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Atypical Employment in Portugal

Discussion Paper

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The Institutional Determinants of Atypical Employment and Social Inequality in Europe, founded by the Hans Böckler Foundation and supervised by Jutta Allmendinger, Johannes Giesecke, and Kathrin Leuze



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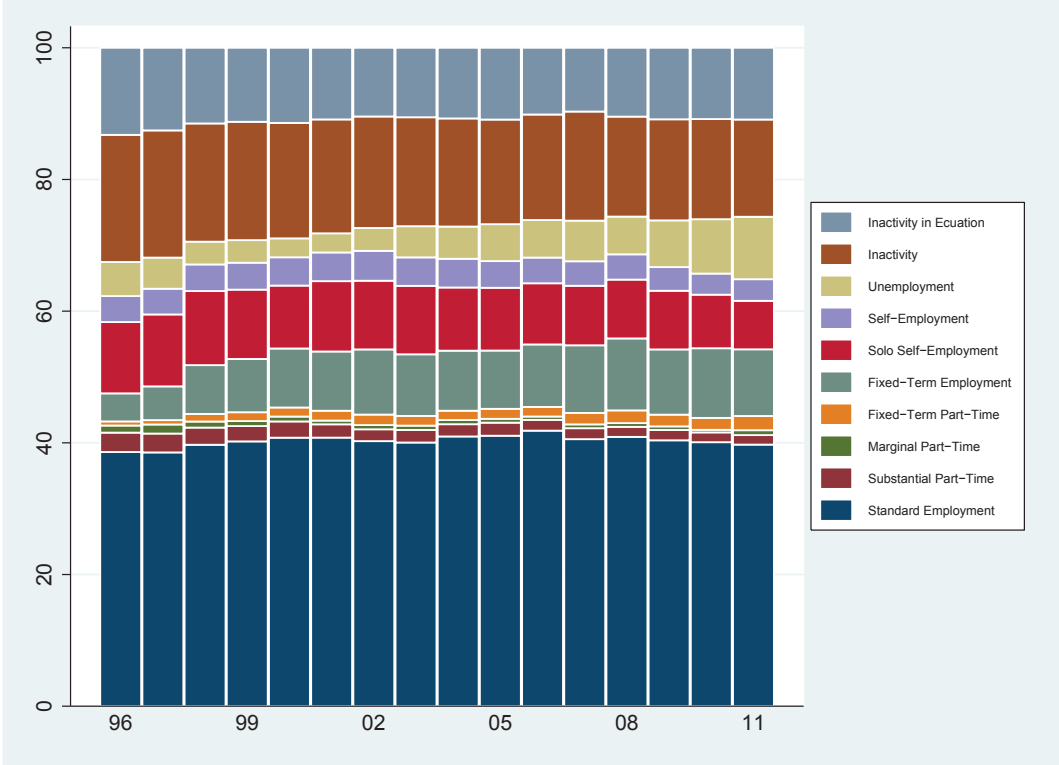
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Portugal

Employment in Portugal increased in all groups between 1996 and 2001/2002 and remained at this level with only minor fluctuations until the year before the crisis, 2008. The primary beneficiaries of this increase were women, young people, and older people as well as individuals with low and mid-level qualifications. Low-skilled workers, older people, and women were most affected by inactivity, although the respective proportions were trending downwards over the entire period under consideration. The most important forms of atypical employment were fixed-term contracts and solo self-employment. Young and highly qualified employees were particularly likely to be in fixed-term employment. Low-skilled workers and the over-49s were particularly frequently found in solo self-employment.

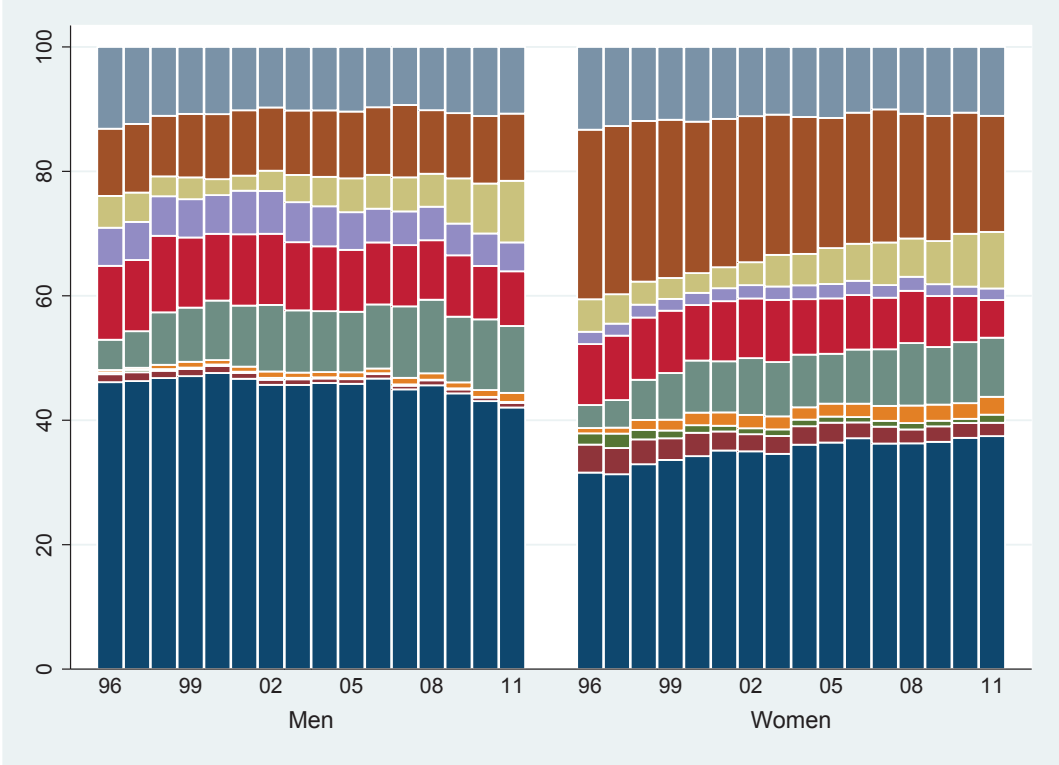
Employment in Portugal fell by 3.8 percentage points during the crisis. The pattern is familiar: The fall in employment affected men (-5.8 percentage points) more strongly than women (-1.9 percentage points). Younger people were also more affected than the middle and older age groups (-6.7 vs. -3 and -3.4 percentage points respectively). There was a large drop in employment among low-skilled workers: A fall of 6.2 percentage points was observed here. In Portugal—in contrast to many other countries—highly qualified individuals were also relatively seriously affected by the crisis (-3.4 percentage points).

Employment in Portugal (1996–2011).



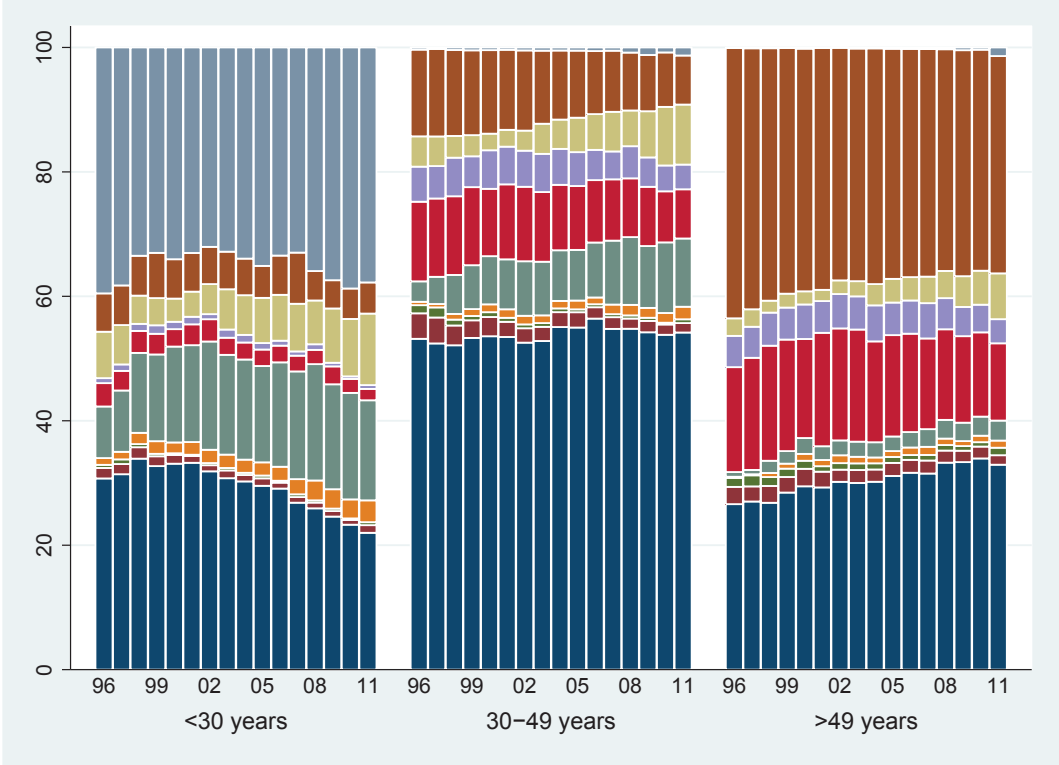
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Employment in Portugal by Gender (1996–2011).



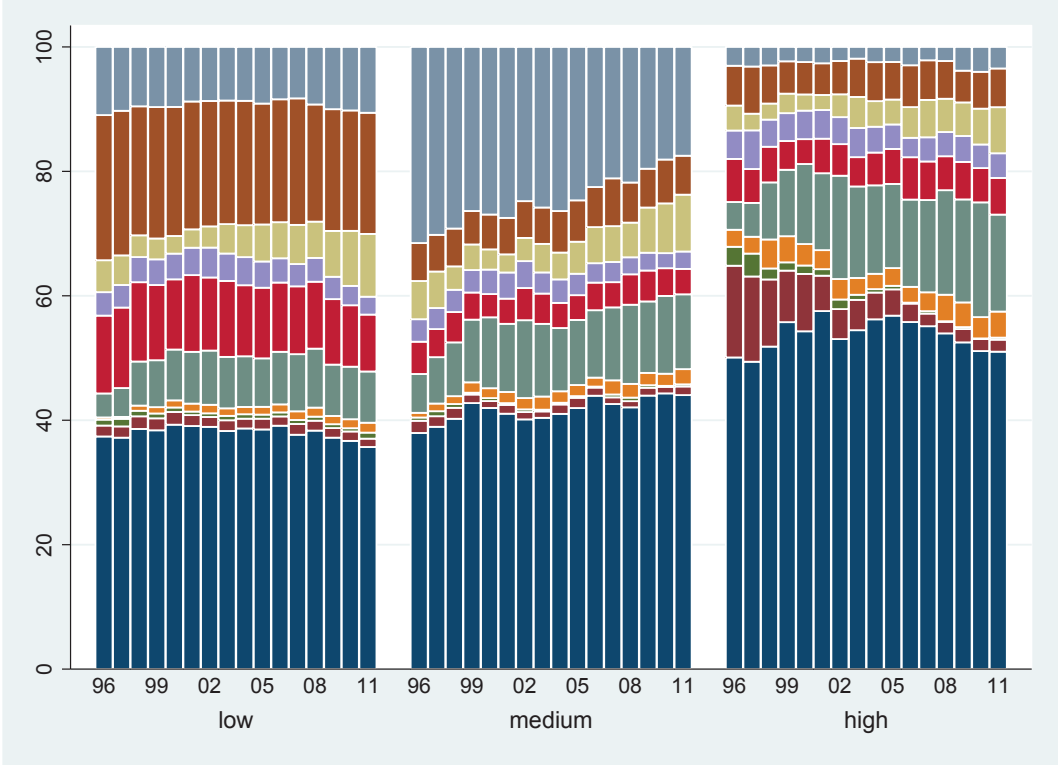
Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Employment in Portugal by Age (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Employment in Portugal by Education (1996–2011).



Data source: ELFS (second quarter based on yearly and quarterly surveys).

Important terms

The **population studied** includes all people who were of working age (between 15 and 64 years of age) at the time of the survey but excludes those living in collective living quarters (monasteries/convents, hospitals, etc.) and those doing military service.

A person was considered **employed** if they were working in the private or public sector, either in a dependent or self-employed capacity, for at least one hour a week and received a salary, wage, or other monetary remuneration for this.

Individuals were considered **unemployed** if they were not employed but were actively seeking work and were available to the labor market or if they were entering employment within the following three months.

Those who were neither employed nor unemployed were considered economically **inactive**. Inactive individuals who were in education or training were assigned to the inactive **in education or training** category.

A **standard employment relationship** exists when an individual is in a dependent employment relationship for at least 35 hours weekly and has a permanent employment contract.

Marginal part-time employment is employment with fewer than 20 hours a week.

Substantial part-time employment is employment with 20 hours and more a week but less than 35 hours a week.

Fixed-term employment exists when the period during which a contract is valid is limited. We differentiate between fixed-term employment (35 hours and more a week) and fixed-term part-time employment (less than 35 hours a week).

Self-employment exists when an individual's main economic activity is not dependent employment.

Solo self-employment refers to self-employment without employees.

The **educational/skill levels** "low," "medium," and "high" are based on the ISCED classification of qualifications developed by UNESCO.

The aggregated data used in our country profiles can be downloaded from the project's website (www.wzb.eu/atypical). Interested users can also find explanations regarding some of the methodological problems that exist for certain years or variables.