PORTUGAL: LATEST KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Economic Activity

According to INE's quarterly national accounts for the second quarter, GDP grew by 0.9%, in real terms when compared with the same period of 2015 (the same as in the first quarter). Domestic demand positive contribution decreased, with a less intense growth of private consumption and a more pronounced reduction of investment, while the contribution of external demand was positive. Comparing with the first quarter, GDP grew by 0.3% in volume, above the rate observed in the preceding quarters.

The economic activity indicator decreased between April and June, after stabilizing in the two previous months while the economic climate indicator increased in July, after stabilizing in the previous month. The private consumption indicator increased less intensely in May and June, reflecting the slowdown of the durable component. The GFCF indicator increased, due to a less intense negative contribution of the construction component. INE's data available <u>here</u>.

Tourism Industry

In June, **hotel establishments** recorded a year-on-year increase of 9.6% in overnight stays due to both internal and external markets. The **average revenue per room** increased 11.1% (y-o-y). INE's release available <u>here</u>.

External Adjustment

i. International Trade

In the quarter ended in June, nominal **exports of goods** decreased 1.9% y-o-y and nominal imports decreased 3.7%). INE's press release available <u>here</u>.

ii. Balance of Payments

From January to June 2016, the **current and capital accounts** reached -€932.7M reflecting a deterioration when compared with the same period of 2015. The **Trade balance** improved during the same period, standing at €1036.5M. BdP data available here.

Labour market

The unemployment rate was estimated at 10.8% for the second quarter, -1.6 pp from the previous quarter and - 1.1 pp from the same quarter of 2015, the lowest value since the 1st quarter of 2011. INE data available <u>here</u>.

Price Developments

In July 2016, the **CPI** 12-month average rate was 0.6%, the same rate of the previous month. The annual rate was 0.6%, while core inflation stood at 0.8% (+0.1pp visà-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 here. Industrial Production Prices recorded a y-o-y change rate of -3.4% in July (-3.2% in June). INE's press release available <u>here</u>.

Budgetary Outturn

Until July 2016, the general government **budget deficit** on a cash basis stood at \notin 4,980.6M, \notin 542.8M lower than in the same period of 2015. This evolution is explained by a higher increase in **revenue** (2.8%) than in **expenditure** (1.3%). Tax revenue increased by 2.3%, explained by the evolution of tax on oil and energy products (+44.9%), tax on tobacco (+41.6%), stamp duty (+8.2%) and tax on vehicles (14.4%). Social contributions rose by 4.3%, largely justified by the increase of 4.5% of Social Security contributions. Expenditure's growth results mostly from interest and other charges (+7.2%) and compensation of employees (+3.2%), which reflects the progressive reversal of wages cuts.

The **primary surplus** reached €315.5M, improving by €900.6M. The balance improvement is due to higher Social Security, Local and Regional Government's surplus and to the Central Government deficit improvement.

Treasury Financing

According to the Debt Management Agency (IGCP), in July the Portuguese **State direct debt** <u>amounted</u> to €235,993M, increasing 0.5% vis-à-vis June. This is mainly explained by the increase of PGB stock (€693M of PGB 2.875% JUL2026 and €581M of PGB 2.2% OCT2022).

Between July 20th and August 9th, IGCP has launched the <u>OTRV Agosto2021</u> with a bi-annual coupon payment of 6-month Euribor plus 2.05%. It issued \leq 1,200M and the order books amounted to \leq 1,865M from 65,179 accounts, of which 91% were placed within residential investors.

On August 17th, €400M and €900M of 3 and 12-month T-bills were <u>issued</u> at weighted average yields of -0.108% and 0.007%, respectively. On August 31^{st} , were <u>issued</u> €550M and €450M of PGB 2.875%Jul2026 and PGB 3.85%Apr2021 with yields of 3.027% and 1.87% and prices of 98.71 and 108.67, respectively.

General Government Debt

According to <u>Banco de Portugal</u>, general government Maastricht debt reached \notin 240,019M in June (+ \notin 2,402M than in the previous month). Maastricht debt net of central government deposits stood at \notin 221,996M (+ \notin 2,750M than in the previous month).

Gabinete de Planeamento, Estratégia, Avaliação e Relações Internacionais Office for Economic Policy and International Affairs

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