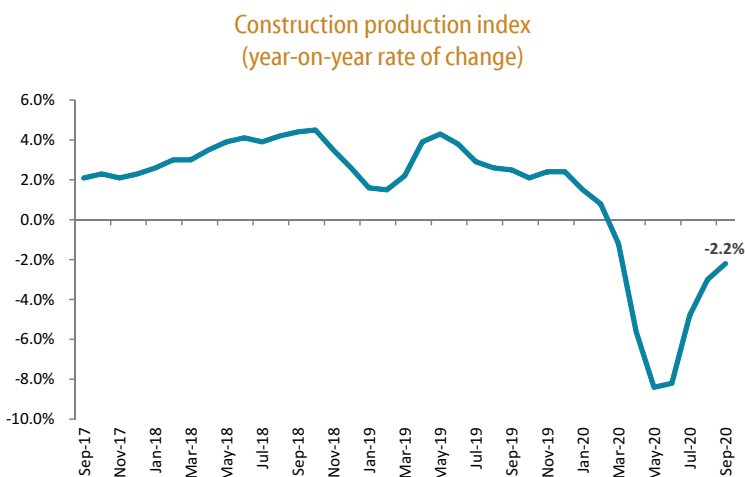
More information available at:  
[New housing construction cost index – September 2020](#)  
(09 November 2020)



## Production in construction decreased by 2.2%

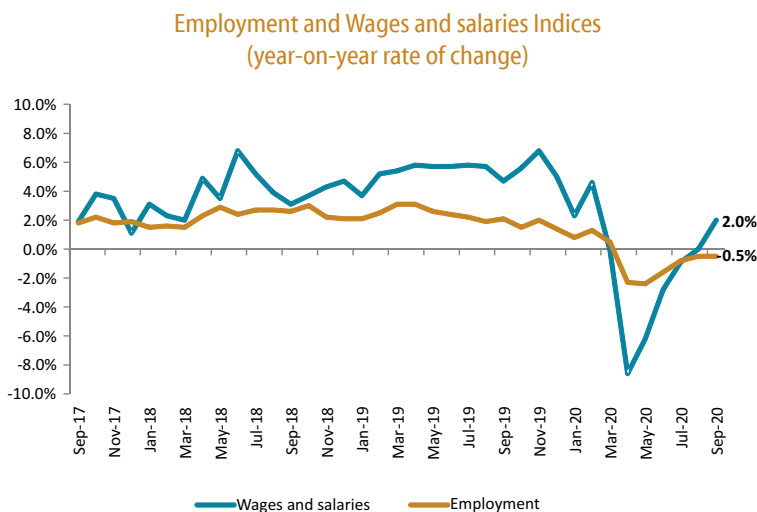
The index of production in construction decreased by 2.2% in year-on-year terms (-3.0% in August). The following outcomes were registered in:

- *Building construction*: -2.9% (the same as in August);
- *Civil engineering*: -1.2% (-3.0% in August).



In September, the indices of employment and wages registered:

- In year-on-year terms, rates of change of -0.5% and 2.0% respectively (-0.5% and 0.0% in August, in the same order).
- Compared to the previous month, an increase of 0.4% in the employment index and a 1.2% decrease in the wages index (+0.4% and -3.2% respectively in September 2019).



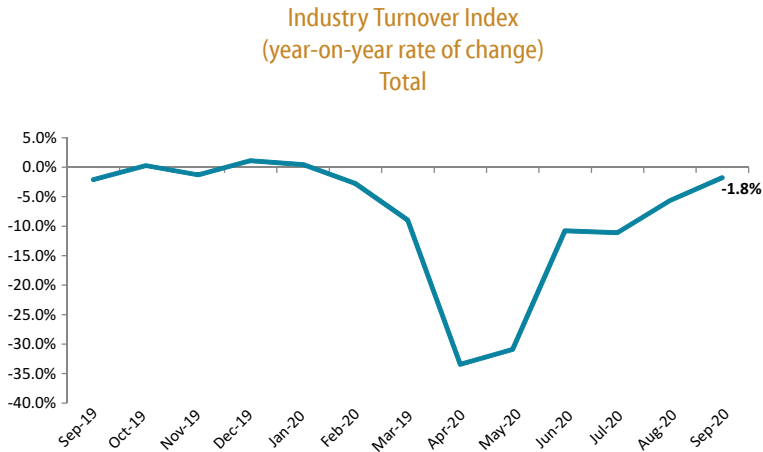
More information available at:

[Indices of production, employment and wages in Construction – September 2020](#)  
(10 November 2020)

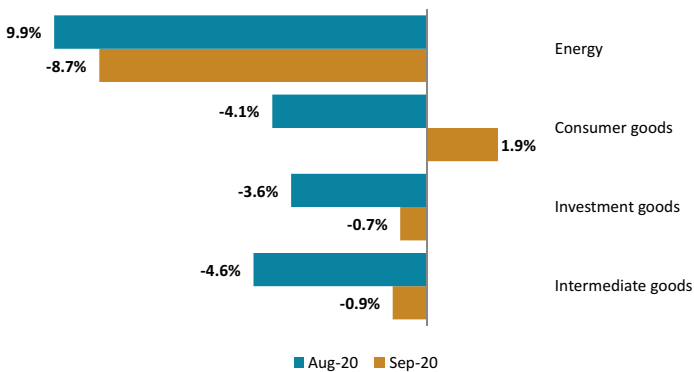
## The Industry Turnover Index registered a year-on-year reduction of 1.8%

In September, the Industry Turnover Index recorded a year-on-year rate of change of -1.8% (-5.7% in the previous month).

Excluding *Energy*, sales increased by 0.1% (-4.2% in August).



## Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Major industrial groupings



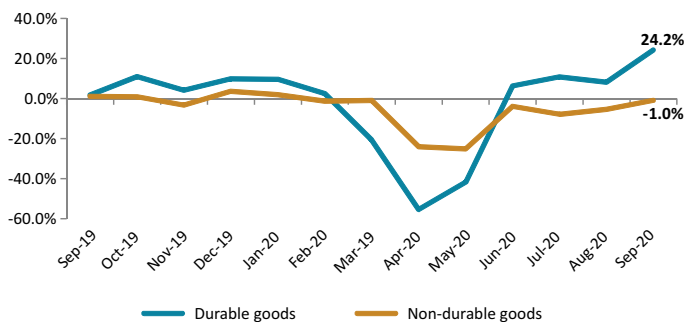
In year-on-year terms, industry sales recorded less declining rates of change in September compared to those registered in the previous month:

- Domestic market: -1.4% (-6.5% in August);
- Non-domestic market: -2.3% (-4.2% in August).

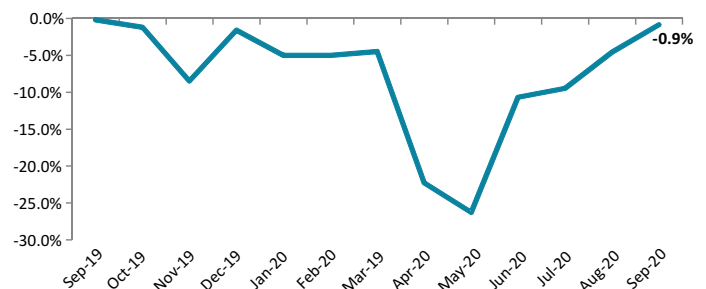
In September, concerning the main industrial groupings:

- *Energy* declined by 8.7% (-9.9% in August);
- *Consumer goods* increased by 1.9% (-4.1% in August);
- *Intermediate goods* and *Investment goods* registered reductions of 0.9% and 0.7% respectively (-4.6% and -3.6% in August, in the same order).

## Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Consumer goods



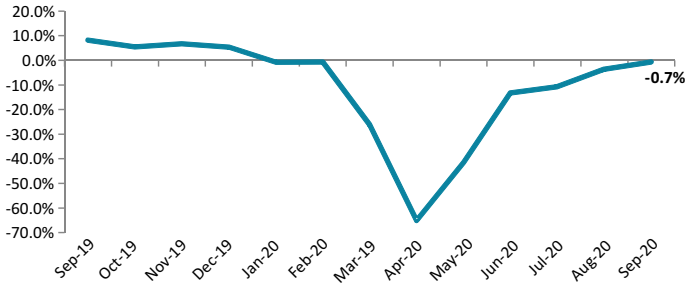
## Industry Turnover Index (year-on-year rate of change) Intermediate goods



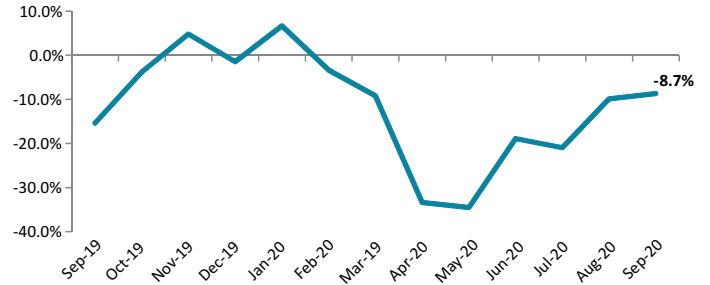
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Industry Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Investment goods



Industry Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Energy

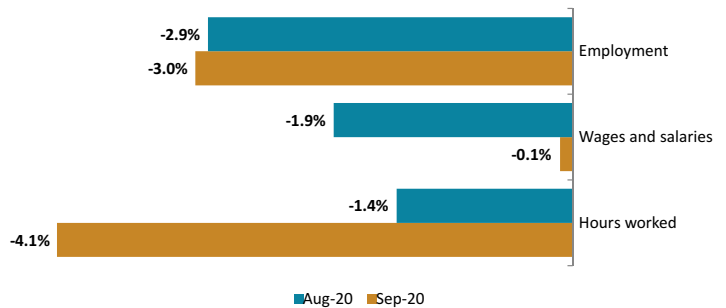


In September, the Industry Turnover Index grew by 24.0% month-on-month (+19.1% in September 2019).

Employment, Wages, and Hours worked Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)

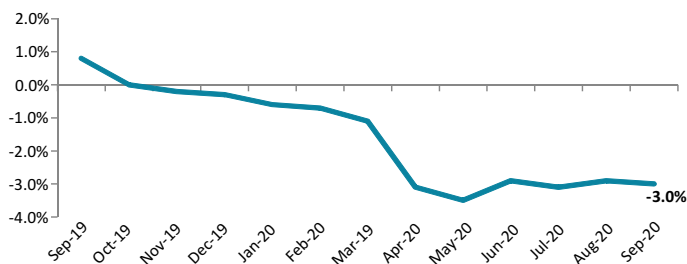
## Employment and wages

In September, the employment, wages, and hours worked indices recorded year-on-year declines of 3.0%, 0.1%, and 4.1% respectively (-2.9%, -1.9%, and -1.4% in August, in the same order).

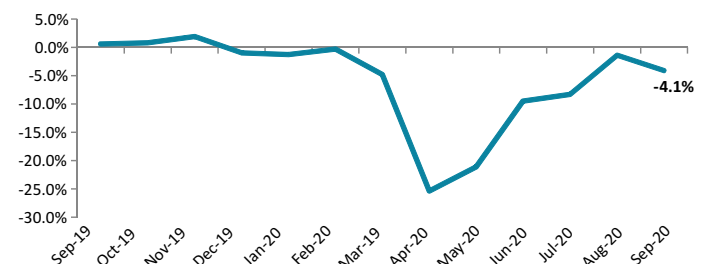


The employment index recorded month-on-month growth of 0.1% in September (+0.2% in the same period of 2019). The wages and salaries, and hours worked indices stood at -12.1% and +31.2% month-on-month respectively (-13.7% and +34.8% in August 2019).

Industry Employment Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total



Industry Employment Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Hours worked



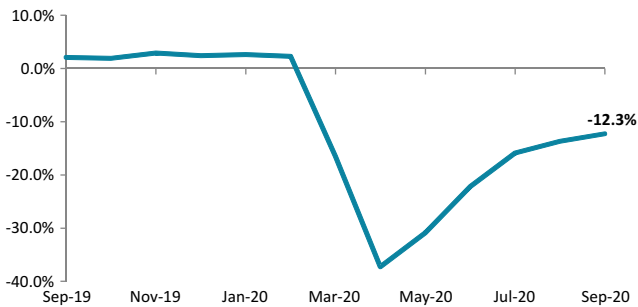
Note: Index adjusted of calendar effects

More information available at:  
[Business turnover, employment, wages and hours worked indices in Industry – September 2020](#)  
(10 November 2020)

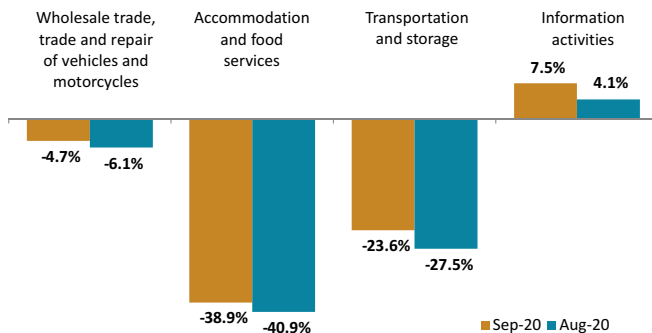
## The Services turnover index continues to register a declining year-on-year rate of change

The Services turnover index registered a year-on-year rate of change of -12.3% in September, recovering 1.4 percentage points (p.p.) from the previous month.

Services Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total

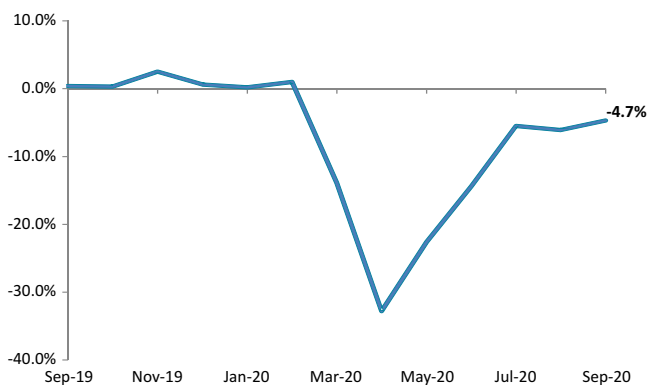


Services Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Sections that influenced the index the most

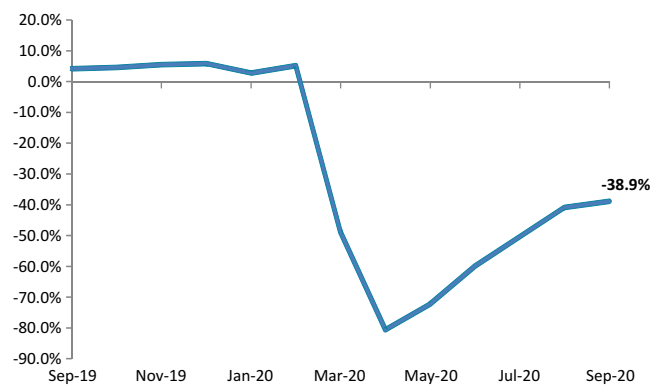


In September, the recovery was common to all sections, although *Information activities* continued to be the only one to register a positive rate of change, once again above the one recorded in the previous month.

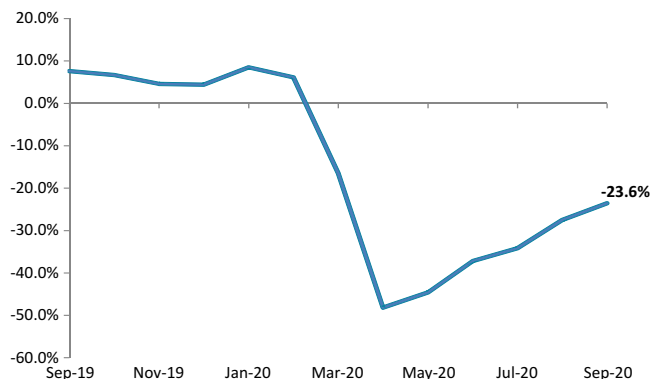
Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Wholesale trade, trade and repair of vehicles  
and motorcycles



Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Accommodation and food services

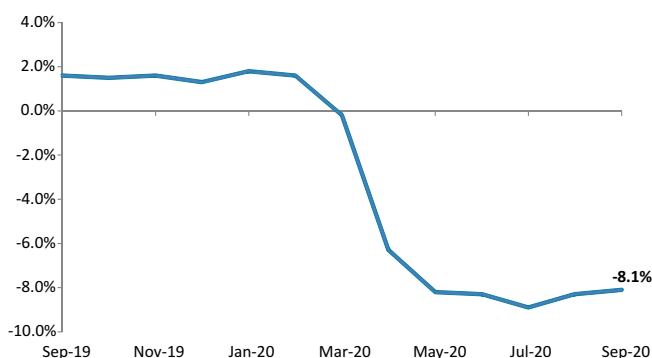


Turnover Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Transportation and storage



In September, the month-on-month rate of change in the Services turnover index was 1.9% (2.4% in the previous month).

Services Employment Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total

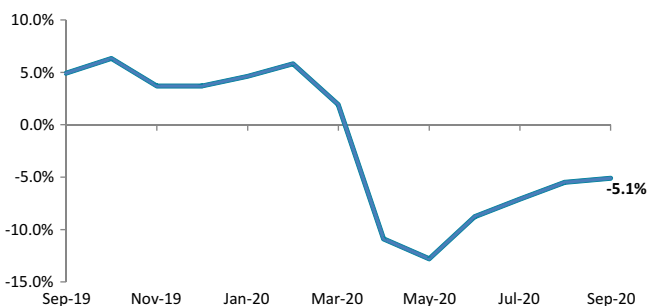


## Employment

The Services Employment Index registered a year-on-year decrease of 8.1% in September (-8.3% in August).

The month-on-month rate of change in the Employment Index was 0.7% (it had been null in August).

Services Wages and Salaries Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total



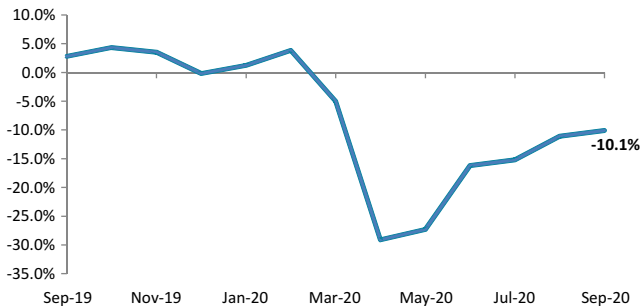
## Wages and salaries

In year-on-year terms, the rate of change in the Wages and Salaries Index in Services went from -5.5% in August to -5.1% in September.

Compared to the previous month, the Wages and Salaries Index registered a rate of change of -1.4% in September (-1.9% in September 2019).



Services Hours worked Index  
(year-on-year rate of change)  
Total



## Hours worked

The rate of change in the Work Volume in Services Index in September, measured by hours worked and adjusted for calendar effects, was -10.1% in year-on-year terms (-11.1% in August).

The month-on-month rate of change of the Work Volume in Services Index in September was +5.3% (+4.1% in September 2019).

More information available at:

[Business turnover, employment, wages and hours worked in services – September 2020](#)  
(11 November 2020)

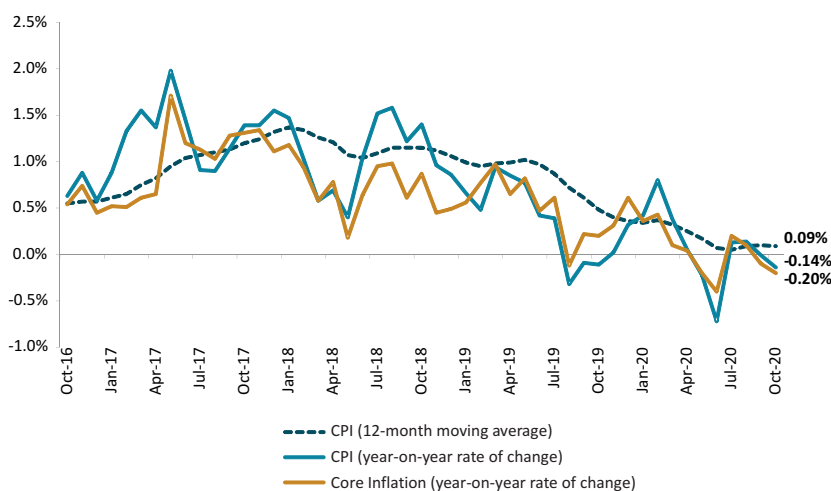
## The Consumer Price Index remained unchanged in October

In October, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) year-on-year rate of change was -0.1% (the same as in the previous month).

The unprocessed food aggregate recorded a year-on-year rate of change of +4.5% in October (+0.3 percentage points (p.p.) than in the previous month) while energy products presented a year-on-year rate of -6.0% (-5.6% in September).

The annual core inflation rate (total index excluding energy and unprocessed food products) registered a year-on-year rate of change -0.1% in October (+0.1 p.p. compared to the previous month).

Consumer price and core inflation indices  
(year-on-year rate of change and 12-month moving average)



The increases in the year-on-year rates of change of the following aggregates stand out in comparison with the previous month:

- *Food products and non-alcoholic beverages*: +2.5% (+2.0% in September);
- *Restaurants and hotels*: -0.4% (-0.7% in September);
- *Transports*: -2.9% (-3.2% in September);
- *Goods and services*: 1.7% (1.4% in September);

On the contrary, it should be noted the decrease in the year-on-year rate of change of:

- *Education*: -1.5% (-0.8% in September);
- *Clothing and footwear*: -2.9% (-2.4% in September);
- *Leisure, recreation and culture*: -0.3% (+0.2% in September).

## Month-on-month rate of change

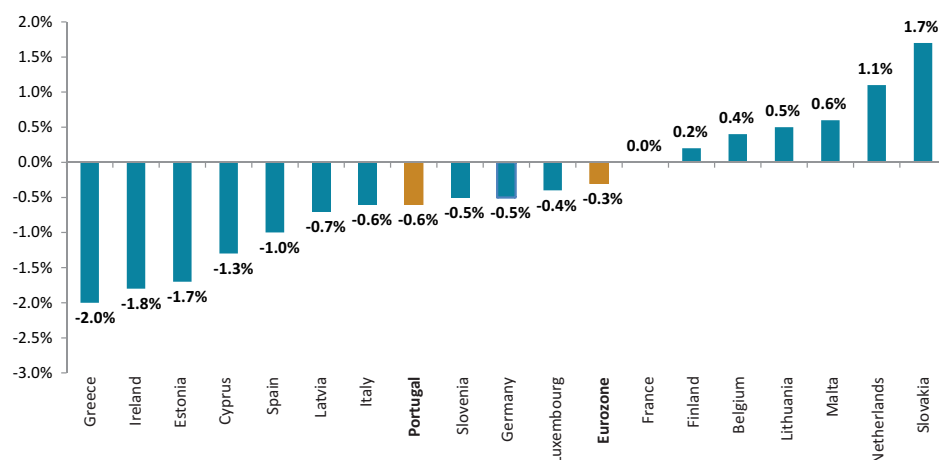
In October 2020, the CPI recorded a month-on-month rate of change of +0.1% (+1.0% in the previous month and nil variation in October 2019). Excluding energy and unprocessed food products, the CPI variation was likewise +0.1% (+1.2% in the previous month and nil variation in October 2019).

## Harmonized Index of Consumer Prices

The Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) - the most appropriate inflation indicator for comparisons between the different countries of the European Union, and in particular the Euro Area - recorded a year-on-year rate of change in Portugal, in October, of -0.6% (+2.0 p.p. compared to the previous month).

According to the information available for October 2020, concerning Eurostat's estimate, the year-on-year rate of change in the HICP in Portugal was 0.3 p.p. lower than that of the Euro area (in September 2020, the change in the Portuguese HICP had been 0.5 p.p.).

Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices  
(year-on-year rate of change in the Eurozone Countries)



More information available at:  
[Consumer price index – October 2020](#)  
 (11 November 2020)

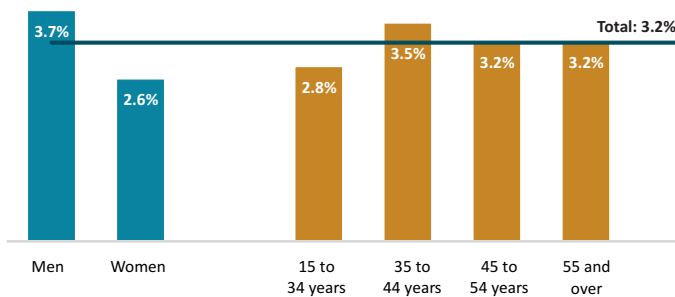
## The stress related to work deadlines and work overload affects more than 40% of the employed population

In 2020, 165.1 thousand people aged 15 to 74 who were employed in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter or had been employed in the previous twelve months, reported having had at least one accident at work during that period, i.e. 3.2% of the employed population. In 2013, by the time a previous ad hoc module such as this was part of the Employment survey, this percentage was 4.0%.

The occurrence of accidents at work continues to be reported by:

- Mainly people aged 35 to 44 (3.5% of the employed population);
- More men (3.7% of the employed population) than women (2.6%).

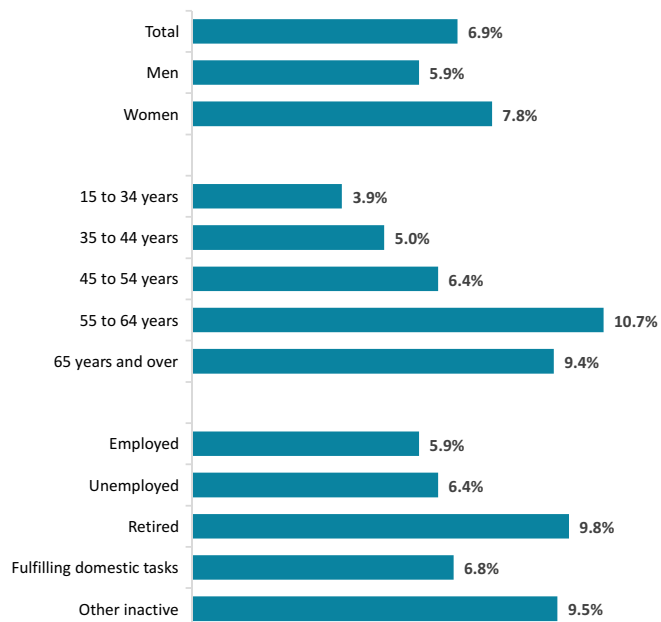
People employed aged 15 to 74 or working up to a year before that have referred at least one accident at work occurred in the last 12 months



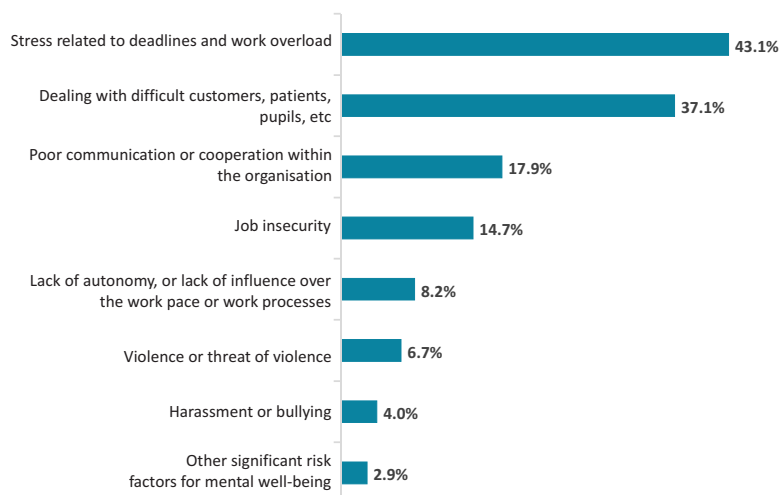
In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 or the twelve previous months, concerning the employed population aged 15 to 74 years<sup>1</sup>:

- There has been a decrease in the risk of accidents in construction workers from 5.8% in 2013 to 4.0% and they are no longer the most affected by accidents at work in the twelve months preceding the interview;
- 482,500 people (56,700 fewer than in 2013) reported having had some health problem caused or made worse by work;
- Health problems continued to affect women (7.8%) more than men (5.9%);
- Health problems were more frequent from the age of 55 onwards;
- Bone, joint, or muscle problems as a whole were identified as the most serious by 59.9% of the population with at least one work-related health problem;
- Of the total number of people employed, 82.2% reported that they were exposed to factors that could affect their physical health in the workplace (+6.6 percentage points (p.p.) than in 2013);
- The repetitive hand and arm movements were the most frequently reported by those answering the survey (66.3%);
- 54.0% of employed people reported exposure to mental health risk factors in their workplace (+17.2 p.p. than in 2013):
  - » stress to comply with deadlines or work overload: 43.1%;
  - » dealing with problematic, yet non-violent, people (customers, patients, pupils, citizens, etc.): 37.1%.

People employed or once employed that reported at least one work-related health problem in the last 12 months, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020



People employed that reported having been exposed to at least one risk factor to their mental well-being, by risk factor, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020



<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020, almost 1/4 of the employed population aged 15 to 74 (over 1 million people) worked from home or on a simplified lay-off, which may have influenced the reduction in the incidence of accidents at work in 2020.



GDP in volume accounted for a year-on-year rate of change of -5.7% and a quarter-on-quarter rate of change of +13.3%

In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in real terms registered a year-on-year reduction of 5.7%, after the strong contraction of 16.4% in the previous quarter which was the strongest in the available series.

This less intense year-on-year reduction in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was mostly due to:

- The performance of domestic demand, which made a less negative contribution to the year-on-year change in GDP: -4.1 percentage points (p.p.), compared with -11.8 p.p. in the previous quarter. This evolution was mainly due to the performance of private consumption, which recorded a significantly less intense year-on-year decline than that observed in the previous quarter;
- A less marked negative contribution (-1.5 p.p.) from the net external demand than in the previous quarter (-4.6 p.p.). The recovery of Exports of Goods and Services (from -39.4% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to -15.2% in the 3<sup>rd</sup>) was more significant than that observed in Imports of Goods and Services (from -29.2% in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter to -11.6% in the 3<sup>rd</sup>), largely due to the evolution of exports of goods (exports of services maintained significant reductions).

GDP increased by 13.3% in real terms in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020, after decreasing considerably in the previous quarter (-13.9%). This outcome was due to:

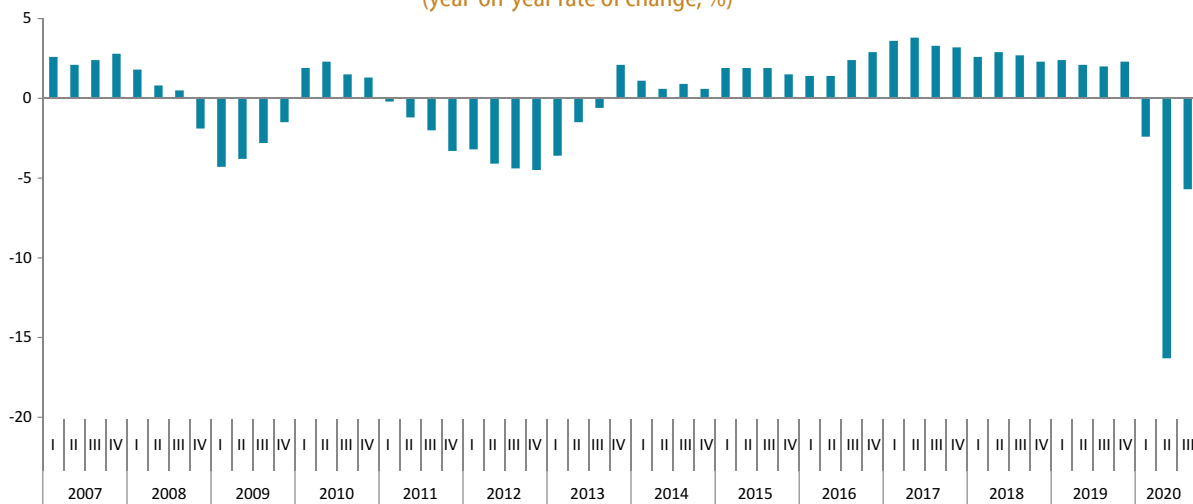
- The quite positive contribution of domestic demand to the quarter-on-quarter rate of change in GDP (10.6 p.p.), after the strongly negative contribution in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (-10.9 p.p.);
- The also positive contribution of net external demand (+2.7 p.p., compared with -3.0 p.p. in the previous quarter), due to a steep growth in Exports of Goods and Services.

The results presented, which correspond to the second estimate of GDP for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, show the effects of the progressive re-opening of the economic activity and revised upwards (+0.1 p.p.) the rates of change presented in the first quick estimate, due to the integration of additional primary information, namely on international trade in services.



More information available at:  
[Quarterly National Accounts – flash estimate](#)  
 (13 November 2020)

Gross Domestic Product (chain-linked volume data, reference year=2016)  
 Calendar and seasonally adjusted data  
 (year-on-year rate of change, %)



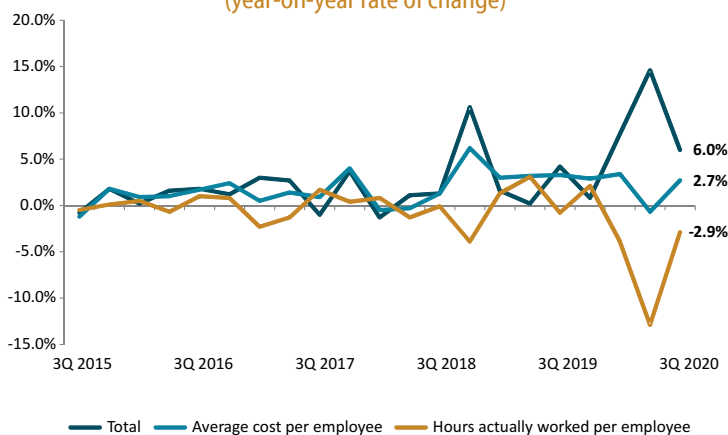
## The Labour cost index increased by 6.0%

The Labour Cost Index (LCI), working days adjusted, increased by 6.0% in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020, compared to the same period in 2019 (+14.6% in the previous quarter).

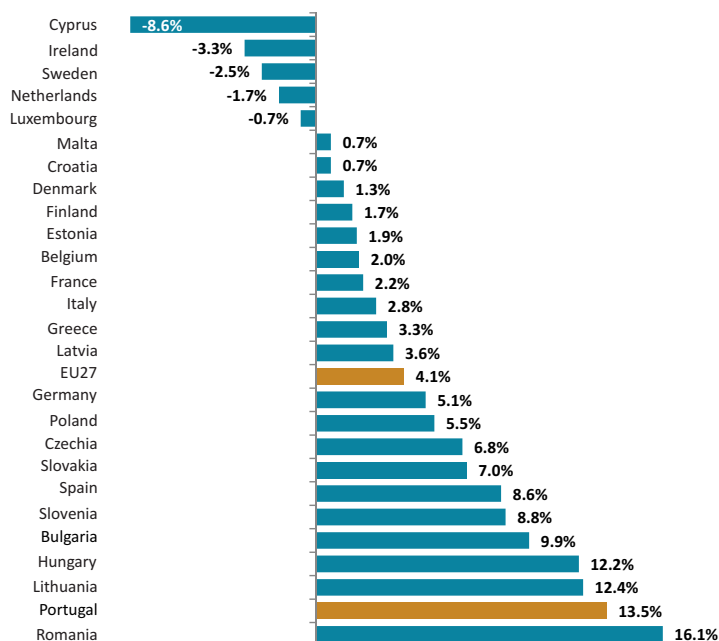
This outcome resulted from both:

- The average cost per employee: +2.7% (-0.7% in the previous quarter);
- The number of hours actually worked per employee: -2.9% (-12.9% in the previous quarter).

Labour Cost Index  
Working days adjusted data  
(year-on-year rate of change)



Labour Cost Index in the EU countries  
Working days adjusted data - 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2020  
(year-on-year rate of change)



The wage costs have increased by 6.2% and the other labour costs also increased by 4.9% vis-à-vis the same period of the previous year.

The reduction in hours actually worked in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 was significantly influenced by the implementation of the simplified layoff regime. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, the reduction in hours worked was lower due to the sharp decrease in the number of enterprises covered by that regime.

The wage costs and the non-wage costs (per hour actually worked) were lower than those observed in the preceding quarter.

The wage costs increased essentially due to the rise in the base wage and the holiday bonus. The other costs increased mainly due to increases in the payment of the corresponding employers' social contributions.

## Comparison with the European Union

The latest available information by country on the LCI year-on-year rate of change reports to the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 and was published by Eurostat on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2020.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020, the LCI year-on-year rate of change for the European Union (27 countries) was 4.1%.

Portugal, at 14.6%, accounted for a year-on-year increase that stood above the European Union average (previously it had been registered as 13.5%, having been revised in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020).

More information available at:  
[Labour cost index – 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020](#)  
(13 November 2020)

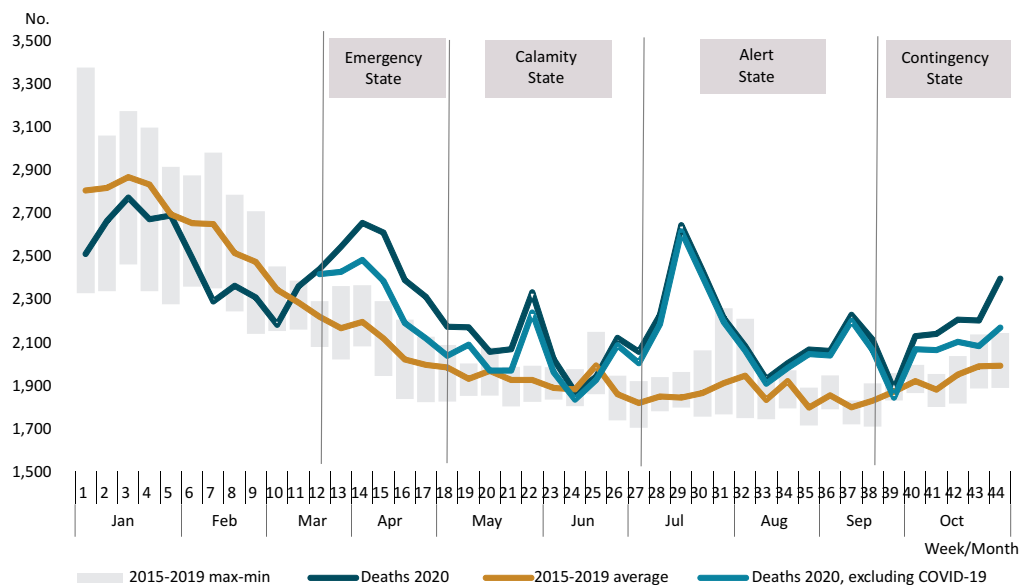
## Mortality in Portugal in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

Almost half of all deaths between the 5<sup>th</sup> of October and the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, compared to the average of the last 5 years, were due to COVID-19

Between March 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the first cases of COVID-19 were diagnosed in Portugal, and November 1<sup>st</sup>, there were 77,249 deaths in the national territory, an increase of 8,686 deaths in 2020 when compared to the average number of deaths during the same period over the past five years. Of these deaths, 29.3% (2,544) were due to COVID-19.

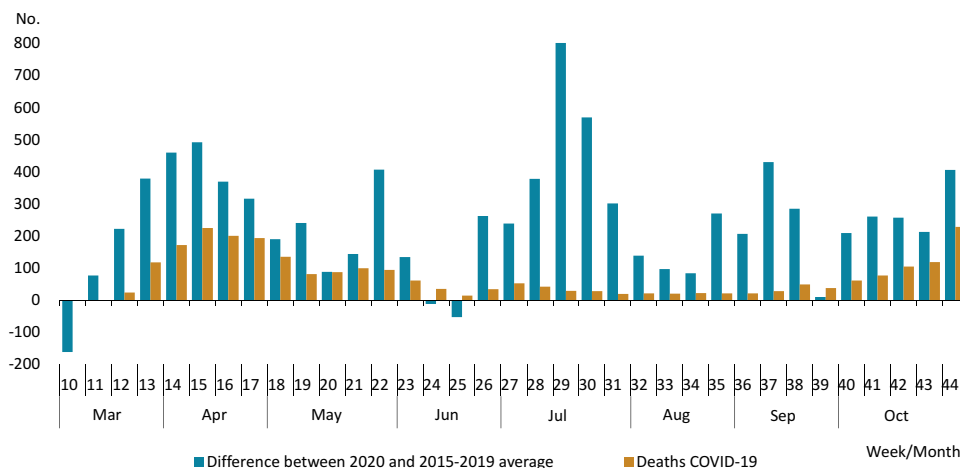
In the last 4 weeks (October 5<sup>th</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>) there were 1,132 more deaths than the average of the same period of 2015-2019, of which 526 (46.5%) from COVID-19.

2020 deaths and 2015-2019 average of deaths, per week, in Portugal, weeks 1 to 44



The increase in deaths in 2020 compared with the average for 2015-2019 reached the first peak in week 15 (6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of April) and recorded the highest figure in week 29 (13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of July), with an increase of 800 deaths, to which the fact that July 2020 was extremely hot might have also been related. In week 37 (7<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of September) there was a new peak and in the last five weeks (28<sup>th</sup> of September to the 1<sup>st</sup> of November) there has again been an increase in the number of deaths to values above the average of the last five years.

Difference between deaths in 2020 and 2015-2019 average and COVID-19 deaths



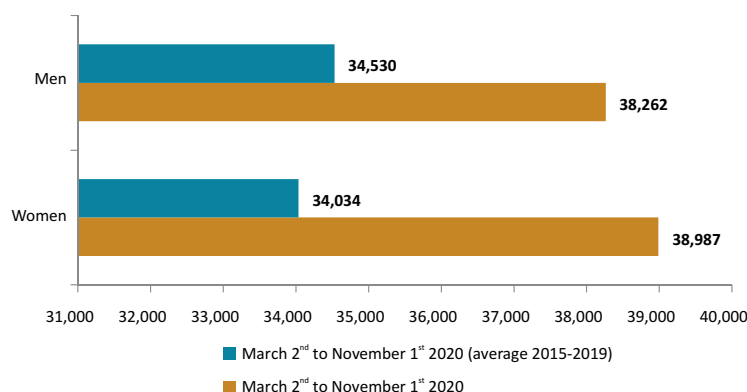
The increase in mortality from March onwards compared to the average of the last five years is only partially explained by the number of deaths caused by COVID-19.

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Of the total number of deaths from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>, 38,262 were male and 38,987 were female (+3,732 and +4,953, respectively, compared to the average number of deaths in the same period of 2015-2019).

Deaths from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>

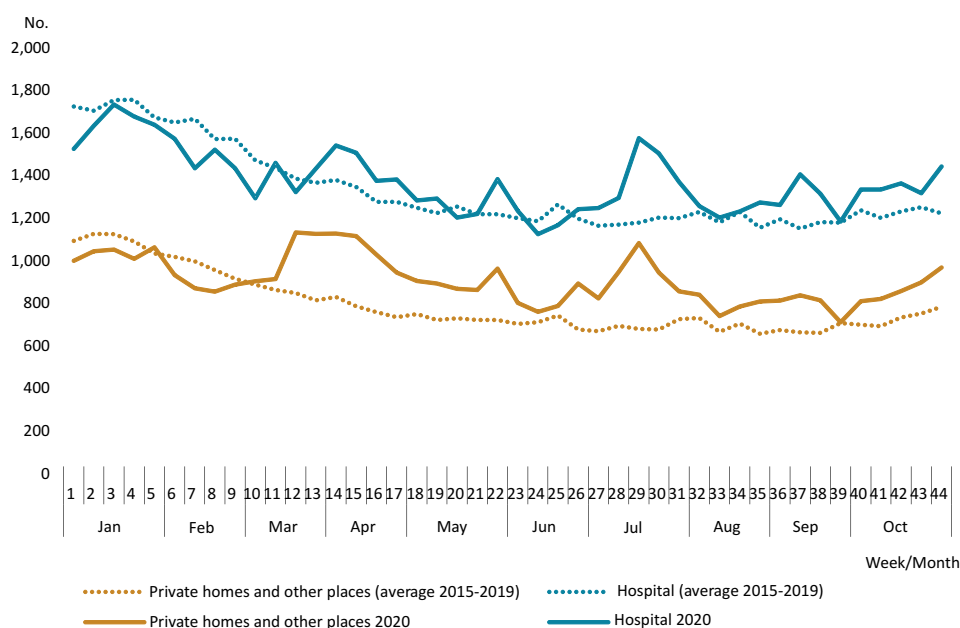


Between March 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, more than 70% of the deaths (55,024) were of people aged 75 and over. Compared to the average number of deaths observed in the same period of 2015-2019, an additional 7,449 people died aged 75 and over, of whom 5,802 were aged 85 and over.

The largest increase in the number of deaths between March 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> (weeks 10 to 44), compared to the 2015-2019 average, was recorded in the Norte region (+3,638 deaths), followed by Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (+2,400), Centro (+1,515), Alentejo (+771), Algarve (+323), Região Autónoma dos Açores (+88), and Região Autónoma da Madeira (+85).

Of the total number of deaths recorded between March 2<sup>nd</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 46,125 occurred in hospital and 31,124 outside the hospital. Concerning the average number of deaths in 2015-2019 over the same period, these figures correspond to increases of 2,868 deaths in hospitals and 5,817 deaths outside the hospital.

Deaths in 2020 and 2015-2019 average, per week and place of death



More information available at:  
[Weekly deaths – Preliminary data 2020](#)  
 (13 November 2020)



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Statistics Portugal started on 3 April 2020 the release of the "Statistics Portugal@COVID-19 Synthesis" series of highlights, aiming to provide a summary aggregation of some of the most relevant official statistical results released each week.

These reports are intended to facilitate the access to data which allow monitoring of the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by decision-makers from public and private entities as well as the general public.

Press releases between 16-11-2020 and 20-11-2020:

Press Releases	Reference period	Release date
Sea Satellite Account		16 November 2020
Tourism activity	September 2020	16 November 2020
Transport activities - Air Transport Flash Statistics	September 2020	17 November 2020
Agricultural forecasts	October 2020	18 November 2020
Industrial production price index	October 2020	18 November 2020
Monthly Economic Survey	October 2020	18 November 2020
Information and knowledge society - household survey	2020	20 November 2020