Fiscal consolidation continues as deficits shrink further, yet government debt remains high

The government’s fiscal balance in Portugal has improved markedly since -9.8% of GDP in 2009 at the peak of the financial crisis, especially considering the impact of double-dip recessions in 2009 and 2012. The fiscal deficit decreased to 4.4% of GDP by 2015, and decreased even further to 2% of GDP in 2016. However, during this period gross government debt – according to the System of National Accounts definition – increased very substantially, from 96% of GDP in 2009 to 149% of GDP in 2015, and while gross debt slightly decreased to 146% of GDP in 2016, it remains high vis-à-vis other OECD countries.

The share of women in parliament is above OECD average and increasing

The degree of female participation in political leadership is an important feature of inclusive institutions. In Portugal, the share of women parliamentarians reached 35% in 2017, while the average share of women in lower or single house parliament among all OECD countries for the same year reached 28%. Even though the share of women occupying cabinet positions is 22%, slightly below an OECD average of 28%, the share of women professional judges is slightly higher at 58% than the OECD average of 53% in 2014.

Portugal has made significant efforts to bring down administrative burdens and is now working to improve its broader regulatory policy

The Simplex + programme has made important contributions to reducing administrative burdens and modernise the public administration. At the same time, there is potential to improve the use of impact assessment (0.74 iREG score for primary laws) and consultation (1.16 iREG score) to inform the development of new regulations to close the gap with other OECD countries (average 2.08 and 2.07 out of 4 respectively). Portugal has recently overhauled its impact assessment framework through the How much? programme and would benefit from assessing more systematically whether regulations actually achieve their objectives.
How to read the figures:
- **Country value in blue** (not represented if not available)
- **Average of OECD countries in red**
- **Range of OECD country values in grey**
- **Values have been rounded. n.a. refers to data not available**

### Public Finance and Economics

#### Fiscal balance* (2015, 2016)
- **% of GDP**
  - Portugal 2015: 45.1%
  - Portugal 2016: 48.3%
  - Portugal 2015: 40.9%
  - Portugal 2016: 2.8%

#### Government expenditures (2015, 2016)
- **% of GDP**
  - Portugal 2015: 45.1%
  - Portugal 2016: 48.3%

#### Government investment (2015, 2016)
- **% of GDP**
  - Portugal 2015: 1.5%
  - Portugal 2016: 3.2%

#### Government gross debt* (2015, 2016)
- **% of GDP**
  - Portugal 2015: 146.5%
  - Portugal 2016: 149.2%

### Public Employment

#### General government employment as % of total employment (2015)
- Portugal: 15.2%
- OECD: 18.1%

#### Women in the civil service ... and in senior positions (2015)
- Portugal: 65.7% (Women), 53.0% (Middle Managers)
- Portugal: 33.8% (Women), 32.4% (Middle Managers)

#### Percentage of central government employees aged 55 years or older (2015)
- Portugal: 19.6%
- OECD: 24.9%

### Public Sector Compensation

#### Annual compensation across central government positions (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>2015 USD PPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secretarial Positions</td>
<td>30,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Professionals</td>
<td>52,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Managers (D3)</td>
<td>54,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Managers (D1)</td>
<td>88,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>134,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>163,200</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>231,500</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on the compensation of employees in central / federal governments

* See Notes

Source: OECD National Accounts

* SNA definition, see Notes
**Human Resource Management**

**Composite indicators on HRM practices in central government (2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HRM Practice</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>Composite Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extent of delegation of HRM practices in line ministries</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent of the use of performance assessments in HR decisions</td>
<td>0.80</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent of the use of performance related pay</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>0.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of separate HRM practices for senior civil servants</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection of administrative data</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.55</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Strategic Human Resources Management Survey

**Budgeting**

**Performance budgeting practices at the central level of government (2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>Composite Index from 0 lowest to 1 highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Survey of Performance Budgeting

**Regulatory governance**

**Composite indices on regulatory governance for primary laws* (2014)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regulatory Governance</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>Composite Index from 0 lowest to 4 highest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder engagement in developing regulations</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory Impact Assessment for developing regulations</td>
<td>2.05</td>
<td>1.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex post evaluation of regulations</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>0.74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance (iREG)

**Public Procurement**

**General government procurement expenditures (2015)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>Percentage of government expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD National Accounts

**Strategic public procurement - Objectives (2016)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Portugal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support for green public procurement</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for SMEs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for innovative goods and services</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: OECD (2016) Survey on Public Procurement
**Fiscal balance** as reported in the System of National Accounts (SNA) framework, also referred to as net lending (+) or net borrowing (-) of government, is calculated as total government revenues minus total government expenditures.

**Regulatory governance indicators:** The results for stakeholder engagement and Regulatory Impact Assessment apply exclusively to processes for developing primary laws initiated by the executive. Data is not applicable to the United States, where all primary laws are initiated by Congress. In the majority of countries, most primary laws are initiated by the executive, except for Mexico and Korea, where a higher share of primary laws are initiated by parliament/congress (respectively 90.6% and 84%).

**Government gross debt** is reported according to the SNA definition, which differs from the definition applied under the Maastricht Treaty. It is defined as all liabilities that require payment or payments of interest or principal by the debtor to the creditor at a date or dates in the future. All debt instruments are liabilities, but some liabilities such as shares, equity and financial derivatives are not debt.

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**Open Data**

**OURdata Index:**

Open, Useful, Reusable Government Data (2017)

Composite index: from 0 lowest to 1 highest

Portugal: 0.38

**Digital Government**

Individuals using the Internet for sending filled forms via public authorities websites in the past 12 months (2016)

Portugal: 29.0%

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**Core Government Results**

**Satisfaction and confidence across public services** (2016)

National government

- Portugal: 35% (Before), 42% (After)

Police

- Average: 79% (Before), 77% (After)

Health care

- Average: 63% (Lower), 70% (Higher)

Judicial system

- Average: 39% (Before), 55% (After)

Education system

- Average: 68% (Before), 67% (After)

Source: Gallup World Poll

**Differences in income inequality pre and post-tax and government transfers** (2013)

Portugal

- Higher inequality: 0.56 (Before), 0.34 (After)

- Lower inequality: 0.47 (Before), 0.32 (After)

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

**Limited government powers** (2016)

- Portugal: 0.80

Source: The World Justice Project

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**Notes**

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**Government at a Glance 2017**

Provided readers with a dashboard of key indicators assembled with the goal of contributing to the analysis and international comparison of public sector productivity and performance. Indicators on government revenues, expenditures, and employment are presented, alongside key output and outcome data for education, health and justice. Information on key enablers to increase productivity including on digital government, budget procedures, strategic human resource management, open government data and innovative practices are also included. In a context of tight budget constraints in many member countries, good indicators are needed more than ever, in order to help governments make informed decisions regarding resource allocation and to help restore confidence in government institutions.

The Excel spreadsheets used to create the tables and figures in Government at a Glance 2017 are available via the StatLinks provided throughout the publication: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/gov_glance-2017-en)

For more information on the data (including full methodology and figure notes) and to consult all other Country Fact Sheets: [www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm](http://www.oecd.org/gov/govataglance.htm)