

## WEEKLY ECONOMY NEWS REPORT

June 22 — 28, 2019

- ⇒ The National Bureau of Statistics (INE) informed that the savings rate of the Portuguese families decreased slightly to 4,5% between January and March from 4,6% in the quarter before. The evolution of the household available income was determined by a 1,1% remuneration increase. The families' investment recorded a 3,2% variation rate in the first quarter of the year, which compares to 3,3% recorded in the last quarter of 2018.
  
- ⇒ According to the experts of ISEG — Lisbon School of Economics and Management, the national economy grew 1,8% in the second quarter of the year, the same as in the first three months. The first quantitative data of the second quarter suggest a stable growth of private consumption, less growth of investment and a negative input of the net external demand.
  
- ⇒ Portugal was the country with the highest proportion (73%) of recommendations made by GRECO (Group of States against Corruption) that were not implemented, followed by Turkey (70%). Serbia (59%), Romania (44%), Belgium (42%), Greece (40%) and Croatia (39%) are next in the list published by the anti-corruption monitoring entity.
  
- ⇒ Portugal recorded a budgetary surplus of 0,4% of the GDP until March (178,5 million euros), which compares to a deficit of 1% in the same period of last year, and a better performance than the Government's target for the overall of the year: a deficit of 0,2%. The National Bureau of Statistics (INE) explains that the total revenue went up 6,2%, a higher increase than the one recorded in the total expenditure (2,6%) in the first three months of the year.

- ⇒ The Finance Minister, Mário Centeno, attributed this 0,4% budgetary surplus to the dynamics of the economy and the labour market in Portugal. Mário Centeno also considered that this amount is totally compatible with the Government's target of a 0,2% deficit.
  
- ⇒ According to Mercer's "Cost of Living Survey", Lisbon is the 95<sup>th</sup> most expensive city in the world, out of 209 cities assessed for this survey, as far as the cost of living is concerned, mainly due to housing costs. In 2018, Lisbon was ranked 97<sup>th</sup>, but it had gone up 44 positions that year. Hong Kong is the world's most expensive city and Tunes, in Tunisia, the cheapest. Tel Aviv (ranked 15<sup>th</sup>) is the most expensive city in the Middle East.
  
- ⇒ The housing price index in Portugal went up 9,2% in the first quarter of the year, when compared to the same period of last year, according to data of the National Bureau of Statistics (INE). Although the real estate market keeps growing, it is already showing some signs of slowdown. The market of new houses went up 6% against 8,5% in the previous quarter.