



21<sup>st</sup> of December 2023  
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS  
2022

## THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2022

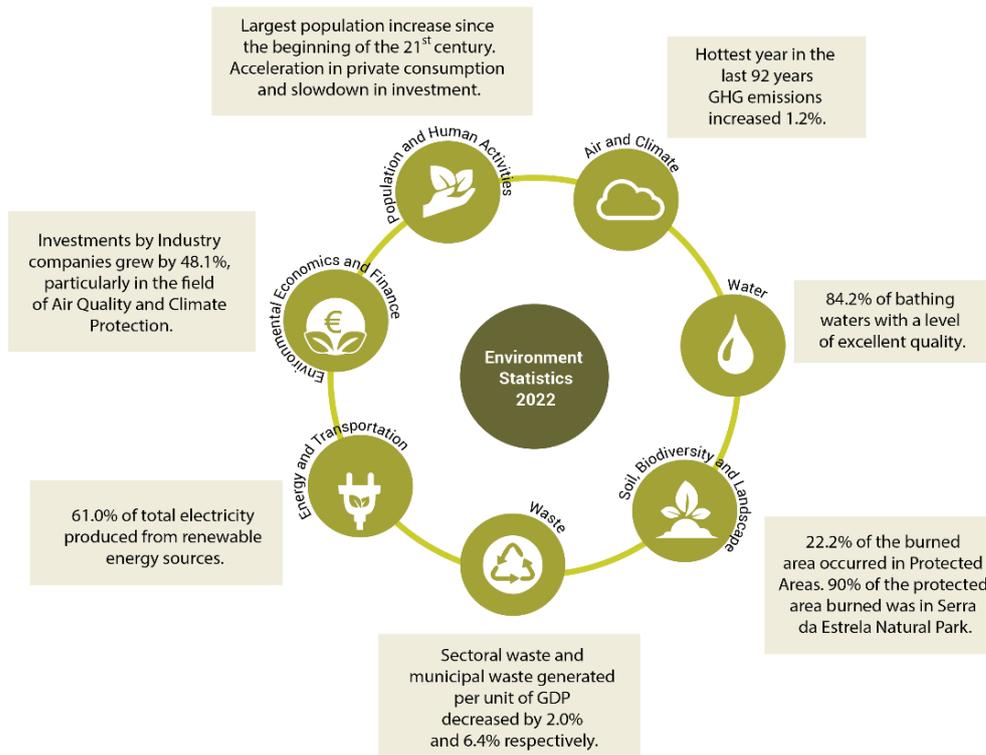
2022 was the hottest year in the last 92 years and preliminary estimates of greenhouse gas emissions point to a 1.2% increase compared to 2021. With the largest population increase since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century (+46,249 inhabitants) and in a context of economic growth (private consumption increased by 5.6%), there was a 10.5% reduction in domestic consumption of materials extracted from the environment and an improvement in efficiency in the management of sectoral and urban waste, with the ratios of quantities generated per unit of GDP decreasing by 2.0% and 6.4% respectively.

In Portugal, rural fires affected an area of 110,2 thousand hectares in 2022, more than a fifth of which was in a Protected Area. It should be noted that around 90% of the Protected Area burned occurred in Serra da Estrela Natural Park.

The contribution of renewable energy sources to electricity production increased by 2.6 pp, reaching 61.0% of the total electricity produced in 2022.

Industry companies' investments in environmental terms grew by 48.1%, particularly in Protection of Ambient Air and Climate domain (+61.7%).

The value of taxes with environmental relevance, 4.6 billion euros, fell by 7.5%, essentially reflecting the reduction in revenue from the tax on oil products as a result of the policy to mitigate the increase in fuel prices.





THE COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF 2022 WITH 2021, HIGHLIGHTS THE FOLLOWING MAIN ASPECTS:

## Population and Human Activities

The resident population in Portugal in 2022 (10,467,366 people) increased by 46,249 inhabitants compared to the previous year, corresponding to a positive effective growth rate of 0.44%.

Domestic demand generated a total expenditure, in volume, of 212 billion euros (+4.4% compared to 2021), with private consumption component raising 5.6% and totalizing 131.8 billion euros.

The Industrial Production Index increased slightly by 0.3%, reinforcing the 3.0% increase recorded in the previous year.

The Direct Input of Materials into the national economy for production or consumption decreased 8.2% to 204.4 million tons.

## Air and Climate

In Mainland Portugal, 2022 was classified as an extremely hot and dry year. With an average air temperature of 16.64 °C, it was the hottest year in the last 92 years, with a deviation from the climatological normal of +1.38 °C.

Preliminary data on Greenhouse Gas emissions for 2022, without accounting for the LULUCF sector, point to an increase of 1.2% (-2.9% in 2021), which is essentially the result of an increase in emissions from the energy sector (+2.1%) and from the industrial processes and product use sector (+0.5%).

The Air Quality Index showed that, on average, 28.2% of the days in 2022 had a “very good” air quality and 45.6% “good” quality (31.0% and 45.9% respectively in 2021).

## Water

In 2022 were monitored 666 bathing waters (643 in 2021). The water quality in the vast majority is classified as “Excellent” (65,6% for Inland Bathing Waters and 90,8% for Coastal and Transitional Bathing Waters).

## Soil, Biodiversity and Landscape

In 2022 there were 270 forest intervention zones (ZIF), covering an area of 1,933 thousand hectares, equivalent to 21.7% of mainland territory. In relation to December 2021, 8 more ZIF were created, with an increase of 76.8 thousand hectares in total area.

In 2022, the number of rural fires occurrences in Mainland Portugal was the fifth lowest in the 2014-2023 period (10,390 occurrences), but the area burned was the third highest (110.1 thousand hectares).

Agri-environmental measures benefited 100,710 farmers (71,336 in 2021), who received support in a total of 259 million euros (237 million euros in 2021).



## Waste

The indicator of waste preparation for reuse and recycling returned to a growth trend reaching 33%, 18 pp away from the target of 55% set for 2025.

Sectoral waste generated by manufacturing and other industries businesses totalled 14.4 million tons (+5.6% compared to 2021), with emphasis on construction activities (+1.1 million tons), a significant absolute increase due to an increase in investment in the public sector.

## Energy and Transportation

Primary energy consumption was 21,315 ktoe, which represented an increase of 2.4%.

National energy dependence was 71.2%, which represents an increase of 4.1 pp.

Final energy consumption increased by 2.3%, a result close to the levels recorded in the pre-pandemic period (2017-2019).

Electricity produced from renewable sources represented 61.0% of the total electricity produced in Portugal (58.4% in 2021).

The fleet of vehicles presumed to be in circulation increased by 2.2% and reached 7.2 million vehicles.

The number of purely electric passenger cars continued to increase considerably, reaching a ratio of 23 vehicles per 1,000 inhabitants (+38.4%; +43.9% in 2021).

The sale of new light passenger vehicles increased 6.6% to 156.3 thousand vehicles.

Fossil fuel consumption in road transport increased by 6.1% and diesel consumption accounted for 78.0% of total fuel consumption in 2022 (78.9% in 2021).

## Environmental Economics and Finance

General government expenditure on environmental protection activities continues to increase in 2022, amounting to 1,437 million euros (1,378 million euros in 2021).

15.8% of industrial companies were involved in environmental management and protection activities (+0,5 pp compared to 2021). Company's investments increased by 48.1% especially in "Protection of Ambient Air and Climate" domain (52.6% of the total).

In 2022, 232,374 members were registered with the Environmental NGOs, which reflects an increase of 5.3% in line with the trend in the number of activities carried out, which grew by 41.4%.

The number of firefighters on command and active staff stood at 31,021 individuals (26,123 in 2021). Voluntary participation remained predominant, 60.2% of the total (identical result to 2021) corresponding to 18,689 firefighters.



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA  
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press release

# DIÍSTAQUE

The value of environmentally relevance taxes was 4.6 billion euros, (-7.5% comparing to 2021), reflecting mainly the reduction in ISP revenue as a result of the policy to mitigate the increase in fuel prices.

The thematic objectives belonging to the environmental domain maintained allocations of 3,995 million euros, (18.3% of the total Cohesion Funds programmed for Portugal 2020), with more than half of the support allocated to the preservation and protection of the environment and promotion efficient use of resources (2,199 million euros corresponding to 55.0%). The breakdown is completed with 1,326 million euros (33.2%), destined for the transition to a low-carbon economy in all sectors and 470 million euros (11.8% of the total) for the promotion of adaptation to climate change and risk prevention and management.