



# SYNTHESIS INE @ COVID-19

November. 09 . 2021

Statistics Portugal makes available the weekly report for monitoring the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report covers the press releases concerning:

- Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates – September 2021, published on November 02;
- Business Statistics Studies - Infra-annual Business Demography Statistics – 2020, published on November 02;
- Energy Consumption in Households - Definitive data – 2020, published on November 02;
- Transport and Communications Statistics – 2020, published on November 05.

For further details, see the links available throughout this press release.

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**In September, the unemployment rate stood at 6.4% and the labour underutilisation rate at 12.0%**

The monthly estimates presented correspond to moving quarters, whose reference month is the central month of each of these quarters. Thus, the definitive estimates for August include July, August, and September, while the provisional estimates for September comprise August, September, and October.

The estimates are calculated considering the population aged 15 to 74 years and the values are seasonally adjusted.

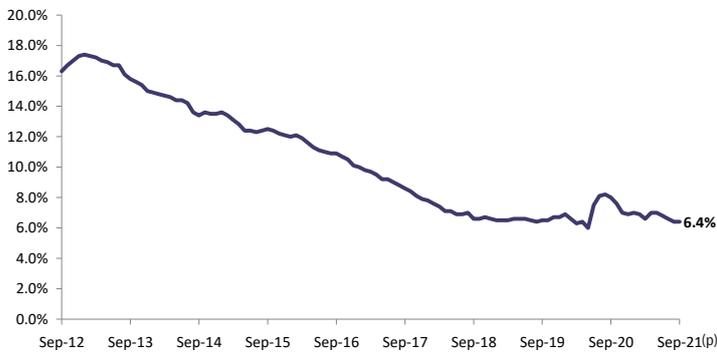
In September 2021 (provisional results):

- The employed population decreased by 0.3% compared to the previous month and increased by 3.7% when compared to the same month of 2020;
- The unemployed population increased by 1.9% compared to August 2021 and decreased by 18.2% compared to September 2020;
- The unemployment rate stood at 6.4%, down 0.1 percentage points (p.p.) on the previous month and 1.6 p.p. less than a year earlier;
- The labour underutilisation rate stood at 12.0%, representing reductions of 0.3 p.p. from August 2021 and 3.4 p.p. from September 2020.

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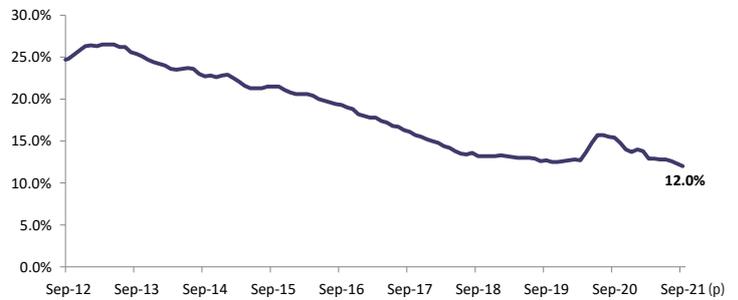
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Unemployment Rate  
(seasonally adjusted data)



(p) Provisional estimate

Labour underutilisation rate  
(seasonally adjusted data)

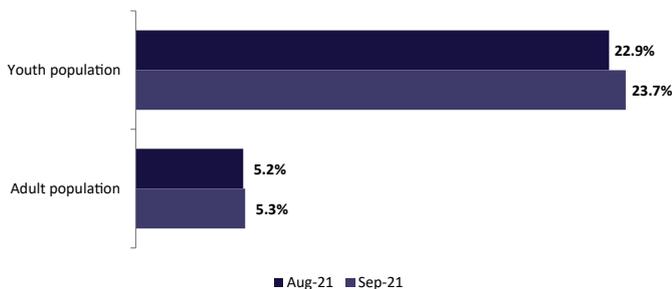


(p) Provisional estimate

In August 2021:

- The employed population increased by 0.1% compared to the previous month and 4.6% compared to the same month in 2020;
- The unemployed population decreased by 4.3% compared to the previous month and 21.1% compared to August 2020;
- The unemployment rate stood at 6.3% (-0.3 p.p. than in July 2021 and -1.9 p.p. compared to the same month in 2020);
- The labour underutilisation rate stood at 12.3% (-0.3 p.p. from the previous month and -3.2 p.p. from the same month in 2020);
- Compared to the previous month, the active population decreased by 0.2% (8.6 thousand) and the inactive population increased by 0.3% (7.8 thousand);
  - » The decrease in the active population resulted from the fact that the increase in the employed population (6.2 thousand) was less than the decrease in the unemployed population (14.7 thousand);
  - » The increase in the inactive was mainly due to the increase in the number of the inactive who were available for work but not looking for a job (21.0 thousand).

Unemployment\* rate in the youth and adult population  
August and September 2021



\* Values for the most recent month are provisional.



More information is available at:

[Monthly employment and unemployment estimates – September 2021](#)  
(02 November 2021)

The number of new enterprises is starting to increase after the decline caused by the COVID-19 pandemic



The **STATSLab** initiative is part of the development of **Statistics Portugal's National Data Infrastructure (NDI)**, which aims to take advantage of the integration of data from different sources and with potential usefulness for the production of official statistics with greater detail and frequency. In addition to the significant enrichment at the level of statistics production, it also has as a consequence the simplification of reporting obligations to Statistics Portugal by citizens and businesses.

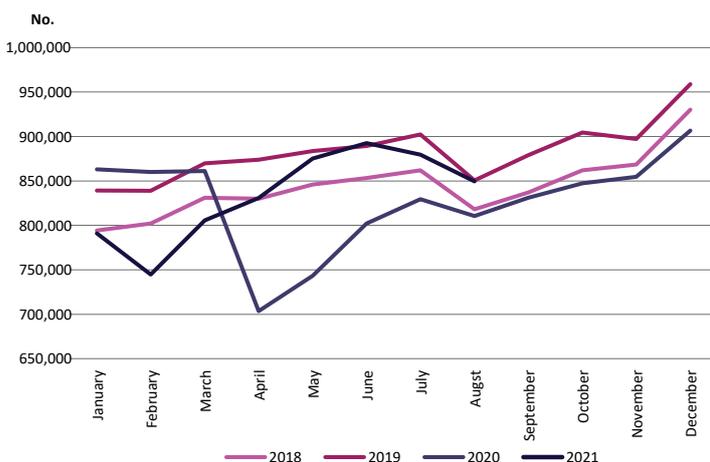
The results presented here fall within the **STATSLab – Estatísticas em Desenvolvimento** (statistics under development) area, which comprises projects of new statistical products that have not yet been completed, but whose results already express that it may prove useful for economic and social analysis.

Between January 2018 and August 2021:

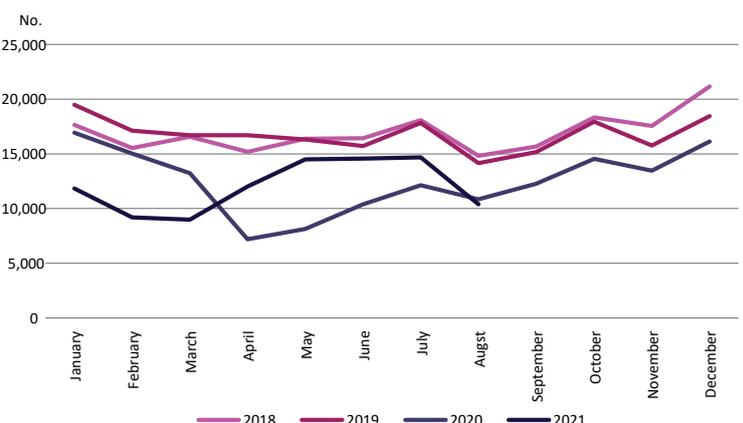
- There was an average of 847,830 active enterprises<sup>1</sup> each month;
- The average monthly number of active enterprises recorded successive increases: 5.0% in 2019, 1.2% in 2020, and 1.8% in 2021;
- The maximum and minimum monthly figures concerning active enterprises were reached in December 2019 (958,753) and April 2020 (703,469) respectively;



Active enterprises, by month, 2018-2021



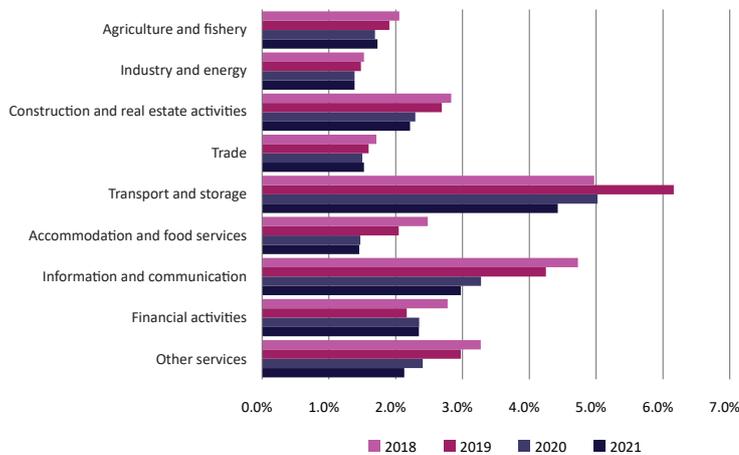
Birth of enterprises, by month, 2018-2021



- The majority of the monthly population of active enterprises was made up of individual enterprises, but the weight of entities with the legal nature of a partnership increased, representing, in August 2021, 45.0% of the total monthly number of active enterprises (+2.2 percentage points (p.p.) compared to January 2018);
- The minimum value of the number of monthly births of enterprises was reached in April in 2020, with 7,194 enterprises born in that month;

<sup>1</sup> An active enterprise in the reference month is any enterprise that, in that month, delivered a Monthly Remuneration Declaration (DRM) or E-invoice with economic figures.

## Monthly average birth rate of individual enterprises, by sector of activity, 2018-2021



- January was the month with the highest number of monthly births concerning enterprises: 4,109 in 2018, 5,541 in 2019, and 4,808 in 2020;
- The *Transport and storage*, *Information and communication*, and *Other services* sectors recorded the highest average monthly birth rates;
- The highest birth rates were recorded in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Norte. These two regions accounted on average for 65.6% of the total number of enterprise births.

The largest monthly decrease in the number of active enterprises in the period under review was recorded between March and April 2020 (-157,808 enterprises; -18.3%), coinciding with the first confinement enacted as part of the COVID-19 pandemic, which mostly affected individual enterprises (-147,281 enterprises; -30.1%).

Between February and June 2021, the highest growth in active enterprises in the last 4 years (+19.9%) occurred; the maximum monthly value for this period was reached in June 2021 (892,597 enterprises), mostly due to the base effect associated with the high decrease in the same period of 2020.

In August 2021, the last month on record, 849,602 enterprises were active, which represents an increase of 38,990 enterprises (+4.8%) compared to the same period in 2020.

More information is available at:  
[Business statistics studies on infra-annual business demography statistics - 2020](#)  
 (02 November 2021)

## Expenditure on electricity rose to EUR 751 per household in 2020, up from EUR 523 in 2010

In 2020:

- Total energy consumption in households was 5,098 ktoe (kilotonnes of oil equivalent);
- Energy consumption in vehicles used for individual transport of residents in the household accounted for 43.8% of total consumption (50.6% in 2010);
- The overall energy consumption per household was 1,194 toe, including consumption in transport (1,501 toe in 2010);

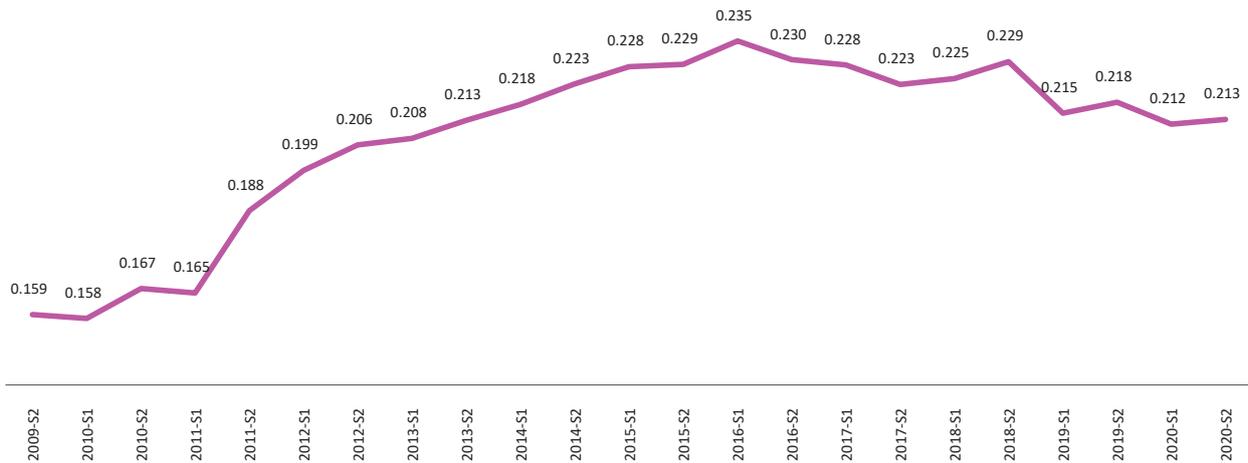


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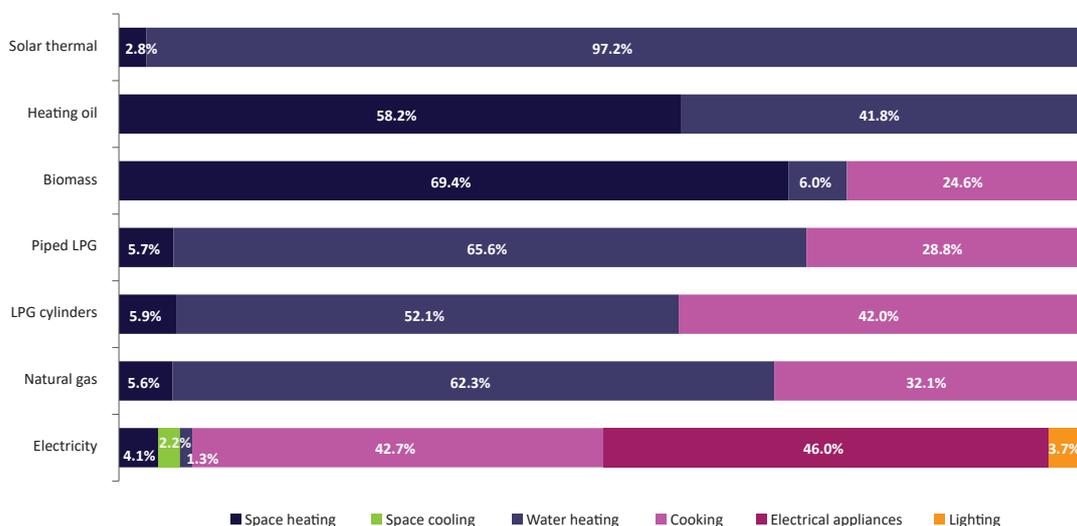
- The overall energy expenditure per household was EUR 1,900, including transport fuel (EUR 1,843 in 2010).
- Electricity continued to be the main source of energy consumed in the household (43.1%; 42.6% in 2010). Expenditure on electricity represented more than half (69.9%; 62.2% in 2010) of the total spent on energy in the household, corresponding to an average annual expenditure of EUR 751 per household (EUR 523 in 2010);

Evolution of electricity prices (€/kWh) for household consumers (all taxes and levies included) - Portugal, semesterly - 2009-2020



- Biomass consumption increased, remaining the second main energy source (27.2%);
- Natural gas consumption grew in 2020, becoming more relevant (weight of 11.5%; 9.0% in 2010);
- Diesel heating showed an average expenditure of EUR 437/year (EUR 765 in 2010); although it is the highest expenditure after electricity, the consumption of this fuel has been reduced by almost 58%;
- Energy use in cooking continued to have the highest weight compared to other types of use in the household (34.6%; 39.1% in 2010), with electricity being the main source of energy for this purpose;

Distribution of energy consumption in households by energy source and use - Portugal, 2020



In the last decade, the following changes in the energy consumption habits of the Portuguese stand out:

- The average energy consumption per household decreased, despite an increase in the overall average expenditure;
- The preponderance of electricity as the main source of energy consumed in households continues to increase, but less intensely than in the periods before 2010;
- Electricity expenditure amounted to almost 70% of the energy expenditure in the household;
- The proportion of energy consumption in vehicles used in households decreased compared to 2010;
- Biomass consumption increased, remaining the second main energy source;
- The consumption of natural gas has risen (11.5% in 2020; 9.0% in 2010) following the expansion of the distribution network in mainland Portugal;
- The consumption of solar thermal energy almost tripled, despite maintaining a small weight in the total consumption;
- Diesel continued to be the main fuel used in vehicles, with gasoline having reduced its weight;
- A transition to energy-saving LED lamps was observed, which in 2020 were used in 80% of households (3.2% in 2010);
- There has been a significant improvement in CO2 emissions, from 628 kg CO2/household in 2010 to 475 kg CO2/household in 2020, as a result of lower fossil fuel consumption.

More information is available at:

[Energy consumption in households – 2020 definitive results](#)  
(02 November 2021)

## A negative impact in all transport modes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic Traffic in broadband Internet access continued to grow

### Transports

In 2020, there were 33.4 thousand enterprises in the Transport and Storage sector (6.6% more than the previous year). The subset of specific Transport activities<sup>1</sup> comprised 27.2 thousand enterprises (+4.5%).

The turnover of the Transport and Storage sector recorded a very significant decrease this year (-24.1%, after +5.6% in 2019 and +7.2% in 2018), amounting to €17.5 billion.

The subset of Transport enterprises, concentrating 55.8% of the Transport and Storage sector's turnover, showed a strong decrease in this variable compared to recent years: -28.7%, after +5.5% in 2019 and +8.1% in 2018.

The negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in all modes of transport, with the following rates of change concerning passenger numbers registered in 2020:

- Air transport: -69.4%;
- Railway: -41.7%;
- Light railway transport: -47.8%;
- By road (vehicles with a national registration): -42.0%;
- Inland waterways transport: -42.8%.



<sup>1</sup> Excluding Warehousing and support activities and Postal and courier activities.

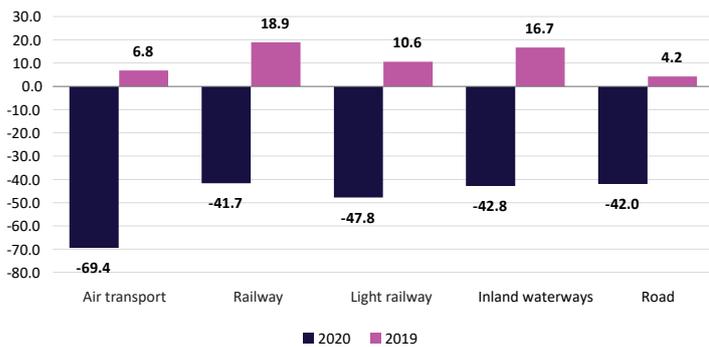
Sales of passenger cars decreased significantly in 2020:

- New vehicles: -35.0% (-2.0% in 2019), totalling 145.4 thousand vehicles. The only month to record an increase in sales was February, with 20.3 thousand vehicles (+7.4%);
- Used imported vehicles: -26.9% (+2.9% in 2019), recording 58,100 vehicles sold.

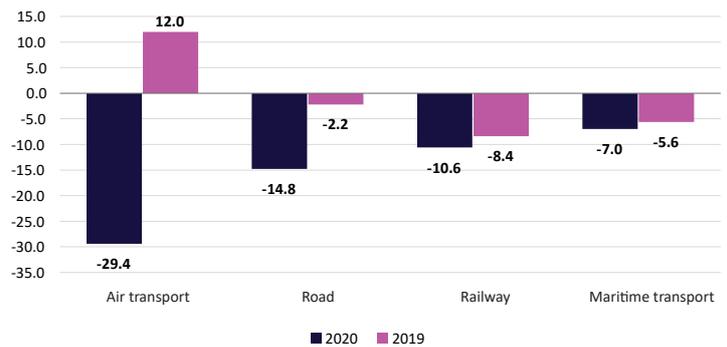
In the year under review, the transport of goods also showed negative rates of change, although less so:

- Air transport: -29.4%;
- By road (vehicles with a national registration): -14.8%;
- Railway: -10.6%;
- Maritime transport: -7.0%.

Transport of passengers, 2019-2020  
(year-on-year rate of change, %)



Transport of goods, 2019-2020  
(year-on-year rate of change, %)



In 2020, the stock of motorised road vehicles presumed to be in circulation remained at 7.0 million vehicles and, for the first time in the available series, recorded a year-on-year decrease, albeit slight (-0.1%).

Data concerning road accidents revealed a 25.6% reduction in the number of accidents with victims in the year under review, to 27.7 thousand accidents. The total number of victims (34.5 thousand) also decreased sharply (-28.2%), both in the number of dead (-22.2%) and injured (-28.3%).

## Communications

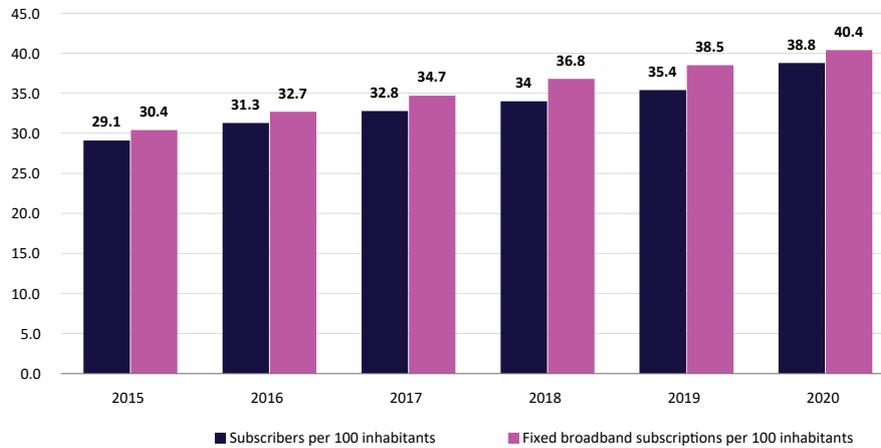
In 2020:

- The communications sector reached a turnover of €7.3 billion, increasing by 10.1% year-on-year (+4.4% in 2019);
- The telecommunications sub-sector increased by 11.9%, corresponding to €6.2 billion, and the postal activities component grew by 1.2% (+13.8% in 2019);
- The volume of traffic associated with broadband internet access reached 10.1 billion GB, having grown by an extraordinary 60.6% (+28.7% in 2019 and +44.8% in 2018);

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Internet fixed access coverage, 2015-2020  
(year-on-year rate of change, %)



- The number of subscribers to the pay-TV service continued to grow (+4.0%, following +3.7% in 2019), reaching 4.2 million subscribers. The fibre optic technology service, as in the previous year, was the only one to register an increase in subscribers (+14.4%; +17.5% in 2019) and represented 51.6% of the total, with 2.2 million subscribers.

More information is available at:  
[Transport and communications statistics - 2020](#)  
(05 November 2021)



The series "INE@COVID-19 Synthesis" began in April 2020, with the purpose of making available an aggregation of some of the most relevant official statistical findings released each week, taking into account the pandemic situation that was then declared in Portugal.

Statistics Portugal intends to continue to contribute this way to the monitoring of the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by decision makers in public and private bodies and also by the general public.

The same intention also led to the creation of the "Special INE COVID-19" area in Statistics Portugal's portal, which also includes other aggregated contents under the same theme.

Press releases between 08-11-2021 and 12-11-2021:

| Press releases   | Reference period                | Release date     |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------|
| International trade statistics   | September 2021                  | 09 November 2021 |
| Business turnover, employment, wage and hours worked indices in industry | September 2021                  | 09 November 2021 |
| New housing construction cost index                                      | September 2021                  | 09 November 2021 |
| Employment statistics  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2021 | 10 November 2021 |
| Indices of Production, Employment and Wages in Construction              | September 2021                  | 10 November 2021 |
| Consumer price index   | October 2021                    | 11 November 2021 |
| Employment statistics - Gross monthly earnings per worker                | 3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021 | 11 November 2021 |
| Business turnover, employment, wage and hours worked indices in services | September 2021                  | 11 November 2021 |
| Vital Statistics - Monthly data  | October 2021                    | 12 November 2021 |