



THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASED TO 6.5% AND THE LABOUR UNDERUTILISATION RATE REMAINED AT 11.7%

August 2023 (definitive estimates):

- The active population (5,286.4 thousand people) increased from July and May 2023 (0.1%, in both) and from August 2022 (1.7%).
- Similarly, the employed population (4,950.1 thousand) also increased from the three periods under comparison: 0.1%, 0.2% and 1.4%, respectively.
- The unemployed population (336.3 thousand) remained practically unchanged from the previous month, having decreased from three months before (0.7%) and increased from a year earlier (6.3%).
- The unemployment rate stood at 6.4%, the same value as in the previous month and in May 2023, but up 0.3 pp from a year earlier.
- The inactive population (2,403.0 thousand) decreased from the three periods under comparison: 0.2%, 0.2% and 2.3%, respectively.
- The labour underutilisation rate was estimated at 11.7%, up 0.1 pp from the previous month, remaining unchanged from three months before and up 0.2 pp from one year earlier.

September 2023 (provisional estimates)¹:

- The active population (5,287.3 thousand) remained almost unchanged from August 2023, having increased by 0.3% from June 2023 and by 1.6% from September 2022.
- The employed population (4,943.7 thousand) decreased by 0.1% both from the previous month, having increased by 0.2% from three months before and by 1.2% from a year earlier.
- The unemployed population (343.6 thousand) increased from August (2.2%) and June 2023 (2.7%) and from September 2022 (7.5%).
- Similarly, the unemployment rate, that stood at 6.5%, has also registered an increase from August and June 2023 (0.1 pp in both) and from September 2022 (0.4 pp).
- The inactive population (2,402.5 thousand) remained almost unchanged from the previous month, decreased from three months before (0.6%) and from one year earlier (2.1%).
- The labour underutilisation rate stood at 11.7%, the same value as in the previous month and in May 2023, having increased by 0.3 pp from the same month of 2022.

¹ The estimates for the last reference month (in this case, the quarter centred in September 2023: from August to October 2023) were calculated with incomplete information for the last month of the quarter (October 2023). These estimates will be revised next month (as described in the methodological note).



The table below presents the main indicators of the Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates.

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates (16 to 74)

Main Indicators

	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data						
		Aug 2022	Sep 2022	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)
Active population	Thousands	5,199.5	5,203.8	5,280.4	5,270.2	5,281.1	5,286.4	5,287.3
Employed population		4,883.2	4,884.2	4,941.8	4,935.6	4,944.9	4,950.1	4,943.7
Unemployed population		316.2	319.6	338.6	334.7	336.3	336.3	343.6
Inactive population		2,459.2	2,454.1	2,406.8	2,418.0	2,408.7	2,403.0	2,402.5
Labour underutilisation		618.4	612.5	635.8	635.6	631.9	633.2	634.3
Activity rate	%	67.9	68.0	68.7	68.5	68.7	68.7	68.8
Employment rate		63.8	63.8	64.3	64.2	64.3	64.4	64.3
Unemployment rate		6.1	6.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5
Inactivity rate		32.1	32.0	31.3	31.5	31.3	31.3	31.2
Labour underutilisation rate		11.5	11.4	11.7	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.7

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) – Provisional estimates.

In **August 2023**, compared to the previous month, the active population increased (5.3 thousand; 0.1%) while the inactive population decreased (5.7 thousand; 0.2%)². The evolution of the active population was due to the increase of the employed population (5.2 thousand; 0.1%) since the unemployed population remained practically unchanged. The change in the inactive population was mainly due to the decrease in the number of inactive persons looking for a job, but not available to work (4.1 thousand; 11.5%).

The increase observed in the active population compared to three months before (6.0 thousand; 0.1%) resulted from the increase of the employed population (8.3 thousand; 0.2%) which surpassed the decrease of the unemployed population (2.3 thousand; 0.7%). The inactive population decreased (3.8 thousand; 0.2%) due to the decrease in all groups that compose it, with the number of inactive persons available to work, but not looking for a job (1.8 thousand; 1.6%) standing out.

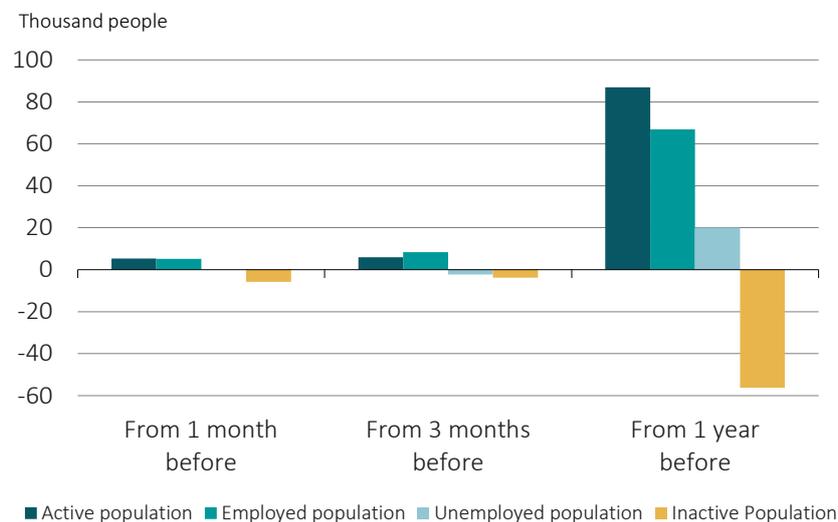
The increase of the active population (86.9 thousand; 1.7%) compared to August 2022 was also followed by an increase in the employed population (66.9 thousand; 1.4%) and in the unemployed population (20.1 thousand; 6.3%). The inactive population decreased by 56.2 thousand people (2.3%) due, essentially, to the decrease in the number of other inactive persons (42.1 thousand; 1.8%).

These results determined the following changes in the unemployment rate, which stood at 6.4% in August 2023: unchanged from the previous month and from three months before and up 0.3 pp from the same month of 2022.

² The changes in the active population and in the inactive population are not necessarily identical. They are also influenced by the total population change that result from the natural increase and the net migration.



Figure 1. Change in the active, employed, unemployed and inactive population in August 2023
(seasonally adjusted data)



Also in August 2023, labour underutilisation covered 633.2 thousand people, up from the previous month (1.3 thousand; 0.2%), down from three months before (2.6 thousand; 0.4%) and up from one year earlier (14.8 thousand; 2.4%). The labour underutilisation rate was estimated at 11.7%, up 0.1 pp from the previous month, remaining unchanged from three months before, and having increased from a year earlier (0.2 pp).

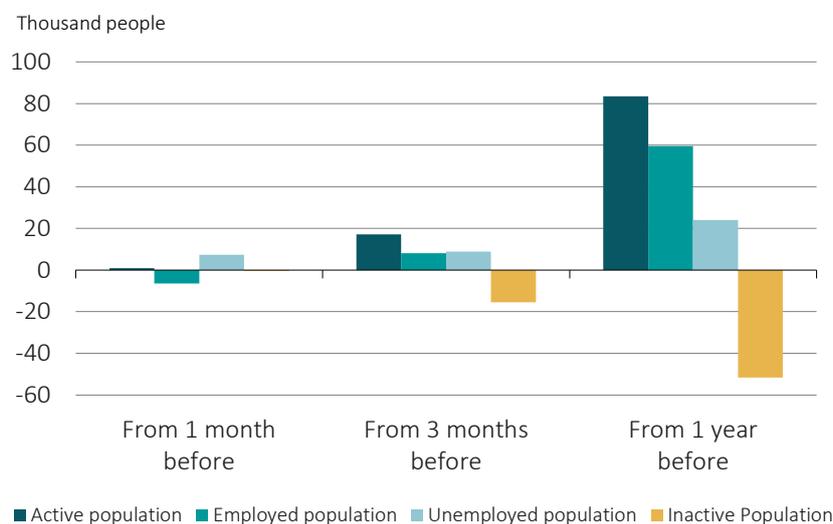
In **September 2023**, the estimated active population remained almost unchanged as did the estimated inactive population compared to the previous month. The active population evolution resulted from the increase of the unemployed population (7.3 thousand; 2.2%) being almost the same as the decrease of the employed population (6.4 thousand; 0.1%). The evolution of the inactive population was explained by the equilibrium between the groups that compose it.

The increase of 17.1 thousand people (0.3%) in the active population from three months before resulted from the increase of 8.9 thousand (2.7%) in the unemployed population and from the increase of 8.1 thousand (0.2%) in the employed population. The increase of 15.5 thousand (0.6%) in the inactive population was mainly due to the increase in the number of other inactive persons (7.8 thousand; 0.3%).

Finally, the increase in the active population (83.5 thousand; 1.6%) from September 2022 resulted from the increase both in the employed population (59.5 thousand; 1.2%) and in the unemployed population (24.0 thousand; 7.5%). The inactive population decreased by 51.6 thousand people (2.1%), mostly, due to the decrease in the number of other inactive persons (42.9 thousand; 1.9%).

These results determined the following changes in the unemployment rate, which stood at 6.5%: up from the previous month and from three months before (0.1 pp, in both) and up from the same month of 2022 by 0.4 pp.

Figure 2. Change in the active, employed, unemployed and inactive population in September 2023
(seasonally adjusted data)



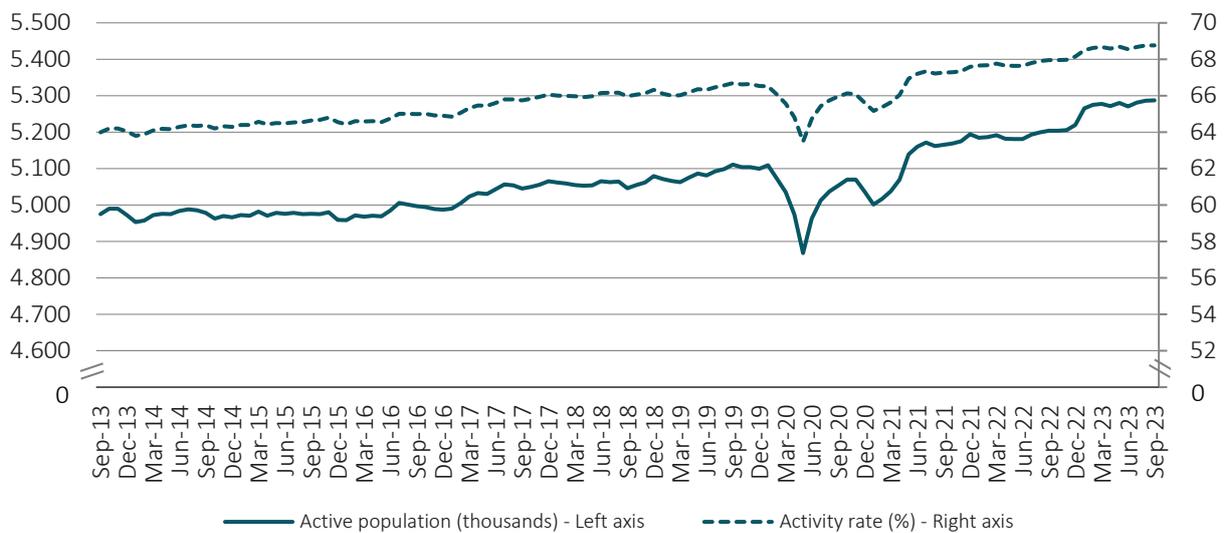
Note: The September 2023 estimates are provisional.

Also in September 2023, labour underutilisation covered 634.3 thousand people, increasing from the previous month (1.1 thousand; 0.2%), decreasing from three months before (1.3 thousand; 0.2%) and increasing from a year earlier (21.8 thousand; 3.6%). The labour underutilisation rate – estimated at 11.7% – remained unchanged from the previous month and from three months before, having increased by 0.3 pp from a year earlier.



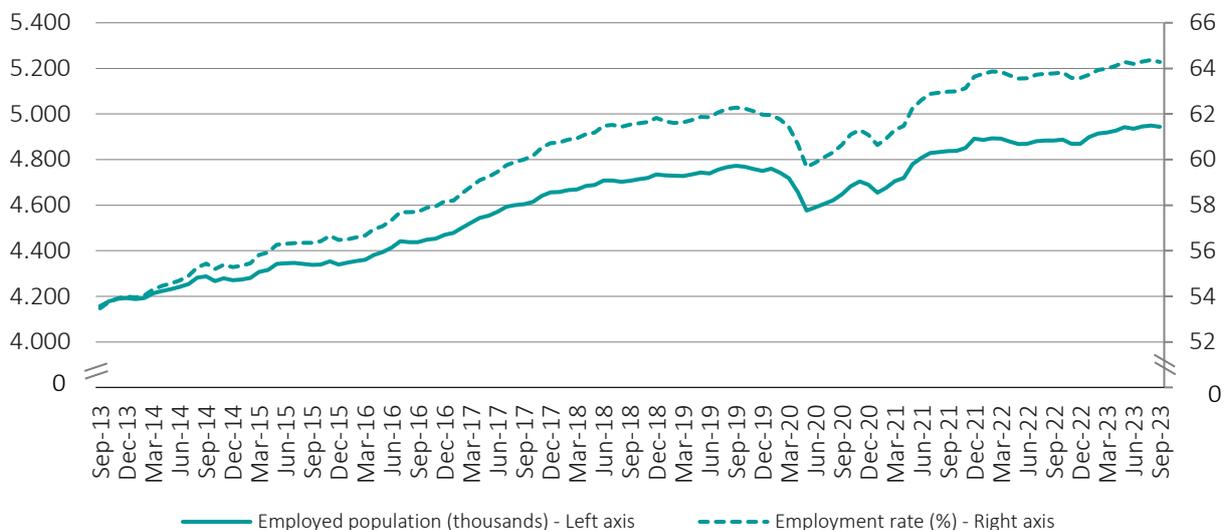
The following figures show the evolution in the last 10 years of the main indicators analysed in this Press Release. In September 2023, the activity rate recorded the highest values since the beginning of the time series in 1998 (68.8%). In the previous month (August), the employed population (4,950.1 thousand) as the employed rate (64.4%) registered the highest value since 1998.

Figure 3. Active population and activity rate
(seasonally adjusted data)



Note: The September 2023 estimates are provisional.

Figure 4. Employed population and employment rate
(seasonally adjusted data)

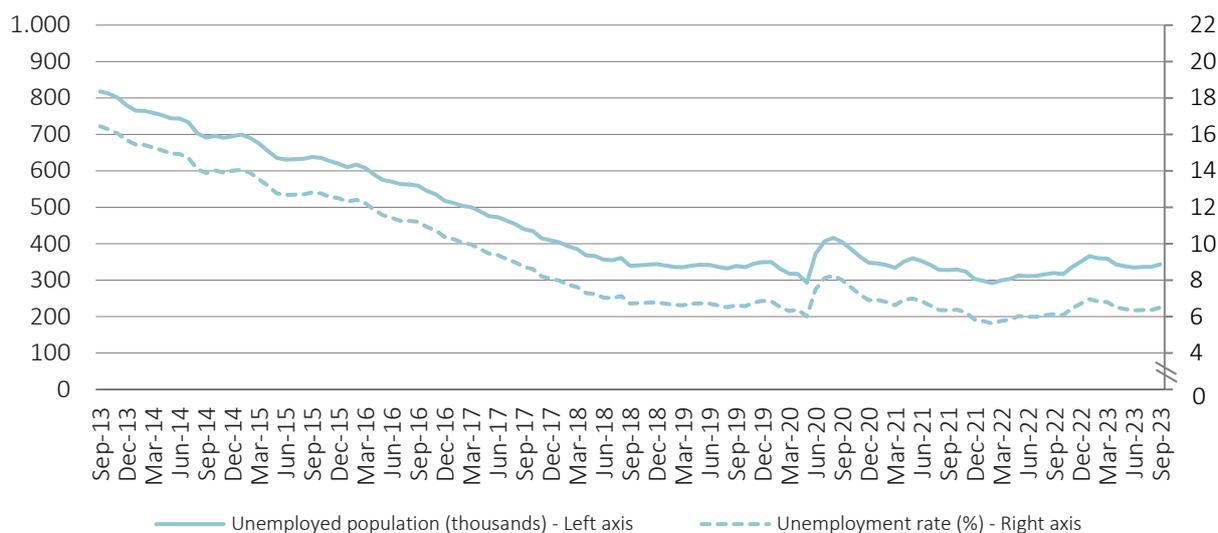


Note: The September 2023 estimates are provisional.



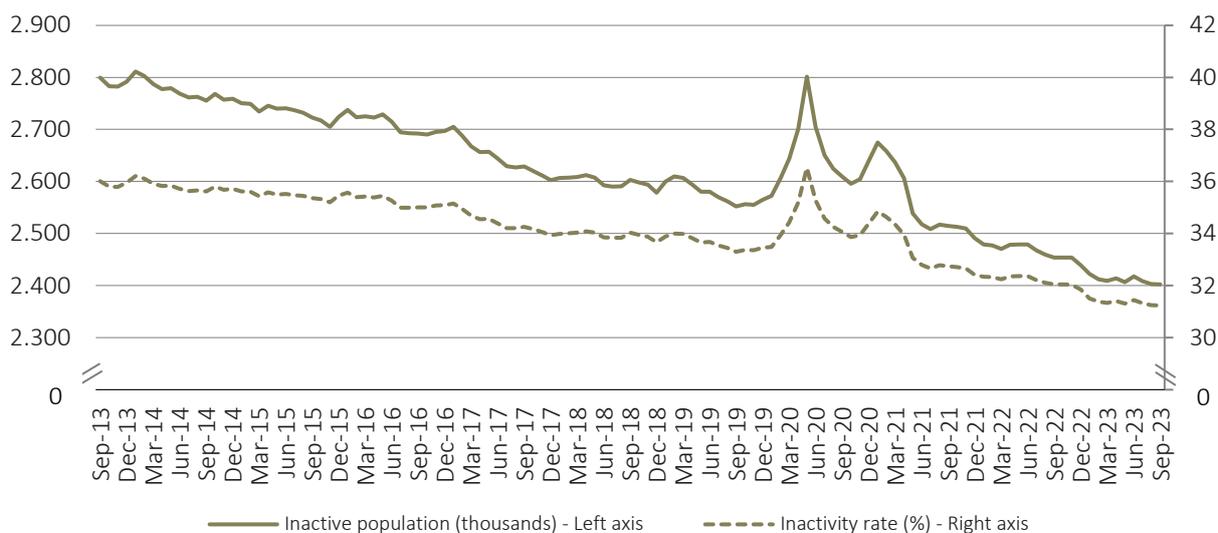
In September 2023, the unemployment rate stood at 6.5%, matching the value of April 2023, and the inactivity rate (31.2%) recorded the lowest value of the time series.

Figure 5. Unemployed population and unemployment rate
(seasonally adjusted data)



Note: The September 2023 estimates are provisional.

Figure 6. Inactive population and inactivity rate
(seasonally adjusted data)

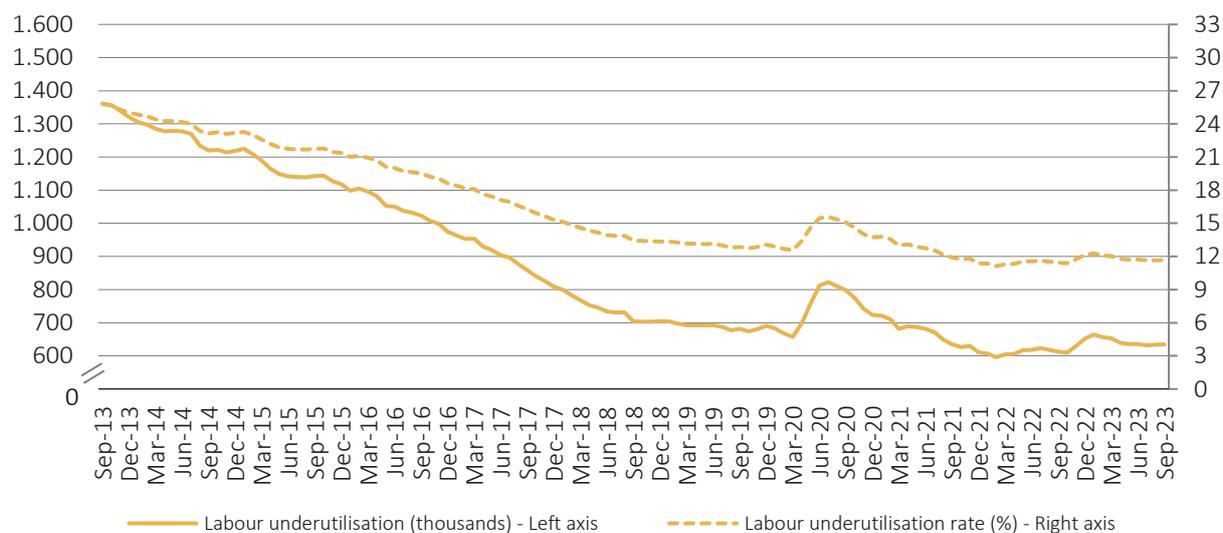


Note: The September 2023 estimates are provisional.



In September 2023, labour underutilisation increased (634.3 thousand), being closer to the value of June 2023 (635.6 thousand). The labour underutilisation rate (11.7%) remained stable and below the value of March 2023 (12.0%).

Figure 7. Labour underutilisation and labour underutilisation rate
(seasonally adjusted data)



Note: The September 2023 estimates are provisional.



Criteria used when classifying the population aged 16 to 74 by labour status

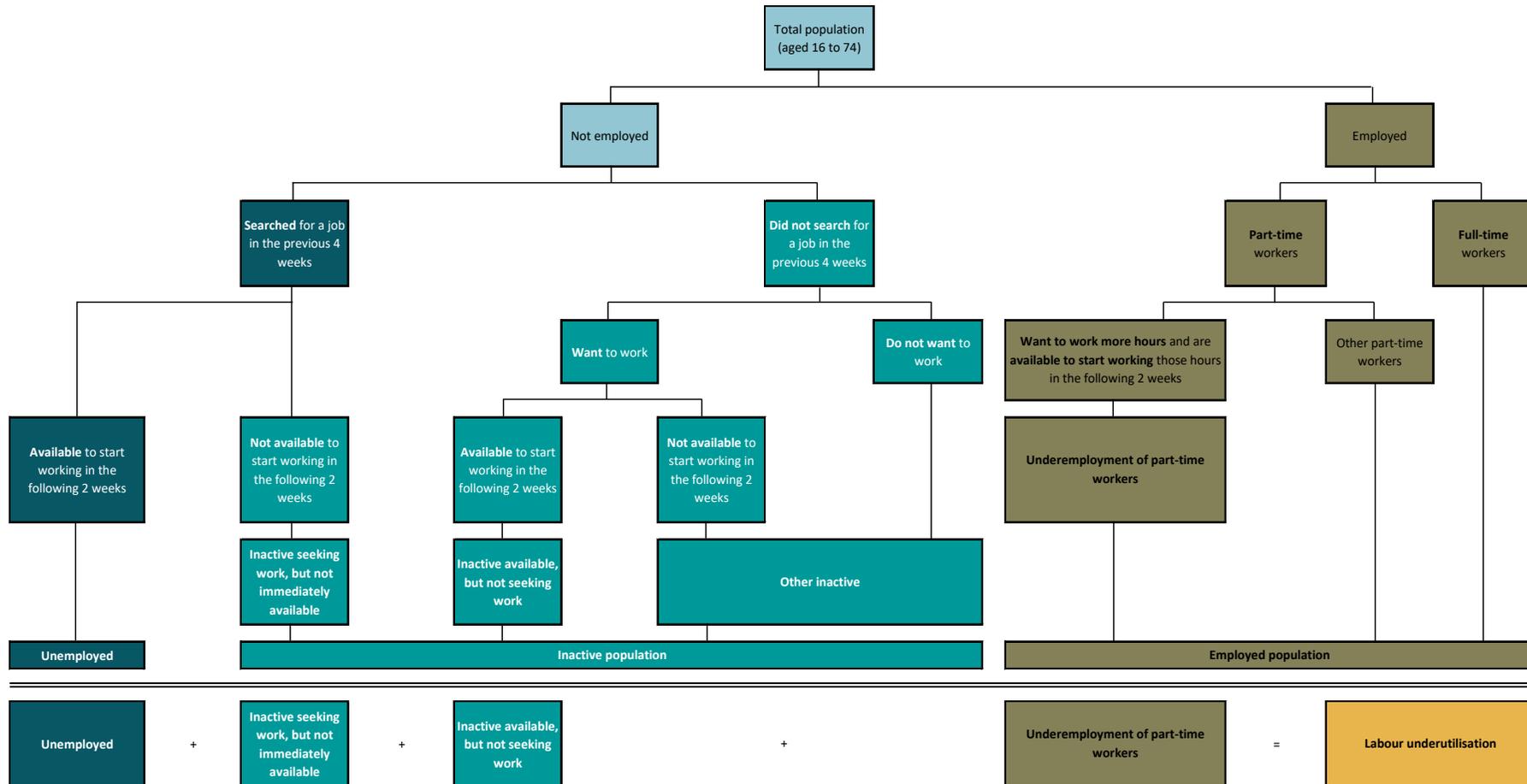




Table 1: Active population and activity rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)
	Thousands									
Active population	5,203.8	5,270.2	5,281.1	5,286.4	5,287.3	5,212.1	5,268.6	5,282.1	5,291.2	5,295.4
Men	2,607.7	2,638.4	2,647.8	2,646.0	2,644.3	2,613.8	2,637.8	2,648.5	2,649.3	2,650.3
Women	2,596.2	2,631.8	2,633.4	2,640.4	2,643.0	2,598.4	2,630.7	2,633.5	2,641.9	2,645.1
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	348.7	390.5	394.1	387.2	384.1	358.1	386.3	397.0	398.0	393.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,855.2	4,879.8	4,887.1	4,899.2	4,903.2	4,854.1	4,882.3	4,885.0	4,893.2	4,901.9
	%									
Activity rate	68.0	68.5	68.7	68.7	68.8	68.1	68.5	68.7	68.8	68.9
Men	71.4	71.8	72.0	72.0	71.9	71.6	71.8	72.0	72.1	72.1
Women	64.8	65.6	65.6	65.8	65.9	64.8	65.6	65.6	65.8	65.9
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	35.5	39.5	39.9	39.3	39.0	36.4	39.1	40.2	40.4	39.9
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	72.7	72.8	72.9	73.1	73.1	72.7	72.9	72.9	73.0	73.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) – Provisional estimates.

Table 2: Employed population and employment rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)
	Thousands									
Employed population	4,884.2	4,935.6	4,944.9	4,950.1	4,943.7	4,891.8	4,956.2	4,967.8	4,965.8	4,951.3
Men	2,459.1	2,478.0	2,485.4	2,488.2	2,484.2	2,468.4	2,487.7	2,499.2	2,500.8	2,493.6
Women	2,425.1	2,457.6	2,459.5	2,462.0	2,459.5	2,423.4	2,468.6	2,468.6	2,465.0	2,457.7
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	283.4	319.0	314.8	308.8	308.5	287.4	322.0	322.0	317.6	312.4
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,600.8	4,616.5	4,630.1	4,641.4	4,635.2	4,604.4	4,634.2	4,645.8	4,648.1	4,638.8
	%									
Employment rate	63.8	64.2	64.3	64.4	64.3	63.9	64.5	64.6	64.6	64.4
Men	67.4	67.4	67.6	67.7	67.6	67.6	67.7	68.0	68.0	67.8
Women	60.5	61.2	61.3	61.4	61.3	60.5	61.5	61.5	61.4	61.3
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	28.8	32.3	31.9	31.3	31.3	29.2	32.6	32.6	32.2	31.7
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	68.9	68.9	69.1	69.2	69.1	69.0	69.2	69.3	69.3	69.2

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) – Provisional estimates.



Table 3: Unemployed population and unemployment rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data					
	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	
	Thousands										
Unemployed population	319.6	334.7	336.3	336.3	343.6	320.4	312.3	314.3	325.5	344.1	
Men	148.6	160.5	162.3	157.9	160.1	145.4	150.2	149.3	148.6	156.7	
Women	171.0	174.2	173.9	178.4	183.5	175.0	162.1	164.9	176.9	187.4	
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	65.3	71.4	79.3	78.5	75.6	70.7	64.3	75.0	80.4	81.0	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	254.4	263.2	257.0	257.8	268.0	249.7	248.0	239.2	245.0	263.1	
	%										
Unemployment rate	6.1	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.2	6.5	
Men	5.7	6.1	6.1	6.0	6.1	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.9	
Women	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.2	6.3	6.7	7.1	
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	18.7	18.3	20.1	20.3	19.7	19.7	16.6	18.9	20.2	20.6	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	5.2	5.4	5.3	5.3	5.5	5.1	5.1	4.9	5.0	5.4	

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) – Provisional estimates.

Table 4: Inactive population and inactivity rate by sex and age group (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data					
	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	
	Thousands										
Inactive population	2,454.1	2,418.0	2,408.7	2,403.0	2,402.5	2,445.8	2,419.6	2,407.8	2,398.2	2,394.4	
Men	1,042.3	1,036.5	1,028.6	1,030.8	1,033.0	1,036.2	1,037.1	1,027.9	1,027.5	1,027.1	
Women	1,411.8	1,381.4	1,380.1	1,372.2	1,369.5	1,409.6	1,382.5	1,379.9	1,370.6	1,367.3	
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	633.9	596.9	593.0	599.0	601.5	624.5	601.0	590.0	588.2	592.1	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	1,820.1	1,821.1	1,815.7	1,804.0	1,801.0	1,821.2	1,818.6	1,817.8	1,810.0	1,802.3	
	%										
Inactivity rate	32.0	31.5	31.3	31.3	31.2	31.9	31.5	31.3	31.2	31.1	
Men	28.6	28.2	28.0	28.0	28.1	28.4	28.2	28.0	27.9	27.9	
Women	35.2	34.4	34.4	34.2	34.1	35.2	34.4	34.4	34.2	34.1	
Youth (aged 16 to 24)	64.5	60.5	60.1	60.7	61.0	63.6	60.9	59.8	59.6	60.1	
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	27.3	27.2	27.1	26.9	26.9	27.3	27.1	27.1	27.0	26.9	

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) – Provisional estimates.



Table 5: Labour underutilisation and labour underutilisation rate (16 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)	Sep 2022	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Sep 2023 (p)
	Thousands									
Labour underutilisation	612.5	635.6	631.9	633.2	634.3	600.2	615.1	605.4	622.0	628.6
Unemployed population	319.6	334.7	336.3	336.3	343.6	320.4	312.3	314.3	325.5	344.1
Underemployed part-time workers	141.5	150.6	145.8	151.3	147.9	130.0	152.3	143.3	148.5	142.5
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	27.5	35.1	35.5	31.4	29.3	27.5	35.1	35.5	31.4	29.3
Persons available to work but not seeking	123.8	115.2	114.4	114.3	113.5	122.4	115.4	112.4	116.6	112.7
	%									
Labour underutilisation rate	11.4	11.7	11.6	11.7	11.7	11.2	11.4	11.1	11.4	11.6

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) – Provisional estimates.



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

The main purpose of the Labour Force Survey is to classify the population in terms of their participation in the labour market. It is a quarterly sample survey, addressed to all persons living in the national territory.

Most of the characteristics observed in this survey report to the situation in one pre-defined week (from Monday to Sunday), known as reference week. The reference weeks are uniformly distributed throughout the quarters and years. The interviews usually take place in the week following the reference week.

The information is obtained directly, through computer-assisted interview by using a mixed data collection mode: the initial interview is done face-to-face by an interviewer visiting the household and the other five interviews are done by telephone if certain requirements are met. It should be noticed that, following the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures adopted by the competent authorities, Statistics Portugal has decided, between the first fortnight of March 2020 and the end of the collection of the 2nd quarter of 2022, to suspend the face-to-face collection mode, replacing it exclusively with telephone interviews.

Published data were calibrated by using the population estimates calculated from the final results of Census 2011.

MONTHLY EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES

In 2014, Statistics Portugal initiated a monthly release of Labour Force Survey estimates for the main labour market indicators in addition to the usual quarterly estimates' releases.

With this initiative, Statistics Portugal intends to provide to users monthly updated information on labour market recent developments, allowing, at the same time, a more complete reading picture than that provided so far by Eurostat in its monthly releases of the unemployed population and unemployment rate estimates for Portugal. With this dissemination, Statistics Portugal also satisfies a specific requirement from the PEEIs (Principal European Economic Indicators).

Taking advantage of the continuous nature of the Labour Force Survey collection process, it is possible to monthly obtain estimates related to successive sets of three months (moving quarters), assuring consistency with the quarterly released estimates.

The monthly estimates refer to centred moving quarters, where the reference month (m) corresponds to the central month of each moving quarter. In fact, the reference month of each Press Release corresponds to the central month of the quarter composed by m-1, m and m+1 months. Therefore, the monthly changes are calculated on values that contain common months. Therefore, the comparison of moving quarters without common months should be done in relation to reference months three months earlier.



The option for disseminating centred moving quarters series aimed at avoiding delays in the detection of turning points in the economic cycle that arise from the use of simple moving averages, but it implies that the estimates for the latest released moving quarter are provisional (see “Revisions” section below).

As estimates of centred moving quarters, the values (not seasonally adjusted) of the reference months February, May, August, and November of each year correspond to the estimates of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th natural quarters, respectively, whose results are published and analysed with greater detail in the quarterly releases of the Labour Force Survey estimates.

The estimates for the last reference month are always provisional, as they correspond to a moving quarter where for the third month the data collection is not completed yet. In fact, for the first two months (m-1 and m) the data collection from the Labour Force Survey is already completed, while for the third month (m+1) only partially collected data are available.

In this context, in each monthly Press Release the provisional estimates for the reference month and the revised estimates for the previous months are published, due the availability of complete information for the last moving quarter.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The data series selected for monthly releases refer to both employed and unemployed population, by sex and age group, and to the corresponding rates. In relation to these data series, it should be noted the following:

- Unless otherwise stated, the data series analysed in this Press Release are seasonally adjusted. For this reason, the analysis focuses on the comparison with the most recent periods. As agreed, Eurostat started using these estimates in its unemployment monthly releases. The original data series (not seasonally adjusted; as in the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases), are available in Tables of the annex.
- The indicators analysed in this Press Release were calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 16 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release), which differs from the criterion adopted at the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases (people aged 16 to 89, in line with the concepts in force of the International Labour Organization).

The back series for all the released and analysed indicators in this Press Release, since February 1998 (quarter from January to March 1998), are available at Statistics Portugal website and the links to them can be found in the Excel file released together with this Press Release.

Due to rounding, totals may not correspond exactly to the sum of the parts.

REVISIONS

The monthly released data are subject to regular revisions, as previously mentioned. The revisions come from obtaining the final estimates for the previous reference month (moving quarter) due to the conclusion of its last month collection process. Therefore, in each Press Release the not seasonally adjusted final estimates for the previous reference month are published. In addition, are also presented the final estimates resulting from updating of the seasonally adjusted data series whenever a new observation is added.



Revision of August 2023 estimates (16 to 74)

- main indicators -

	Unit	Seasonally adjusted data	Not seasonally adjusted data
Active population		11.8	10.0
Employed population		2.1	2.5
Unemployed population	Thousands	9.6	7.5
Inactive population		- 11.8	- 10.0
Labour underutilisation		11.9	13.5
Employment rate		0.1	0.1
Unemployment rate		0.2	0.2
Men's unemployment rate		0.2	0.1
Women's unemployment rate	pp	0.2	0.2
Youth unemployment rate (16 to 24)		0.0	0.0
Adults' unemployment rate (25 to 74)		0.2	0.1
Labour underutilisation rate		0.2	0.2

SOME CONCEPTS

Unemployed: person aged 16 and 74 who during the reference period met simultaneously the following conditions:

- neither had a job nor was at work;
- had actively sought work, i.e., had actively searched for a paid or unpaid job during the specified period (reference period or the three previous weeks); and
- was available for a paid or unpaid job.

Employed: person aged 16 to 89 who, during the reference period, was in one of the following situations:

- worked for at least one hour for a wage or salary, in cash or in kind (including unpaid family work);
- had a formal attachment to his/her job but was not at work temporarily;
- was in early retirement but working in the reference week.

Working age resident population: Resident population aged 16 to 89.

Active: person aged 16 to 89 who, during the reference period, furnish the supply of labour force for the production of economic goods and services (was employed or unemployed).

Labour force: population formed by all active persons.

Extended labour force: corresponds to the labour force enlarged by the inactive seeking work but not immediately available and the inactive available but not seeking work.



Labour underutilisation: indicator that aggregates the unemployed population, the underemployment of part-time workers, the inactive seeking work but not immediately available, and the inactive available but not seeking work.

Unemployment rate: rate that defines the relation between the unemployed population and the labour force.

$$\text{U.R. (\%)} = (\text{Unemployed population} / \text{Labour force}) \times 100$$

Employment rate: rate that defines the relation between the employed population and the working age population.

$$\text{E.R. (\%)} = (\text{Employed population} / \text{Working age population}) \times 100$$

Activity rate of the working age population: rate that defines the relation between the labour force and the working age population.

$$\text{A.R. (\%)} = (\text{Labour force} / \text{Working age population}) \times 100$$

Inactivity rate of the working age population: rate that defines the relation between the working age inactive population and the working age population.

$$\text{I.R. (\%)} = (\text{Working age inactive population} / \text{Working age population}) \times 100$$

Labour underutilisation rate: rate that defines the relation between the labour underutilisation and the extended labour force.

$$\text{L.U.R. (\%)} = (\text{Labour underutilisation} / \text{Extended labour force}) \times 100$$

For the indicators selected for monthly dissemination, it was considered the age subgroup of those aged 16 to 74.

For a more detailed definition of the concepts and methodological features of this statistical operation, consult the [Labour Force Survey](#) or the [Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates](#) methodological documents (both only in Portuguese) available at Statistics Portugal website.

Next Press Release

29 November 2023: “Monthly Employment and Unemployment Statistics – October 2023”.

30 November 2023: Eurostat News Release.
