



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
HELLENIC STATISTICAL AUTHORITY

Piraeus, 28 January 2021

PRESS RELEASE

QUARTERLY NON-FINANCIAL SECTOR ACCOUNTS:

3rd Quarter 2020 (Provisional data) &

revision of quarters 1st quarter 2010 – 2nd quarter 2020

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (ELSTAT) announces the provisional data for the quarterly non-financial sector accounts for the 3rd quarter of 2020, as well as revised data for the period 1st quarter 2010 – 2nd quarter 2020.

Quarterly non-financial sector accounts provide an overall description of the Greek economy, based on the analysis of the economic behavior of the institutional sectors constituting the economy (households and non-profit institutions serving households, non-financial corporations, financial corporations, general government) and the relations of the national economy with the rest of the world.

The data which are presented in the present Press Release have been compiled according to the European System of National and Regional Accounts (ESA 2010 – Regulation (EU) 549/2013).

It is noted that quarterly data of the previous ten years, as well as the previous two quarters of the current year (1st quarter 2020 – 2nd quarter 2020) has been revised on account of benchmarking of quarterly accounts to revised annual sector accounts data, as announced in ELSTAT Press Release of 29/10/2020 (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/>), as a result of the work for the benchmark revision, with 2015 as base year, of the Annual National Accounts published on 16/10/2020 (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/>).

ELSTAT, with the publication of the quarterly non-financial sector accounts for the 2nd quarter 2020 on 23/10/2020, (<https://www.statistics.gr/en/>) informed about the works for the incorporation of revised Annual National Accounts data with base year 2015, to sector accounts data.

The revision of the base year is a regular work carried out every five years and may incorporate methodological changes and improvements in accordance with the Harmonized European Review Policy as set out in the Eurostat methodological manual "Practical guidelines for revising ESA 2010 data" (see <https://ec.europa.eu/>). ELSTAT continues the works for the revision of 1995-2009 time series.

The data of this Press Release for the 3rd quarter 2020 are provisional and reflect the impact on GDP of the COVID-19 pandemic mainly from mid-March 2020 onwards, when restriction measures were put into place. For the compilation of these provisional estimates all the best available data sources, as well as the same estimation method have been used as in the previous quarters. Moreover, ad-hoc adjustments to the time-adjusted cash method for accrual basis were made, as a consequence of the obligation for tax and social contributions payments being deferred. Regarding the different types of State expenditure measures, different pieces of legislation were ratified after the end of 2020Q1 and the cash payments corresponding to these expenditure measures are being made in the period that follows 2020Q1.

Users should note that the data of this Press Release for the 3rd quarter 2020 are expected to be revised when provisional estimates of the 4th quarter 2020 are produced and disseminated on the basis of updated primary data that will have become available (i.e. quarterly non-financial accounts of General Government, quarterly national accounts, etc).

During the 3rd quarter of 2020, the external balance of goods and services recorded a deficit of 1.65 billion euro compared to a surplus of 5.90 billion euro recorded at the 3rd quarter of 2019.

Moreover, during the 3rd quarter of 2020, the external balance of primary income, current and capital transfers, recorded a surplus of 0.41 billion euro. The corresponding figure for the 3rd quarter of 2019 was a deficit of 0.98 billion euro.

As a result of the above, the total economy (S.1) presented net borrowing of 1.24 billion euro to the rest of the world (S.2) in the 3rd quarter of 2020. A year before, net lending was 4.93 billion euro (Table 1, Graph 1).

Table 1

(in billion €)

	<i>Total economy (S.1)</i>	2020Q3	2019Q3	Dif
(1)	Imports of goods and services	16.31	19.05	-2.73
(2)	Exports of goods and services	14.66	24.95	-10.29
(3)=(2)-(1)	External balance of goods and services	-1.65	5.90	-7.56
(4)	External balance of primary incomes, current and capital transfers	0.41	-0.98	1.39
(5)=(3)+(4)	Net lending(+) / net borrowing(-)	-1.24	4.93	-6.17
	<i>Rest of the world (S.2)</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
(6)=- (5)	Net lending(+) / net borrowing(-)	1.24	-4.93	6.17

Small deviations in sums are due to rounding

Graph 1. Net lending (+) / net borrowing (-)

Total Economy

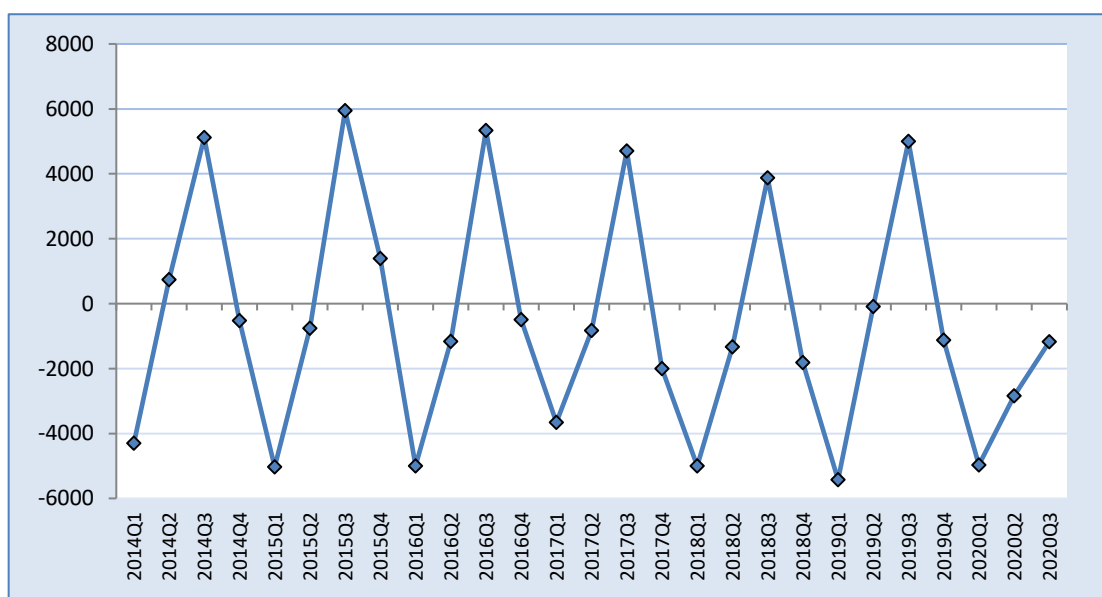


Table 2 presents the absolute values and the annual changes for the transactions of the secondary distribution of income account for households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sector for the 3rd quarter of the years 2020 and 2019, which affect the gross disposable income.

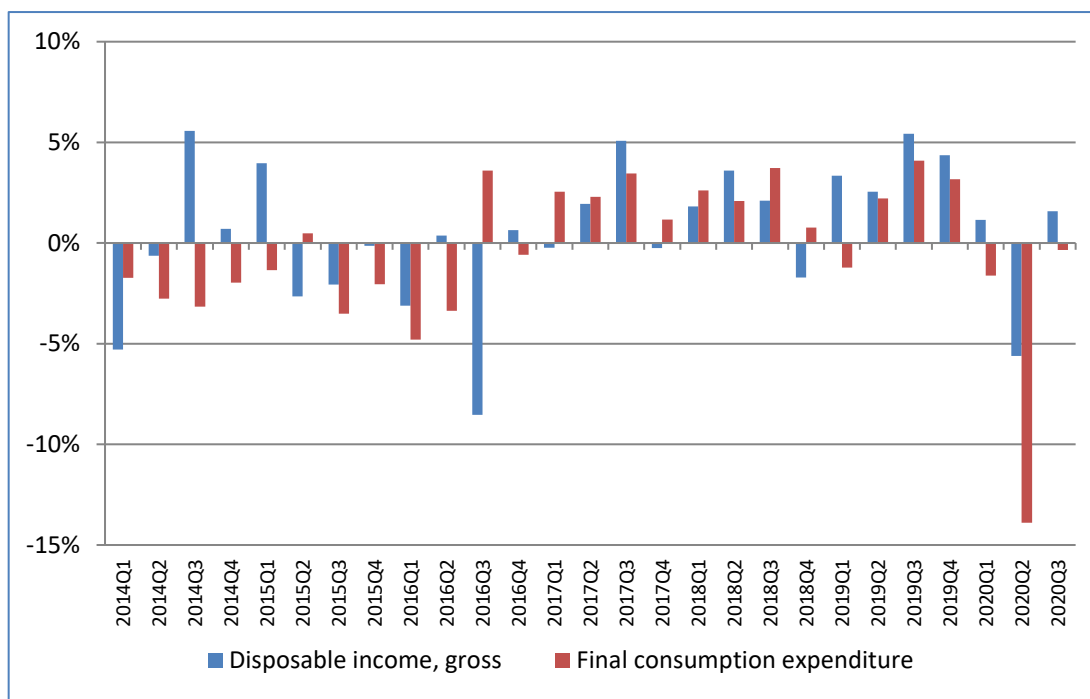
During the 3rd quarter of 2020, disposable income of the households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sector (S.1M) increased by 1.6% in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year, from 31.51 billion euro to 32.01 billion euro.

Table 2
Secondary distribution of income account (in million €)

<i>Transactions and balancing items</i>		<i>Uses</i>			<i>y-o-y %</i>	<i>Resources</i>		<i>y-o-y %</i>
		2020Q3	2019Q3			2020Q3	2019Q3	
B.5g	Balance of primary income, gross					32,383	33,731	-4.0%
D.5	Current taxes on income, wealth, etc.	1,921	3,779	-49.2%				
D.6	Social contributions	6,993	6,912	1.2%		8,734	8,598	1.6%
D.7	Other current transfers	1,134	1,047	8.3%		942	924	2.0%
B.6g	Disposable income, gross	32,010	31,515	1.6%				

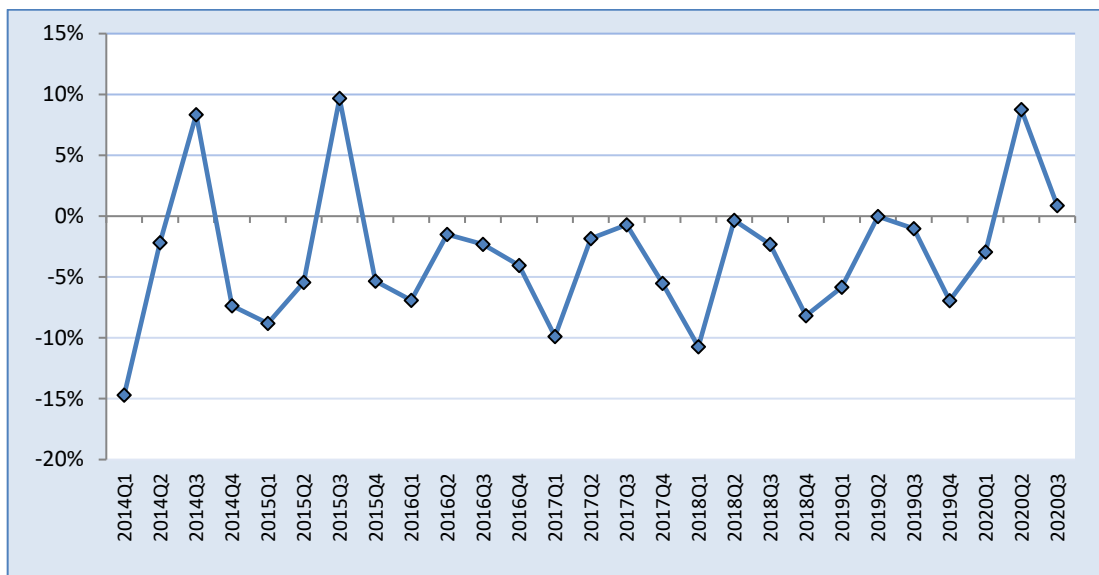
Final consumption expenditure of the households and NPISH sector decreased by 0.3% in comparison with the same quarter of the previous year, from 31.9 billion euro to 31.7 billion euro (Graph 2).

Graph 2. Households and NPISH gross disposable income and final consumption expenditure growth
 (change compared to the same quarter of the previous year)



The saving rate of the households and NPISH sector, defined as gross saving divided by gross disposable income was 0.9% in the 3rd quarter of 2020 compared to -1.0% in the 3rd quarter of 2019 (Graph 3).

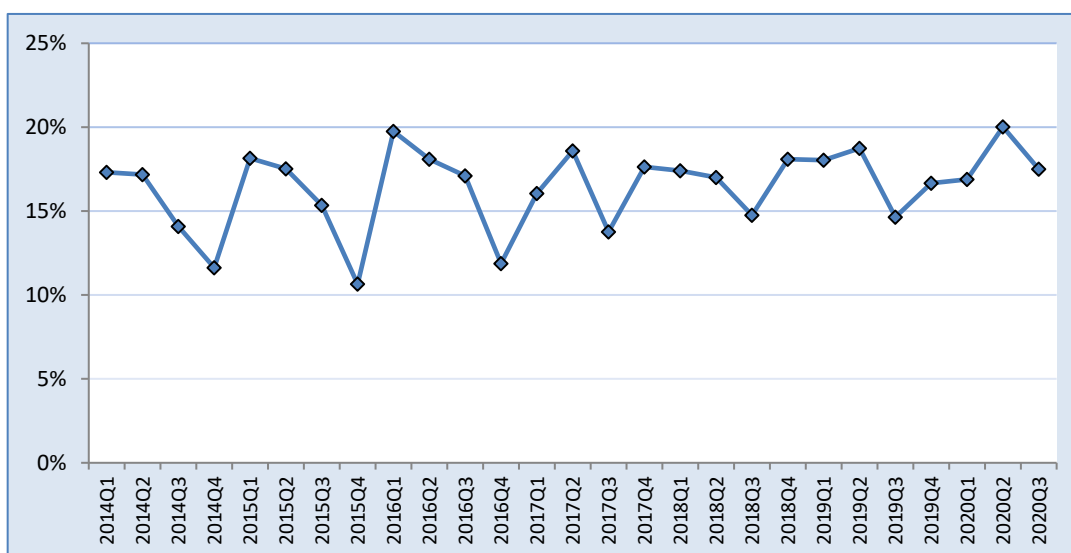
Graph 3. Saving rate of households and NPISH



During the 3rd quarter of 2020, the gross fixed capital formation of the non-financial corporation sector (S.11) amounted to 2.4 billion euro.

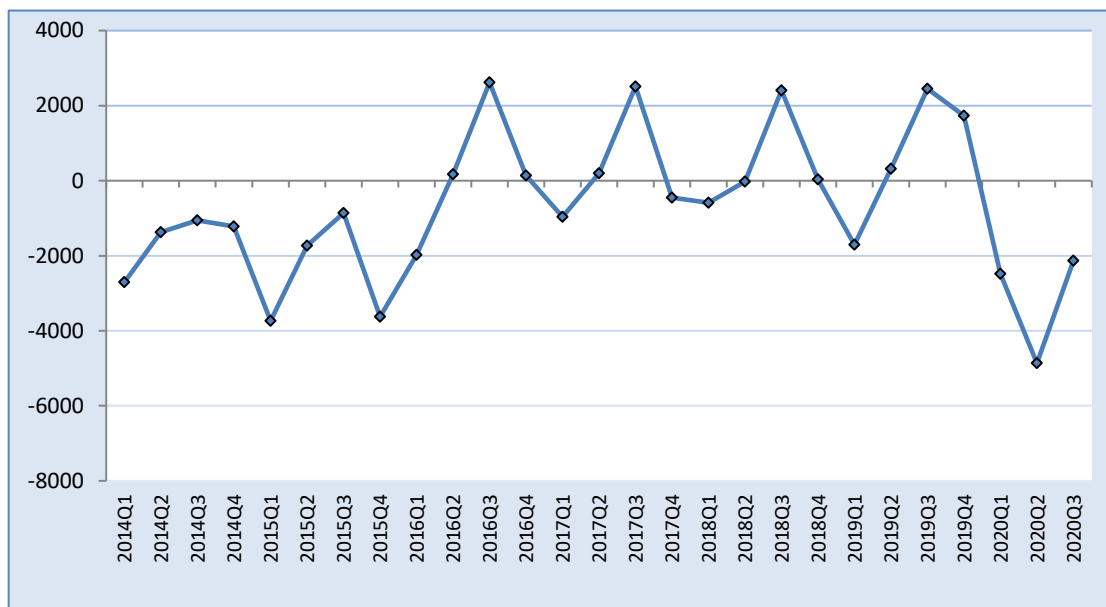
The gross investment rate of the sector, defined as gross fixed capital formation divided by gross value added, was 17.5% compared to 14.6% in the 3rd quarter of 2019 (Graph 4).

Graph 4. Gross investment rate of non-financial corporations



Net borrowing of general government (S.13) during the 3rd quarter of 2020 amounted to 2.1 billion euro compared to 2.5 billion euro of net lending in the 3rd quarter of 2019 (Graph 5).

Graph 5. Net lending (+)/ net borrowing (-) of General Government



The detailed tables are available on ELSTAT website:

<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SEL91/>

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

General: The quarterly non-financial sector accounts (QSA) provide a description of the different stages of the economic process: production, generation of income, distribution of income, redistribution of income use of income and non-financial accumulation. They also provide a list of balancing items that have high analytical value in their own right: value added, operating surplus and mixed income, balance of primary incomes, disposable income, saving, net lending / net borrowing.

Legal basis: The QSA are compiled in accordance with the European System of Accounts -[ESA 2010](#) of the Council Regulation (EU) No 549/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2013.

Reference period: The accounting period is the quarter.

Geographical coverage: The whole Greek territory.

Unit of measure: The economic data are published in million euro.

Revision: The quarterly non-financial sector accounts are revised following the revisions of annual non-financial sector accounts, quarterly national accounts and quarterly non-financial accounts of General Government, in order to ensure coherence between them.

Statistical classification: The standard followed is the European System of Accounts (ESA 2010). The main categories are the institutional sectors and the transactions recorded between the sectors.

The institutional sectors combine institutional units with similar characteristics and behaviour and are classified as follows:

Total Economy (S.1)

Non-financial corporations (S.11)

Financial corporations (S.12)

General Government (S.13)

Households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) (S.1M)

Rest of the World (S.2)

Compilation of Sector Accounts in the context of the COVID-19 crisis: The COVID-19 pandemic has had impact on the Greek Economy, since mid-March 2020. Eurostat and National Statistical Authorities in the European Statistical System have been working together to elaborate guidelines and notes on how to address the statistical challenges brought about by the pandemic.

For the compilation of the provisional estimates for the 3rd quarter 2020 the best available sources as well as the same estimation methods have been used as in the previous quarters. Moreover, ad-hoc adjustments to the time-adjusted cash method for accrual were made, as a consequence of the obligation for tax and social contributions payments being deferred. Regarding the different types of State expenditure measures, different pieces of legislation were ratified after the end of 2020Q1 and the cash payments corresponding to these expenditure measures are being made in the period that follows 2020Q1.

Publication of data: Quarterly non-financial sector accounts data are published at about 120 days after the end of the reference quarter.

References: More information on the methodology and detailed tables are available on ELSTAT website:
<http://www.statistics.gr/en/statistics/-/publication/SEL91/>