# **PORTUGAL: LATEST KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

# **OCTOBER 2017**

# State Budget

The State Budget for 2018 (SB2018) was submitted to Parliament on October 13<sup>th</sup>. The Budget Report is available <u>here</u> (in Portuguese). The Draft Budgetary Plan was also submitted to the European Commission (english version <u>here</u>).

The SB2018 reports the following targets: a reduction of the general government deficit to 1% of GDP in 2018 (down from 1.4% in 2017); a primary surplus of 2.6% of GDP, -0.1p.p. vis-à-vis 2017; a debt-to-GDP ratio of 123.5% GDP, -2.8 p.p. than in 2017. The macroeconomic scenario projected in the SB2018 points to an economic growth of 2.2% in 2018 (2.6% in 2017), fueled by, investment and exports.

The SB2018 aims for a balance between reinforcing economic growth and employment creation and promoting social equity, whilst keeping the focus on achieving the required budgetary targets.

The main measures proposed in the SB2018 include a *i*) tax relief and improvements in the equity of the tax system; *ii*) improvement in the firms' financing conditions and regeneration of the financial sector; *iii*) enhancement of the quality of public services; *iv*) active policies to promote social inclusion and to diminish poverty, and v) efficiency gains in the public sector through revenue and spending review measures.

## **Economic Activity**

Until August, the economic activity indicator remained stable. The private consumption indicator decelerated, whilst the GFCF has been decelerating since June. INE data available <u>here</u>. The economic climate indicator, available up to October, stabilized in September and October, after decreasing in August. INE's release available <u>here</u>.

## **Tourism Industry**

In August, **hotel establishments** recorded a y-o-y increase in overnight stays of 3.2% (4.7% in July), fuelled by the external market. Total revenue grew by 12.3% (13.1% in July) and the **average revenue per room** increased 11.2% (y-o-y). INE's release available <u>here</u>.

## **External Adjustment**

# i. International Trade

In the quarter ended in August, nominal **exports of goods** increased 8.0% y-o-y, while imports of goods grew by 10.8%. The largest increases were due to extra-

EU components (14.2% and 15.3% for exports and imports, respectively, vis-à-vis 6.0% and 9.5% for the intra-EU component) INE's data available <u>here</u>.

## ii. Balance of Payments

In the year up to August 2017, the **current and capital accounts** registered a *superavit* of  $\pounds$ 1,389M (- $\pounds$ 388M compared with the same period of 2016). The **trade balance** surplus decreased  $\pounds$ 554M, standing at  $\pounds$ 2,548M. BdP data available here.

# **Price Developments**

In September 2017, the **CPI** 12-month average rate was 1.2% (1.1% in August). The annual rate was 1.4% (1.1% in August), whilst core inflation stood at 1.3% (unchanged from the previous month). The **HICP** annual rate of change was 1.6%, 0.1p.p. above the rate estimated by Eurostat for the euro area (in the previous month this difference was -0.2p.p.). INE's data available <u>here</u>. Industrial production prices grew 2.7% y-o-y in September (0.2 p.p. above the preceding month), 1.5% if energy is excluded (1.2% in August). INE's release available <u>here</u>.

## **Budgetary Outturn**

Until September 2017, the general <u>government deficit</u> on a cash basis stood at  $\leq$ 569.5M, an improvement of  $\leq$ 2,290.5M when compared with the same period of 2016. The y-o-y deficit reduction is explained by an increase of 4.1% in **revenue**, higher than the slight increase in **expenditure** of 0.1%. The **primary surplus** reached  $\leq$ 5,559.4M, improving by  $\leq$ 2,479.7M.

# **Treasury Financing**

On October  $11^{th}$ , €1,323M of PGB 2.125% Oct2022 and €1,467M of PGB 4.125% Apr2027 were issued with a yield price of 0.916% and 2.327%, respectively. Also on October  $18^{th}$ , €302M and 1,075M of 3 and 12-months T-bills were issued at average weighted yield of -0.389% and -0.325%, respectively.

## **General Government Debt**

According to <u>Banco de Portugal</u> general government general government Maastricht debt reached  $\leq 249,1M$ in September (- $\leq 1,4M$  than in the previous month). Maastricht debt net of central government deposits stood at  $\leq 221,6M$  (- $\leq 1,2M$  than in the previous month).

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