



12th February 2010

Quarterly National Accounts – Flash Estimate

4th Quarter 2009

Gross Domestic Product down by 0.8% in real terms in the 4th quarter 2009

The Flash Estimate of the Portuguese Gross Domestic Product (GDP) points to a decrease of 0.8% in volume in the 4th quarter 2009, comparing with the same quarter of the previous year (change rate of -2.5% in the previous quarter). Comparing with the previous quarter, the Portuguese GDP remained unchanged.

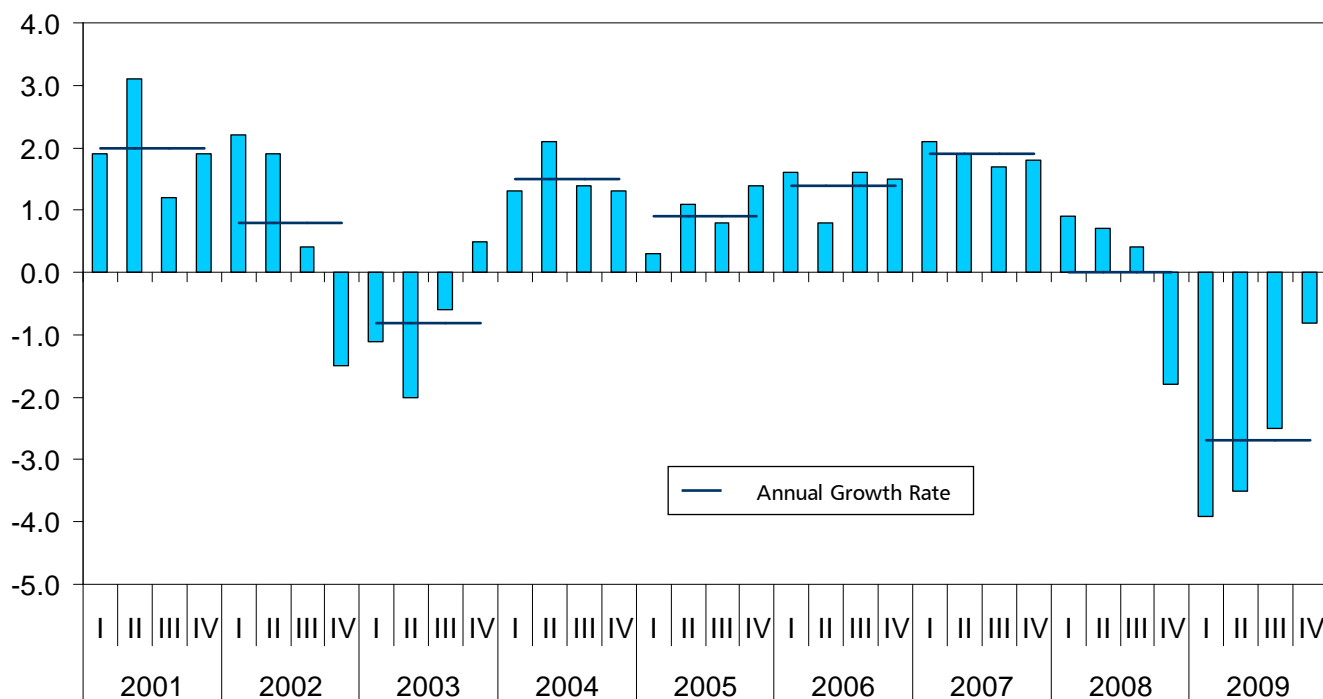
The less negative GDP year on year change rate in the 4th quarter 2009 was mainly associated to an increase of the contribution from External Demand Balance, but also to a more moderate decline of Domestic Demand.

According to the preliminary estimate, Portuguese GDP registered a decrease of 2.7% in real terms in 2009.

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 the introduction of updated data on Final Consumption Expenditures of General Government and, to a lesser extend, to the introduction of the latest data on external trade of goods, both in nominal terms and in the deflators, with impact in the GDP change rates for the three quarters of 2009 previously released.

Gross Domestic Product

Chain linked volume data (reference year=2000)

	Year on Year Quarterly Growth Rate (%)								
	4Q 07	1Q 08	2Q 08	3Q 08	4Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09
Flash 4Q 2009	1.8	0.9	0.7	0.4	-1.8	-3.9	-3.5	-2.5	-0.8
QNA 3Q 2009	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.4	-1.9	-4.0	-3.7	-2.5	
Flash 3Q 2009	1.8	1.0	0.8	0.4	-1.9	-4.0	-3.7	-2.4	

	Quarter on Quarter Growth Rate (%)								
	4Q 07	1Q 08	2Q 08	3Q 08	4Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09	3Q 09	4Q 09
Flash 4Q 2009	0.5	0.2	0.2	-0.4	-1.7	-2.0	0.6	0.6	0.0
QNA 3Q 2009	0.5	0.2	0.1	-0.5	-1.7	-2.0	0.5	0.7	
Flash 3Q 2009	0.5	0.2	0.1	-0.5	-1.7	-2.0	0.5	0.9	

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	2009
Flash 4Q 2009	1.4	1.9	0.0	-2.7
QNA 3Q 2009	1.4	1.9	0.0	

Flash - Flash Estimate (45 days)

QNA - Quarterly National Accounts (70 days)

2006: definitive data

2007 to 2009: preliminary data

Next Press Release of Quarterly National Accounts

Current estimates of Quarterly National Accounts (detailed results) for the 4th quarter 2009 will be published in 11th March 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.