2 June 2020

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates

April 2020

March's unemployment rate stood at 6.2% and the labour underutilisation rate stood at 12.4%

In March 2020, the unemployment rate stood at 6.2%, having decreased by 0.2 percentage points (pp) from the previous month, by 0.5 pp from three months before and by 0.3 pp from the same month of 2019.[1]

In comparison to the previous month, the unemployed population has decreased by 14.4 thousand people (4.3%) and the employed population has decreased by 26.2 thousand people (0.5%). The active population has decreased by 40.6 thousand people (0.8%) and the inactive population has increased by 39.5 thousand (1.5%). This evolution suggests a flow from both the employed population and the unemployed population to the inactive population.

In that month, the labour underutilisation was estimated at 663.6 thousand people, corresponding to a labour underutilisation rate of 12.4%. The labour underutilisation is an 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[2]. Due to the mobility restrictions associated with the pandemic, the analysis of this indicator is particularly relevant in this context.

In April 2020, the provisional estimate of the unemployment rate stood at 6.3%, having increased by 0.1 pp from the previous month. The provisional estimate of the labour underutilisation rate was 13.3%, up 0.9 pp from the month before.

The information in this Press release is influenced by the current situation determined by the pandemic COVID-19, either by the natural disturbance associated with the impact of the pandemic in obtaining primary information or by the behavioural changes resulting from the measures adopted to safeguard public health (for more, see page 6). For these reasons, Statistics Portugal advices special care in the analysis of the provisional estimates.

Despite the circumstances, Statistics Portugal will try to maintain the statistical production and release calendar, although some adjustments might occur. We reinforce our call for better collaboration by citizens, private and public entities in answering to Statistics Portugal's requests. The quality of official statistics, particularly its ability to identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, depends crucially on this collaboration that Statistics Portugal is grateful for in advance.

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[1] In the estimates published on this Press Release, obtained as described in the Technical Note (annex), it was considered the population aged 15 to 74 and the values were seasonally adjusted (unless otherwise stated).

[2] For a more detail definition of these indicators, read the publication *"Estatísticas do Emprego – 2.º trimestre de 2012"* (only available in Portuguese) – chapter 4 (Concepts) and 6 (Theme under analysis) available at: http://www.ine.pt/xurl/pub/143643471. The labour underutilisation is used by the International Labour Organization (ILO) as a suplementar indicator of the official unemployment rate, maintaining the unemployment rate concept unchanged (https://ilostat.ilo.org).

INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates **Main indicators**								
	Unit	**Seasonally adjusted data**						
		Mar 2019	**Apr 2019**	**Dec 2019**	**Jan 2020**	**Feb 2020**	**Mar 2020**	**Apr 2020 (p)**
Active population (15 to 74)	Thousands	5,171.8	5,179.9	5,193.9	5,209.0	5,170.2	5,129.6	5,073.8
Employed population (15 to 74)		4,837.5	4,839.0	4,846.1	4,857.0	4,838.6	4,812.4	4,754.3
Unemployed population (15 to 74)		334.2	340.9	347.8	352.0	331.6	317.2	319.4
Inactive population (15 to 74)		2,600.1	2,591.1	2,570.6	2,571.9	2,610.3	2,649.8	2,706.3
Labour underutilisation (15 to 74)		706.3	699.0	676.0	669.6	665.1	663.6	709.8
Employment rate (15 to 74)	%	62.2	62.3	62.4	62.4	62.2	61.9	61.1
Unemployment rate (15 to 74)		6.5	6.6	6.7	6.8	6.4	6.2	6.3
Inactivity rate (15 to 74)		33.5	33.3	33.1	33.1	33.5	34.1	34.8
Labour underutilisation rate (15 to 74)		13.1	13.0	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4	13.3

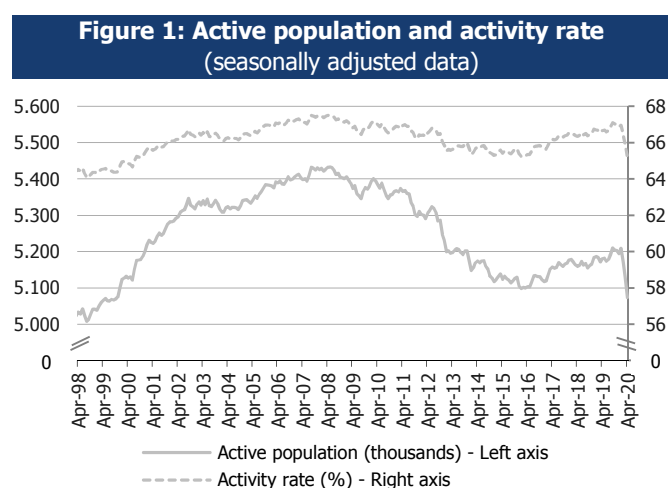**Source:** Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

A. Active population and activity rate

In March 2020, the active population – estimated at 5,129.6 thousand people – has decreased by 0.8% both from February 2020 and from March 2019 (40.6 thousand and 42.2 thousand, respectively) and by 1.2% (64.3 thousand) from December 2019 (three months before).

Figure 1: Active population and activity rate
(seasonally adjusted data)

— Active population (thousands) - Left axis
---- Activity rate (%) - Right axis

Note: The April 2020 estimates are provisional.

In April 2020, the provisional estimate of the active population stood at 5 073.8 thousand people, having decreased by 1.1% (55.8 thousand) from the month before, by 2.6% (135.2 thousand) from three months before and by 2.0% (106.1 thousand) from the same month of 2019.

The activity rate that stood at 65.2%, having decreased by 0.7 percentage points (pp) when compared to the previous month, by 1.7 pp from three months before and by 1.5% from the same period of the year before.
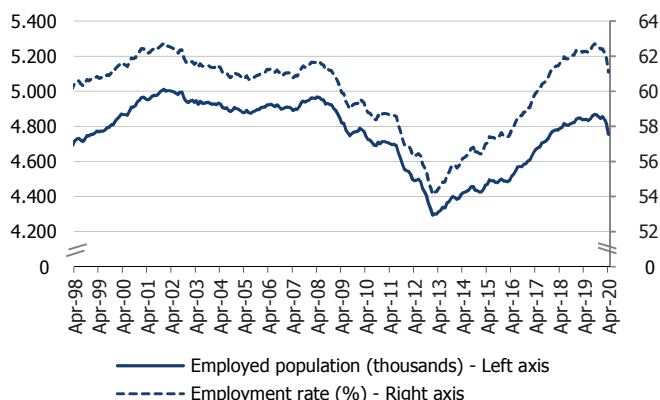
B. Employed population and employment rate

In March 2020, the employed population estimate was 4,812.4 thousand people, having decreased by 0.5% from the previous month and from March 2019 (26.2 thousand and 25.1 thousand, respectively) and by 0.7% (33.7 thousand) from three months before (December 2019).

In April 2020, the provisional estimate for the employed population, which stood at 4,754.3 thousand people, has decreased by 1.2% (58.1 thousand) from the previous month, by 2.1% (102.7 thousand) from January 2020 and by 1.8% (84.7 thousand) from the same period of 2019.

The employment rate – estimated at 61.1% – has decreased by 0.8 pp from the previous month, by 1.3 pp from three months before and by 1.2 pp from April 2019.

Figure 2: Employed population and employment rate (seasonally adjusted data)

Note: The April 2020 estimates are provisional.

C. Unemployed population and unemployment rate

In March 2020, the unemployed population estimate was 317.2 thousand people, having decreased by 4.3% (14.4 thousand) from February 2020, by 8.8% (30.6 thousand) from December 2019 (three months before) and by 5.1% (17.0 thousand) when comparing to March 2019.

The unemployment rate of March 2020 stood at 6.2%, having decreased by 0.2 pp from the previous month, by 0.5 pp from December 2019 and by 0.3 pp from March 2019.
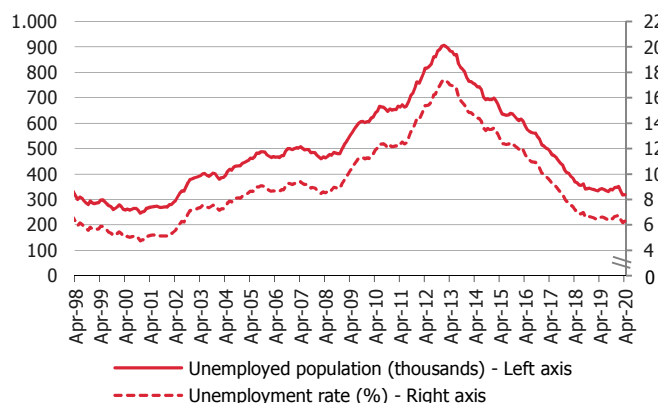
In April 2020, the unemployed population – estimated provisionally at 319.4 thousand people – has increased by 0.7% (2.2 thousand) from the previous month and has decreased by 9.3% (32.6 thousand) from three

months before and by 6.3% (21.5 thousand) when compared to one year before.

In April 2020, the provisional estimate for the unemployment rate was 6.3% and it has increased by 0.1 pp from the previous month's level and has decreased by 0.5 pp from three months before and by 0.3 pp from April 2019.

The youth unemployment rate stood at 20.2%, corresponding to an increase of 1.9 pp from March 2019. The adults' unemployment rate estimate was 5.3% and remained unchanged from the previous month.

Figure 3: Unemployed population and unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted data)

Note: The April 2020 estimates are provisional.
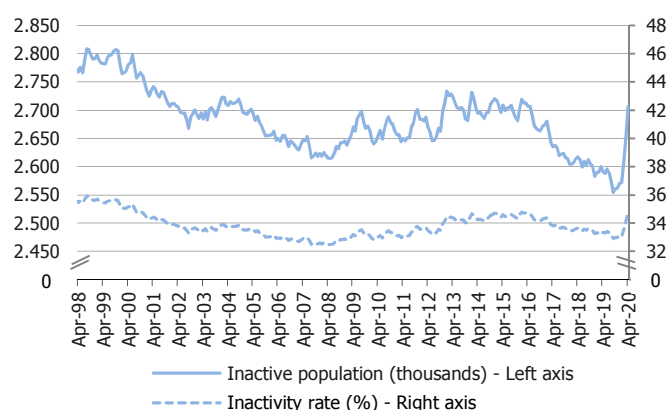
D. Inactive population and inactivity rate

In March 2020, the inactive population – estimated at 2,649.8 thousand people – has increased by 1.5% (39.5 thousand) from February 2020, by 3.1 pp (79.2 thousands) from three months before and by 1.9% (49.7 thousand) from the same month of 2019.

In April 2020, the inactive population – estimated provisionally at 2,706.3 thousand people – has

increased by 2.1% (56.5 thousand) from the previous month, by 5.2% (134.4 thousand) from three months before and by 4.4% (115.2 thousand) compared to one year before.

The inactivity rate, which stood at 34.8%, has increased by 0.7 pp when compared to March 2020, by 1.7 pp from January of the same year and by 1.5 pp from April 2019.

Figure 4: Inactive population and inactivity rate
(seasonally adjusted data)

Inactive population (thousands) - Left axis
Inactivity rate (%) - Right axis

Note: The April 2020 estimates are provisional.

E. Supplementary indicators to unemployment and the labour underutilisation

To improve the analysis of the labour market during the COVID-19 pandemic, Statistics Portugal starts the publication, as in the quarterly Employment Statistics Press Release, monthly estimates of the labour underutilisation and the unemployment supplementary indicators that it includes.

The labour underutilisation is an 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[4]. This indicator is supplemented by its corresponding rate – the labour underutilisation rate[5].

With this indicator, Statistics Portugal provides its data users a broader measure of the labour underutilisation than the more restrictive measure given by the official unemployment rate.

In March 2020, the labour underutilisation was estimated at 663.6 thousand people, having decreased by 0.2% (1.5 thousand) from the month before, by 1.8 % (12.4 thousand) from three months before and 6.0% (42.7 thousand) when compared to the same month of 2019.

The labour underutilisation rate of March 2020 was 12.4%, remaining unchanged from February 2020 and having decreased by 0.2 pp from December 2019 and by 0.7 pp from March 2019.
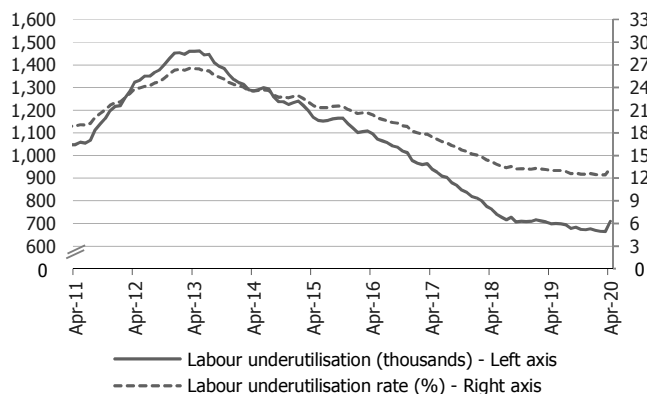
In April 2020, the provisional estimate of labour underutilisation stood at 709.8 thousand people, having increased by 7.0% (46.2 thousand) when compared to the estimate of March 2020, by 6.0% (40.2 thousand) from three months before and by 1.5%(10.8 thousand) from April 2019.

The provisional estimate of the labour underutilisation rate of April 2020 stood at 13.3% and it has increased by 0.9 pp from the month before, by 0.8 pp from January of the same year and by 0.3 pp from April 2019.

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[4] For a more detail definition of these indicators, read the publication *"Estatísticas do Emprego – 2.º trimestre de 2012"* (only available in Portuguese) – chapter 4 (Concepts) and 6 (Theme under analysis) available at: http://www.ine.pt/xurl/pub/143643471

[5] See concepts in the Technical Note.

Figure 5: Labour underutilisation and labour underutilisation rate
(seasonally adjusted data)

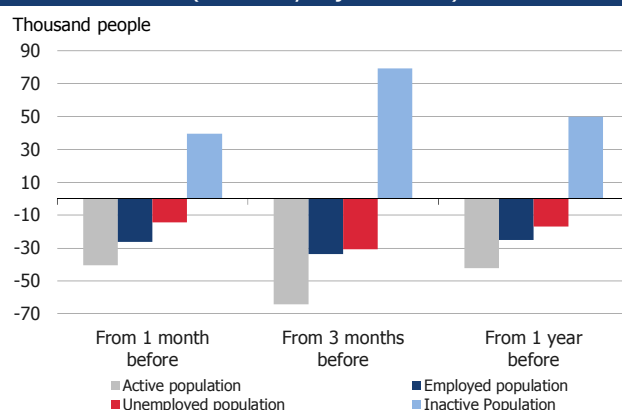Note: The April 2020 estimates are provisional.

In summary (Figure 6), in March 2020, from the previous month, the active population has decreased (40.6 thousand) while the active population has increased (39.5 thousand) [6] . The active population decrease was due to the decrease in the employed population (26.2 thousand) and in the unemployed population (14.4 thousand), having the former explained 64.5% of that decrease.

Compared to three months before, the decrease of the active population (64.3 thousand) was due to the decrease observed both in the employed population (33.7 thousand) and in the unemployed population (30.6 thousand). The inactive population increased by 79.2 thousand people.

The same is observed when compared to March 2019; in which the active population decrease (42.2 thousand) was explained by the decreases observed both in the employed population (25.1 thousand) and in the

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[6] The changes in the active population and in the inactive population are not necessarily symmetrical. They are also influenced by the total population change that results from the natural balance and the net migration.

unemployed population (17.0 thousand). The inactive population has increased by 49.7 thousand people.

Figure 6: Change in the active, employed, unemployed and inactive population in March 2020
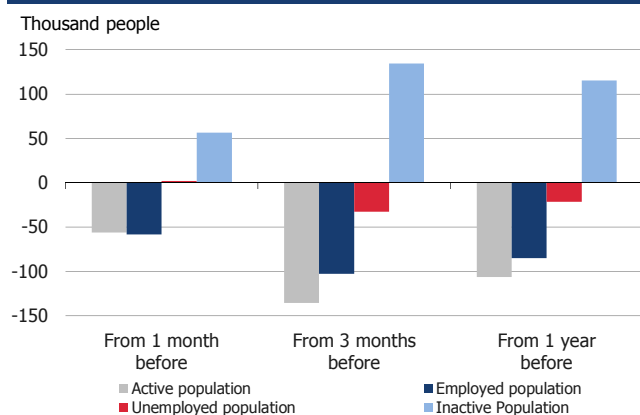(seasonally adjusted data)

Regarding the provisional estimates of April 2020 (Figure 7), the active population monthly decrease (55.8 thousand) was due to the decrease in the employed population (58.1 thousand) having more than compensated the slight increase in the unemployed population (2.2 thousand). In turn, the inactive population increased by 56.5 thousand people. Almost all of this increase (48.2 thousand) came from the increase in the number of persons seeking work but not immediately available.

When comparing to three months before, the decrease of the active population (135.2 thousand) was due to the decrease observed in the employed population (102.7 thousand) and in the unemployed population (32.6 thousand). On the other hand, the inactive population has increased by 134.4 thousand. The largest share of this increase (87.7 thousand) came from the increase in the number of persons available to work but not seeking.

The same was observed when comparing to March 2019; in which the active population has also decreased (106.1 thousand) due to the decreases observed both in the employed population (84.7 thousand) and in the unemployed population (21.5 thousand). The inactive population has increased by 115.2 thousand people. The majority of this increase (56.8 thousand) was due to the increase in the number of persons available to work but not seeking.

Figure 7: Change in the active, employed, unemployed and inactive population in April 2020
(seasonally adjusted data)

Note: The April 2020 estimates are provisional.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the results of Labour Force Survey published in this Press release

Since mid-March 2020, some measures have been taken to safeguard the public health due to COVID-19 pandemic, which have affected the way the Labour Force Survey interviews are conducted, the normal functioning of the labour market and, therefore, the monthly employment and unemployment estimates of the March and April 2020.

In particular, the declaration of a state of emergency led to the temporary closure of several enterprises and restricted the free movement of persons, and it was accompanied by the closure of schools, which led many parents to stay at home (even if they could not work remotely from there) to take care of their children. At the same time, measures have been taken to protect workers' jobs, such as the new layoff regime with simpler rules.

Although these measures have been put in place only in the last weeks of March, the results published in this Press Release have already been affected, since the population movements were quite limited. It should be noticed that the monthly estimates correspond to moving quarters, whose reference month is the central month of each of these quarters[7]. Thus, the definite estimates of March 2020 comprise the months of February, March and April, while the provisional estimates of April 2020 include the months of March, April and May. Therefore, the impact of the pandemic on the labour market statistics is more evident in the provisional estimates for April than in the definitive estimates for March. However, being provisional estimates, they are subject to revision that, in times of uncertainty as the current ones, may be substantial.

As explained in section B of the Press Release "Employment Estimates - 1st quarter 2020", released on 6 May 2020, one of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the results of the Labour Force Survey relates to the classification of people according to their Labour Status. In fact, persons previously classified as unemployed and those whot actually lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and that in normal circumstances would be considered as unemployed, may now be classified as inactive due to restrictions on mobility, reduction or even interruption of the normal channels of information on job vacancies as a result of the partial or even total closure of a very significant proportion of enterprises, reasons for which they have not actively search for a job (which is an essential criterion for their classification as unemployed; for more details, see the concept of unemployed in the Technical Note). Also, the non-availability to start working in the reference week or in the two following weeks, if they had found a job, because they had to take care of children or other dependents or because they fell ill due to the pandemic, leads those persons to be now part of the inactive population.

Likewise, persons previously classified as employed may now fail to meet the criteria of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), whose operationalisation is harmonised within the European Union together with Eurostat, and those criteria are required to be part of the employed population (for more details, see the concept of employed in the

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[7] For more information, please see the Technical Note.

Technical Note). Therefore, those persons may now be considered as not employed (this is, as unemployed or as inactive). This is the case of persons who are absent from work due to a reduction in the economic activity or to layoff for an estimated duration of more than 3 months while earning a salary of less than 50% of the usual one. Nonetheless, the measures have been taken to safeguard the public health due to COVID-19 pandemic covered a large number of people potentially in this situation, keep them in the employed population[8].

Given the above, the decrease of the employed and of the unemployed populations observed in the moving quarter centred in March 2020 can be partially explained by the current social and economic environment and were reflected in the decrease of the active population and in the almost equivalent increase of the inactive population[9]. The interpretation of labour market developments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the change of the unemployment rate, computed according to the ILO concept, observed in the moving quarter centred in March, cannot be dissociated from the increase in the inactivity rate.

On the other hand, the slight monthly increase of the unemployed population and of the unemployment rate, suggested by the provisional estimates of April 2020, seem to be a consequence of the measures adopted in May to reopen the economy. The transition from the emergency state to the calamity state has enabled the reopening of various economic activities, while the self-isolation duty became not as restrictive as before. This may have made possible the beginning of the fulfilment of the criteria of active job search and willingness to start working, essential for the classification of non-employed people in the active population as unemployed.

Compliance with at least one of these criteria was also reflected in the monthly increase observed in the April's labour underutilisation indicator, as this increase was explained by the increases observed in the number of unemployed persons, of persons seeking work but not immediately available to start working and of persons available to work but not seeking (see Table 5). Nevertheless, it should be stressed that these estimates are provisional and subject to revision.

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[8] For a detailed analysis, see section B. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the results of the Labour Force Survey in the Press release "Employment Statistics – 1st quarter 2020", available at Statistics Portugal website.

[9] The changes in the active population and in the inactive population are not necessarily symmetrical. They are also influenced by the total population change that results from the natural balance and the net migration.

Table 1: Active population and active rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)
	Thousands									
Active population (15 to 74)	**5,179.9**	**5,209.0**	**5,170.2**	**5,129.6**	**5,073.8**	**5,180.6**	**5,181.3**	**5,151.7**	**5,120.5**	**5,072.9**
Men (15 to 74)	2,617.4	2,627.1	2,609.0	2,592.8	2,567.6	2,614.6	2,612.1	2,595.5	2,582.9	2,565.0
Women (15 to 74)	2,562.5	2,581.9	2,561.2	2,536.9	2,506.2	2,566.0	2,569.2	2,556.1	2,537.6	2,507.9
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	368.4	371.7	364.3	361.1	344.8	359.6	370.3	361.3	355.0	336.3
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,811.6	4,837.2	4,805.9	4,768.5	4,728.9	4,820.9	4,811.0	4,790.4	4,765.6	4,736.6
	%									
Active rate (15 to 74)	**66.7**	**66.9**	**66.5**	**65.9**	**65.2**	**66.7**	**66.6**	**66.2**	**65.8**	**65.2**
Men (15 to 74)	70.5	70.8	70.3	69.9	69.2	70.5	70.4	70.0	69.6	69.2
Women (15 to 74)	63.1	63.4	62.9	62.3	61.6	63.2	63.1	62.8	62.3	61.6
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	33.8	34.0	33.3	33.0	31.5	33.0	33.8	33.0	32.4	30.7
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	72.0	72.3	71.9	71.3	70.7	72.2	72.0	71.7	71.3	70.9

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 2: Employed population and employment rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)
	Thousands									
Employed population (15 to 74)	**4,839.0**	**4,857.0**	**4,838.6**	**4,812.4**	**4,754.3**	**4,838.7**	**4,815.4**	**4,803.6**	**4,793.4**	**4,753.7**
Men (15 to 74)	2,462.9	2,458.6	2,454.1	2,449.4	2,434.1	2,457.8	2,437.6	2,434.3	2,433.2	2,428.9
Women (15 to 74)	2,376.1	2,398.4	2,384.5	2,363.0	2,320.3	2,380.9	2,377.8	2,369.3	2,360.3	2,324.7
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	305.2	299.1	295.5	295.1	275.0	301.0	295.5	290.3	290.0	271.5
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	4,533.8	4,557.8	4,543.1	4,517.3	4,479.3	4,537.8	4,519.9	4,513.3	4,503.4	4,482.2
	%									
Employment rate (15 to 74)	**62.3**	**62.4**	**62.2**	**61.9**	**61.1**	**62.3**	**61.9**	**61.7**	**61.6**	**61.1**
Men (15 to 74)	66.4	66.3	66.1	66.0	65.6	66.2	65.7	65.6	65.6	65.5
Women (15 to 74)	58.5	58.9	58.6	58.1	57.0	58.6	58.4	58.2	58.0	57.1
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	28.0	27.3	27.0	27.0	25.1	27.6	27.0	26.5	26.5	24.8
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	67.9	68.2	68.0	67.6	67.0	67.9	67.6	67.5	67.4	67.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 3: Unemployed population and unemployment rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)
	Thousands									
Unemployed population (15 to 74)	**340.9**	**352.0**	**331.6**	**317.2**	**319.4**	**341.8**	**366.0**	**348.1**	**327.1**	**319.2**
Men (15 to 74)	154.5	168.5	154.9	143.4	133.5	156.8	174.5	161.2	149.7	136.1
Women (15 to 74)	186.4	183.5	176.7	173.8	185.9	185.1	191.4	186.8	177.4	183.2
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	63.2	72.6	68.8	66.0	69.8	58.7	74.9	71.0	64.9	64.8
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	277.7	279.4	262.7	251.2	249.7	283.2	291.1	277.1	262.1	254.4
	%									
Unemployment rate (15 to 74)	**6.6**	**6.8**	**6.4**	**6.2**	**6.3**	**6.6**	**7.1**	**6.8**	**6.4**	**6.3**
Men (15 to 74)	5.9	6.4	5.9	5.5	5.2	6.0	6.7	6.2	5.8	5.3
Women (15 to 74)	7.3	7.1	6.9	6.9	7.4	7.2	7.4	7.3	7.0	7.3
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	17.1	19.5	18.9	18.3	20.2	16.3	20.2	19.7	18.3	19.3
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.9	6.1	5.8	5.5	5.4

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Note: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 4: Inactive population and inactivity rate by sex and age group (15 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)
	Thousands									
Inactive population (15 to 74)	**2,591.1**	**2,571.9**	**2,610.3**	**2,649.8**	**2,706.3**	**2,590.5**	**2,599.6**	**2,628.8**	**2,658.9**	**2,707.1**
Men (15 to 74)	1,093.4	1,083.2	1,100.9	1,116.2	1,141.5	1,096.2	1,098.2	1,114.4	1,126.1	1,144.1
Women (15 to 74)	1,497.7	1,488.7	1,509.3	1,533.6	1,564.7	1,494.3	1,501.3	1,514.4	1,532.8	1,563.0
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	721.4	722.7	730.4	733.8	750.5	730.1	724.2	733.5	739.9	759.0
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	1,869.7	1,849.2	1,879.8	1,916.0	1,955.8	1,860.4	1,875.4	1,895.3	1,919.0	1,948.1
	%									
Inactivity rate (15 to 74)	**33.3**	**33.1**	**33.5**	**34.1**	**34.8**	**33.3**	**33.4**	**33.8**	**34.2**	**34.8**
Men (15 to 74)	29.5	29.2	29.7	30.1	30.8	29.5	29.6	30.0	30.4	30.8
Women (15 to 74)	36.9	36.6	37.1	37.7	38.4	36.8	36.9	37.2	37.7	38.4
Youth (aged 15 to 24)	66.2	66.0	66.7	67.0	68.5	67.0	66.2	67.0	67.6	69.3
Adults (aged 25 to 74)	28.0	27.7	28.1	28.7	29.3	27.8	28.0	28.3	28.7	29.1

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes: (p) - Provisional estimates.

Table 5: Labour underutilisation and labour underutilisation rate (15 to 74)

	Seasonally adjusted data					Not seasonally adjusted data				
	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)	Apr 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 (p)
	Thousands									
Labour underutilisation (15 to 74)	**699.0**	**669.6**	**665.1**	**663.6**	**709.8**	**698.5**	**694.9**	**694.7**	**680.7**	**708.4**
Unemployed population	340.9	352.0	331.6	317.2	319.4	341.8	366.0	348.1	327.1	319.2
Underemployed part-time workers	163.2	149.9	149.3	144.1	136.9	172.5	156.1	159.0	154.1	144.2
Persons seeking work but not immediately available	19.7	24.5	21.6	19.7	22.6	19.9	23.8	21.2	19.5	23.1
Persons available to work but not seeking	175.3	143.1	162.7	182.6	230.8	164.2	149.0	166.4	180.0	222.0
	%									
Labour underutilisation rate (15 to 74)	**13.0**	**12.5**	**12.4**	**12.4**	**13.3**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**13.0**	**12.8**	**13.3**

Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey.

Notes: (p) - Provisional estimates.

TECHNICAL NOTE

Labour Force Survey

The main purpose of the Labour Force Survey is to characterise the population in terms of the labour market. It is a quarterly sample survey, addressed to families occupying the same dwelling in the national territory, which makes available quarterly and annual data.

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.

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 satisfies also 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. As a consequence, 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 definitive estimates for the previous months are published.

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(continuation)

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:

- For the purpose of creating long monthly data series needed for subsequent adjustment of seasonality, the two latest data series of the Labour Force Survey (from 1998 to 2010; from 2011 onwards) were previously linked.

- 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 1 and 2 of the annex and at the Statistics Portugal Portal (www.ine.pt).

- The indicators analysed in this Press Release were calculated for the age subgroup of those aged 15 to 74 (as in the Eurostat News Release), which differs from the criterion adopted at the Statistics Portugal quarterly releases (people aged 15 and over, 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 the Statistics Portugal Portal.

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

Some concepts

Unemployed: person aged 15 and 74 who, during the reference period, was simultaneously in the following situations:

- without work, i.e. was not in paid employment or self-employment;
- seeking work, i.e. had taken specific steps in a specified recent period (reference period or the three previous weeks) to seek paid employment or self-employment; and
- currently available for work, i.e. was available for paid employment or self-employment during the reference period.

Employed: person aged 15 and over who, during the reference period, was in one of the following situations:

- did any work for pay or profit for at least one hour, including a familiar gain in money or gender;
- was not working but had jobs from which was temporarily absent[a];
- had a business, but was temporarily not working for a specific reason;
- was in a pre-retirement situation while working.

[a] According to the internationally defined criteria, there is a group of persons who, although absent from work in the reference week, should be classified as employed. This is the case of persons on vacation, taking holidays, maternity/paternity leave or absent due to illness. For other predefined absences, it is necessary to check the duration of such absence: if the absence lasts up to 3 months, the person shall be deemed to have a formal link to employment; if it lasts more than 3 months, the person will only be classified as employed if he continues to receive an income equal to or greater than 50%. Otherwise, these persons are considered as not employed.

Labour force (active population): all persons aged 15 or over who, during the reference period, made up the available labour force for the production of economic goods and services (employed and unemployed).

Extended labour force: 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.

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Unemployment rate: ratio between the unemployed population and the labour force.

U.R. (%) = (Unemployed population / Labour force) x 100

Employment rate (15 and over): ratio between the employed population and the working age total population (15 and over).

E.R. (%) = (Employed population / Total population 15 and over) x 100

Participation rate (15 and over): ratio between the labour force and the working age total population (15 and over).

P.R. (%) = (Labour force / Total population 15 and over) x 100

Inactivity rate (15 and over): ratio between the working age inactive population (15 and over) and the working age total population (15 and over).

I.R. (%) = (Inactive population 15 and over / Total population 15 and over) x 100

Labour underutilisation rate: ratio that defines the relationship among the labour underutilisation and the extended labour force.

L.U.R. (%) = (Labour underutilisation / Extended labour force) x 100

For the indicators selected for monthly dissemination, it was considered the age subgroup of those aged 15 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 the Statistics Portugal website.

Next Press Release:

1 July 2020: "Monthly Employment and Unemployment Statistics – May 2020".

2 July 2020: Eurostat News Release.