# **PORTUGAL: LATEST KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

## **Economic Activity**

GDP registered a y-o-y increase of 1.6% in volume in the third quarter 2016 (0.9% in the previous quarter). This reflects the increase of net external demand, complemented by a slight increase of the contribution of domestic demand, mainly reflecting the more intense growth of private consumption. Although GFCF growth was less negative in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, investment decline was more pronounced, reflecting the negative contribution of changes in inventories. Comparing with the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter, GDP grew by 0.8% in volume, above the rate observed in the preceding quarters and the highest among euro area countries. INE's and Eurostat's releases available <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>, respectively.

## **Tourism Industry**

In September, **hotel establishments** recorded a y-o-y growth of 6.5% in overnight stays (4.2% in August), due to both internal and external markets. The **average revenue per room** increased 12.5% (y-o-y). INE's data available <u>here</u>.

## **External Adjustment**

## i. International Trade

In the  $3^{rd}$  quarter, exports of goods increased by 1.8% and imports of goods increased by 0.8%, when compared with the  $3^{rd}$  quarter of 2015. INE's press release available <u>here</u>.

### ii. Balance of Payments

From January to September 2016, the **current and capital accounts** reached  $\notin$ 1,358.0M, reflecting a deterioration when compared with the same period of 2015. The **Trade balance** improved during the same period, standing at  $\notin$ 3,606.1M. BdP data available <u>here</u>.

### Labour market

The unemployment rate for the  $3^{rd}$  quarter was 10.5%. This value is down 0.3pp from the previous quarter and 1.4pp on a y-o-y basis. INE's data available <u>here</u>.

## **Price Developments**

In October 2016, the **CPI** 12-month average rate was 0.6%, the same rate of the previous month. The annual rate was 0.9%, while core inflation stood at 0.7% (+0.2pp vis-à-vis the previous month). Concerning the **HICP** annual rate of change, it was 0.5pp above the rate estimated by Eurostat for the euro area. INE's data available <u>here</u>. Industrial production prices recorded a y-o-y change rate of -0.9% in October (+1.0pp vis-à-vis the previous month), -0.4% if energy is excluded. INE's press release available <u>here</u>.

## **Budgetary Outturn**

The State Budget for 2017 (SB2017) was approved by the Parliament on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The targets foreseen in the SB2017 are a reduction of the general government deficit to 1.6% of GDP in 2017, a primary surplus of 2.8% of GDP and a debt-to-GDP ratio of 128.3% of GDP (-1.4 p.p. than in 2016).

Until October, the general government **budget deficit** on a cash basis stood at  $\leq 4,430.4$ M,  $\leq 356.9$ M lower than in the same period of 2015. This evolution is explained by higher increase in **revenue** (1.7%), than in **expenditure** (1.1%). The tax revenue increase of 1.3% is mainly explained by the evolution of tax on oil and energy products (+45.6%), tax on tobacco (+22.6%), tax on vehicle (14.9%) and stamp tax (+6.7%). Social contributions rose by 3.6%, largely justified by the increase of 4.5% of the SS contributions. The growth in expenditure results mostly from interest and other charges (+4.5%) and compensation of employees (+3.4%), due to the progressive reversal of wages.

The **primary surplus** reached €3,117.7M, improving by €682.8M. The improvement of General Government's balance is due to Social Security, Local and Regional Government's surplus enhancement.

#### **Treasury Financing**

According to the Debt Management Agency (IGCP), in October the Portuguese **State direct debt** <u>amounted</u> to €238,679M, decreasing 0.5% vis-à-vis September. This is mainly explained by the redemption of PGB 4.2% OCT2016 (€4,088M).

Between November 14<sup>th</sup> and November 25<sup>th</sup>, IGCP has launched the <u>OTRV November2021</u> with a bi-annual coupon payment of 6-month Euribor plus 2%. It was issued  $\leq$ 1,500M and the order books amounted to  $\leq$ 2,083M from 90,370 accounts, of which 94% were placed within residential investors.

On November  $16^{th}$ ,  $\notin 250M$  and  $\notin 1,250M$  of 6 and 12month T-bills were <u>issued</u> at weighted average yields of -0.027% and 0.005%, respectively. On  $23^{th}$ November, was held an <u>auction</u> of PGB 3.85%Apr2021 and was issued  $\notin 700M$ , with a price of 107.2% and a yield of 2.1%.

#### **General Government Debt**

According to <u>BdP</u>, general government Maastricht debt reached  $\notin$ 244,420M in September (+ $\notin$ 1,131M than in the previous month). Maastricht debt net of central government deposits stood at  $\notin$ 223,148M (- $\notin$ 458M than in the previous month).

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