



31 March 2023
Demographic Statistics
2021

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS 2021

IN 2021, THE RESIDENT POPULATION IN PORTUGAL INCREASED FOR THE THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

In 2021, the resident population in Portugal was estimated at 10,421,117, representing an increase for the third consecutive year. The crude rate of increase was 0.26% (0.18% in 2020). The population increase registered in 2021 (26,820 more people than in 2020) resulted from the positive crude rate of net migration, of 0.69%, which counterbalanced the negative crude rate of natural increase, of 0.43%.

In the same year, 79,582 live births were born in Portugal, children of mothers residing in the national territory, corresponding to a decrease of 5.9% when compared to 2020.

The mean age of women at childbirth (regardless of the birth order) was 31.8 years (31.6 years in 2020), while the mean age at first childbirth increased to 30.4 years (30.2 years in 2020).

The number of deaths was 124,802, corresponding to an increase of 1.1% when compared to 2020 (123,396); the number of infant deaths was 191, less 15 deaths than in 2020. The infant mortality rate remained at 2.4 deaths per thousand live births.

In Portugal, there were celebrated 29,057 marriages, corresponding to an increase of 53.7% over the previous year (18,902). The mean age at first marriage was 34.3 years for men and 32.9 years for women (34.9 years and 33.4 years, respectively, in 2020).

In this year, 17,279 divorces were decreed, less 0.1% when compared to 2020 (17,295). The mean age at divorce was 48.4 years for men and 46.0 years for women.

Regarding marriage dissolutions due to the death of a spouse, there was an increase of 1.3% compared to 2020 (49,908 marriage dissolutions due to the death of a spouse in 2021 and 49,290 in 2020). Of these, there were 14,414 widowers and 35,494 widows.

For the fifth consecutive year, the number of permanent immigrants (97,119) surpassed the number of permanent emigrants (25,079), leading to a positive net migration of 72,040.

Statistics Portugal releases today on its website - www.ine.pt - the publication Demographic Statistics 2021, which presents an analysis of the demographic situation in 2021 and its evolution since 2011. The publication presents indicators related to the resident population, births and fertility, mortality and life expectancy, family formation and dissolution (celebrated marriages and dissolved marriages by divorce or death), international migrations, foreign population, acquisition, attribution and loss of Portuguese citizenship.



DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS – 2021



In this edition, the Definitive Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 series (intercensal estimates based in the 2021 Census) is simultaneously published, revising the Provisional Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 series, that Statistics Portugal discloses in June of each calendar year. The 2021 Provisional Resident Population Estimates are also made available (post-census estimates based on the 2021 Census), which review the *ad hoc* population estimation exercise, released in June 2022, based on the provisional results of the 2021 Census. Demographic indicators for 2011-2020 and 2021 were revised according, respectively, to the Definitive Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 and Provisional Resident Population Estimates 2021.

1. Resident population¹

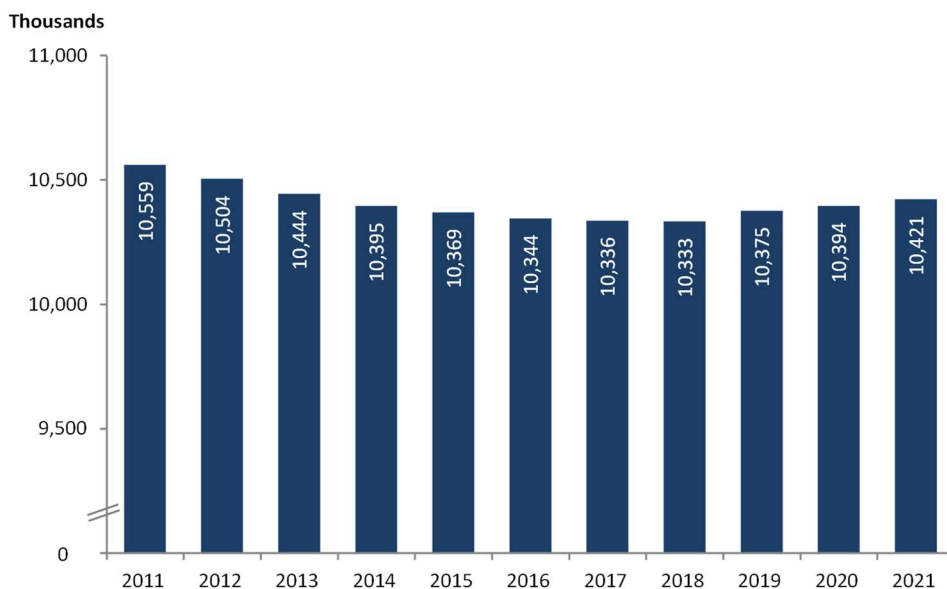
In 2021, the resident population increased for the third consecutive year

In 2021, the resident population in Portugal was estimated at 10,421,117 people, 4,967,262 men and 5,453,855 women, 26,820 more inhabitants than in 2020, which corresponds to a crude rate of increase of 0.26% (0.18% in 2020). The population increase resulted from the positive net migration of 72,040, counterbalancing the negative natural balance, of -45,220 (-38,866 in 2020). In 2021, there was thus a positive crude rate of net migration of 0.69% and a negative crude rate of natural increase of 0.43%.

In 2011, the resident population in Portugal was estimated at 10,558,950, registering decreases until 2018, result of negative or insufficient net migration to overcome the negative natural balances recorded throughout the period. From 2019, there was an increase in the population due to the migration component, which compensated the decreases resulting from the natural component.

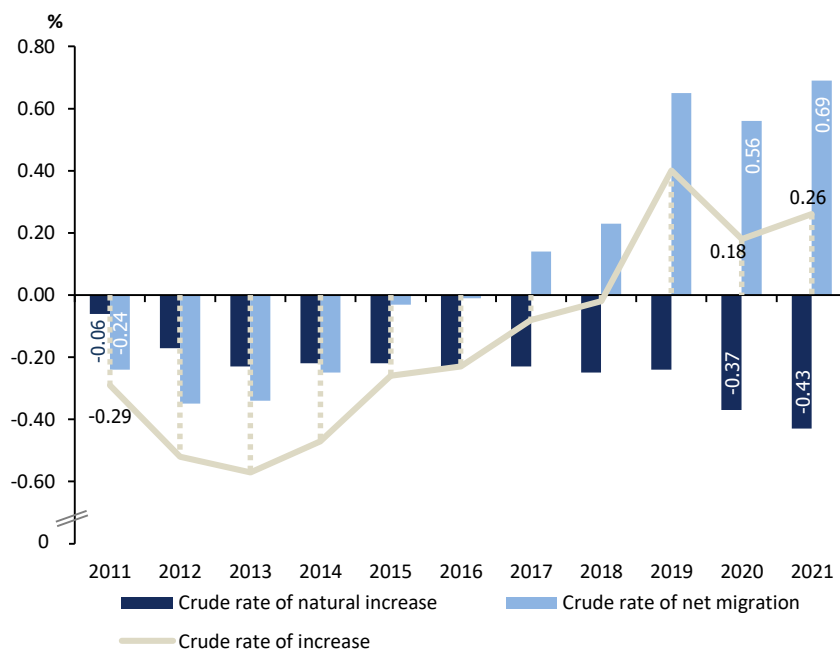
¹ Indicators related to the resident population refer to the 2011-2020 Series of Definitive Resident Population Estimates, which result from the revision of the 2011-2020 series of Provisional Resident Population Estimates, carried out after the 2021 Census final results were published, and to the 2021 Provisional Resident Population Estimates, based on the 2021 Census.

Figure 1. Resident population, Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual resident population estimates and Demographic indicators.

Figure 2. Crude rate of increase, crude rate of natural increase and crude rate of net migration (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



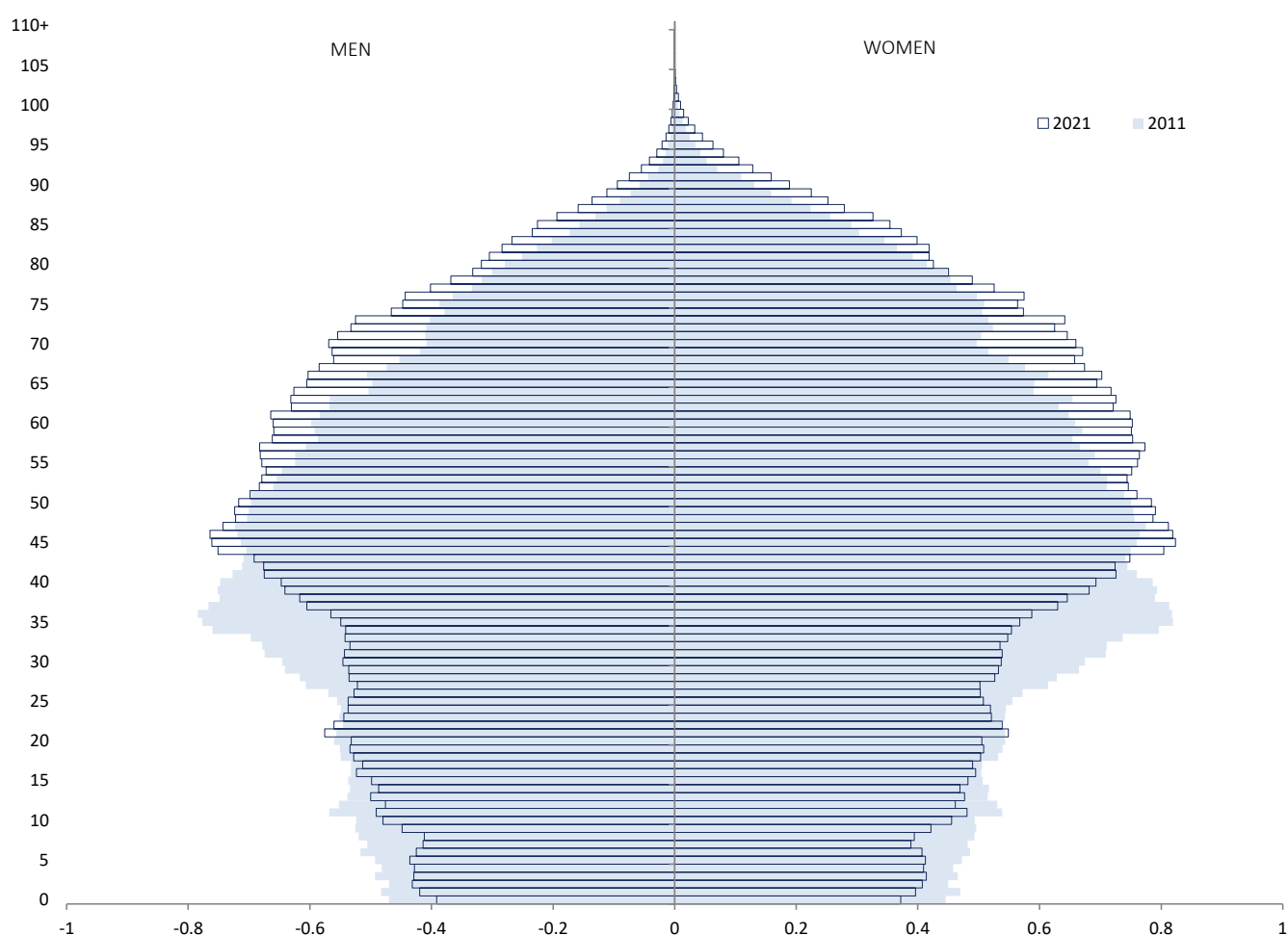
Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual resident population estimates and Demographic indicators.



Portugal maintains the demographic ageing trend, a process that is shown by the change in the profile of the age pyramids, as illustrated by the overlapping of the 2011 and 2021 age pyramids. The narrowing observed at the base of the age pyramid reflects the reduction in the number of young people, result of the low birth rate. The enlargement at the top of the age pyramid corresponds to the increase in the proportion of elderly people, result of the increase in life expectancy.

As a result of this trend, between 2011 and 2021, the ageing index increased from 128.0 to 181.3 elderly people per 100 young people.

Figure 3. Age pyramid, Portugal, 2011 and 2021



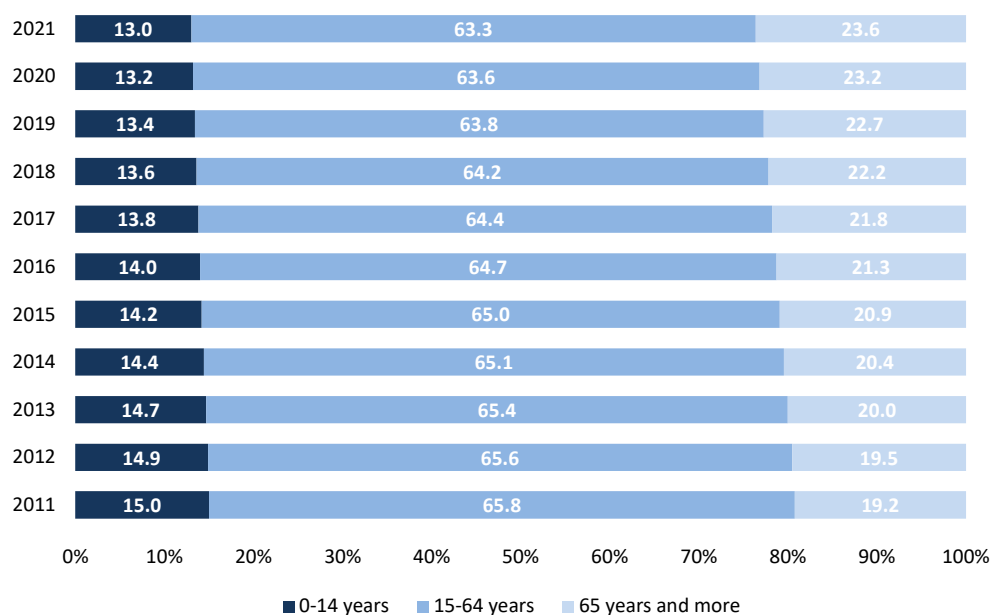
Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual resident population estimates and Demographic indicators.

In that same period, the proportion of young people (population aged from 0 to 14 years old) decreased from 15.0% to 13.0% of the total resident population. The proportion of people of working age (population aged 15



to 64 years old) also decreased from 65.8% to 63.3%, with a simultaneous increase in the percentage of elderly people (population aged 65 years and over) from 19.2% to 23.6%.

Figure 4. Distribution of resident population by age group (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



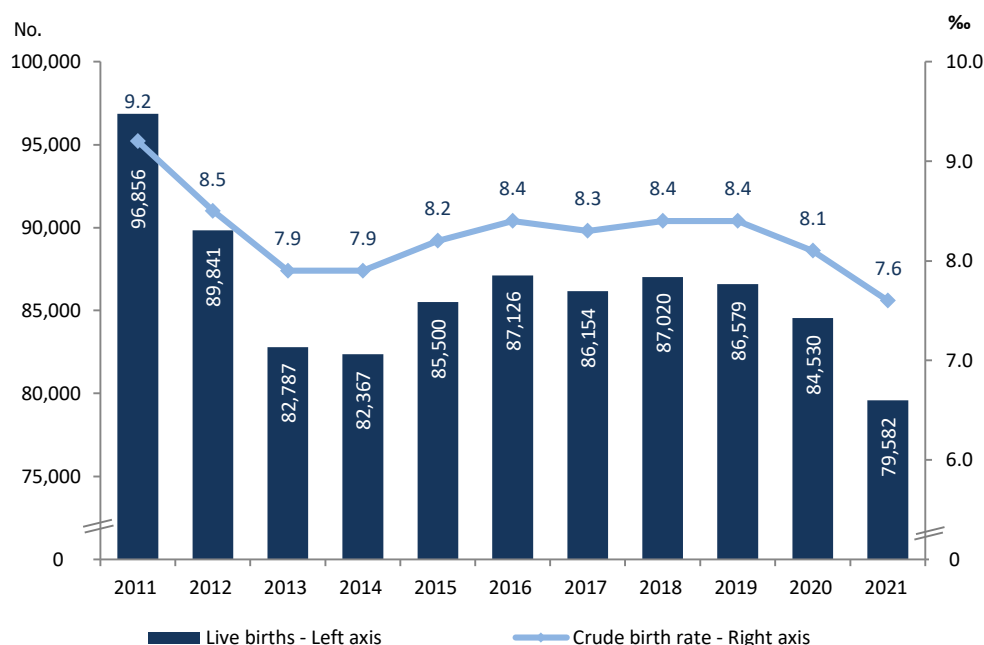
Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual resident population estimates and Demographic indicators.

2. Births and fertility

The number of live births decreased by 5.9%

In 2021, 79,582 live births were born in Portugal, children of mothers residing in the national territory, representing a decrease of 5.9% when compared to 2020. This reduction contributed to the decrease of the crude birth rate, from 8.1 in 2020 to 7.6 live births per thousand inhabitants in 2021.

Figure 5. Live births (No.) and Crude birth rate (‰), Portugal, 2011-2021



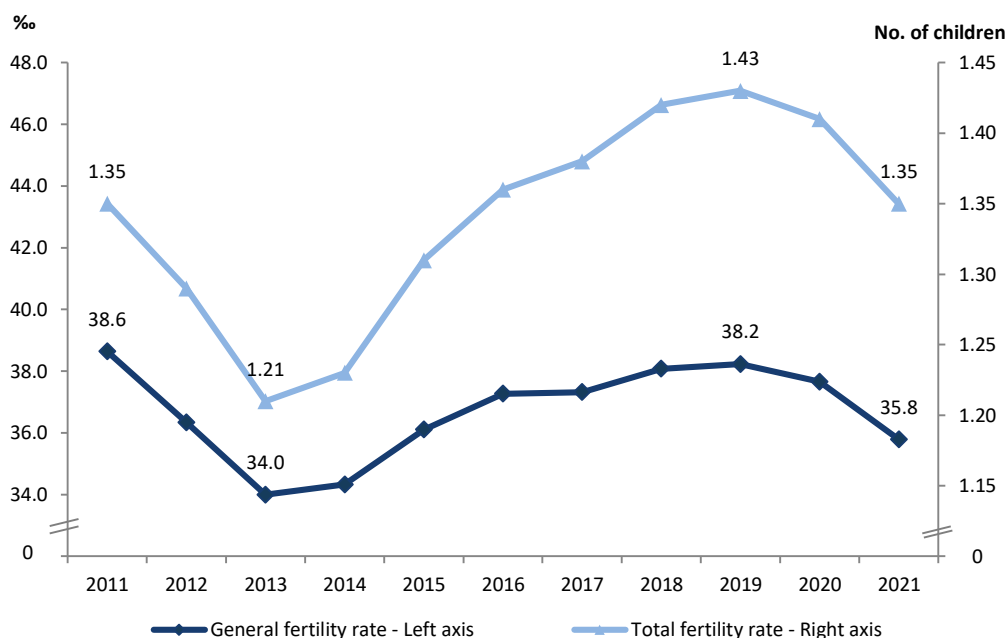
Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births and Demographic indicators.

In 2011, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was 1.35 children per woman (1981 was the last year in which it was recorded a value above 2.1, the threshold for the replacement of generations), showing a downward trend until 2013, when the lowest value was registered in the country (1.21 children per woman). From 2015 to 2019 there was a recovery in fertility with continuous increases in the TFR. In 2020, this indicator dropped to 1.41 children per woman, and, in 2021, it stood at 1.35 children per woman.

In the European Union, in 2021, the highest value of the TFR belonged to France (1.84 children per woman at childbearing age) and the lowest to Malta (1.13). Portugal was the fifth country with the lowest TFR.

The general fertility rate followed the same trend as the TFR, recording the value of 34.0 live births per thousand women at childbearing age (15 to 49 years of age) in 2013. In 2021 it stood at 35.8 (against 37.7 in 2020).

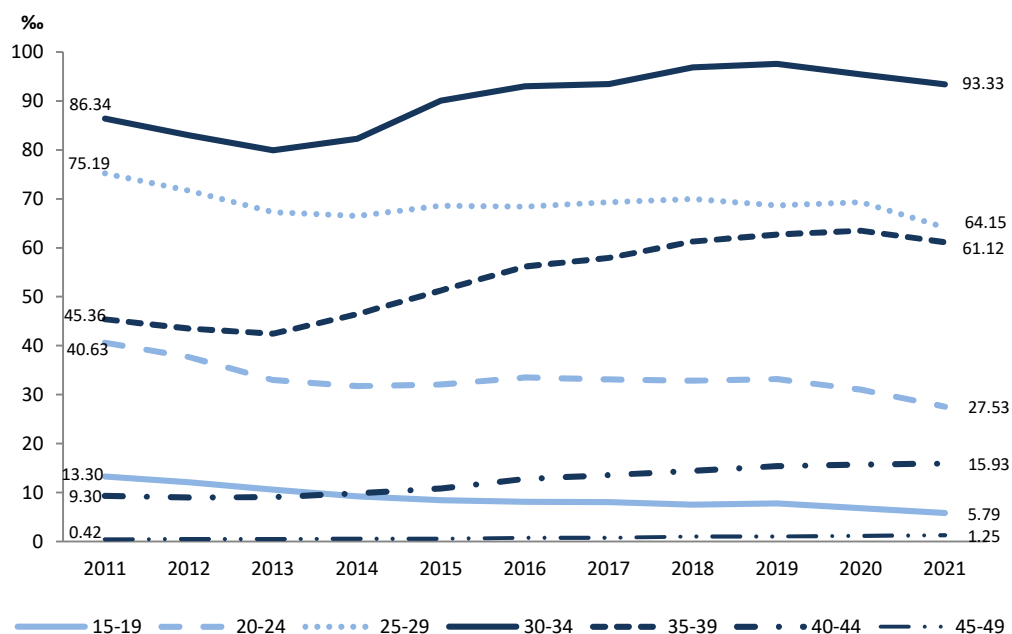
Figure 6. General fertility rate (%) and Total fertility rate (No.), Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

Over the period under review, women age-specific fertility rates have shown a downward trend in the lower age groups. From the 30 to 34 years age group there are increases in specific fertility rates, the highest of these in the 35 to 39 years age group, expressing the tendency to postpone motherhood. In 2021, compared to 2020, the reductions were more pronounced in the 20 to 24 years and in the 25 to 29 years age groups, and only in the ages above 40 years there were increases.

Figure 7. Specific fertility rates by age group (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



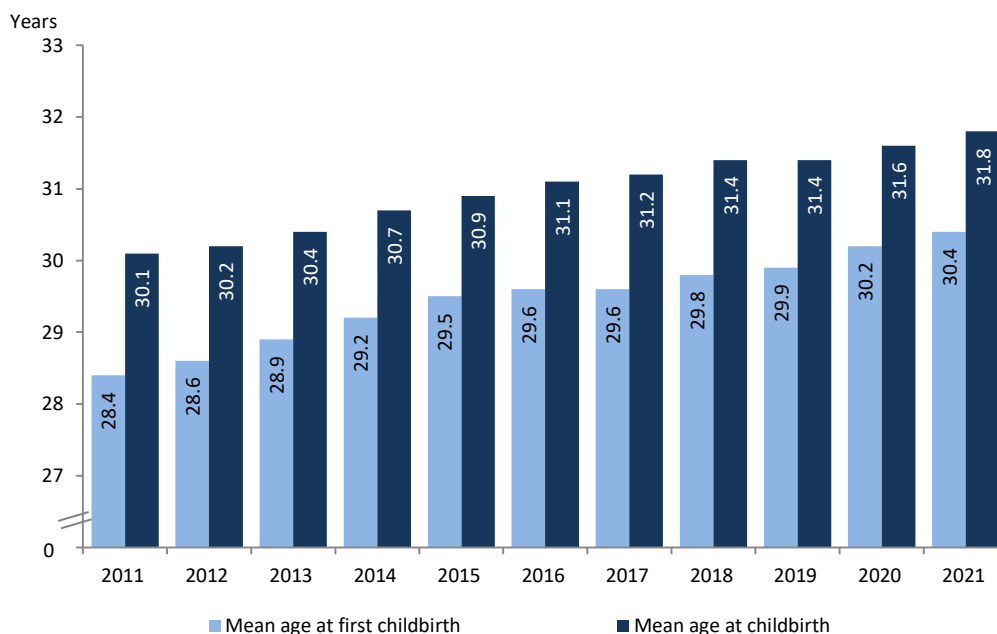
Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

Mean age of women at childbirth increases throughout the period 2011-2021

Between 2011 and 2021, there was an increase in the mean age of women at childbirth: the mean age at first childbirth rose from 28.4 to 30.4 years, and the mean age at childbirth (regardless of the birth order) went from 30.1 to 31.8 years.

In 2021, in the European Union, the average age at childbirth has increased in all Member States. The highest mean age at childbirth was in Ireland (32.7 years), followed by Spain (32.6 years) and Luxembourg (32.5 years), and the lowest in Bulgaria (27.9 years). In Portugal, Cyprus and the Netherlands, the mean age at childbirth was 31.8 years.

Figure 8. Mean age of women at childbirth and at first childbirth (years), Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

3. Mortality

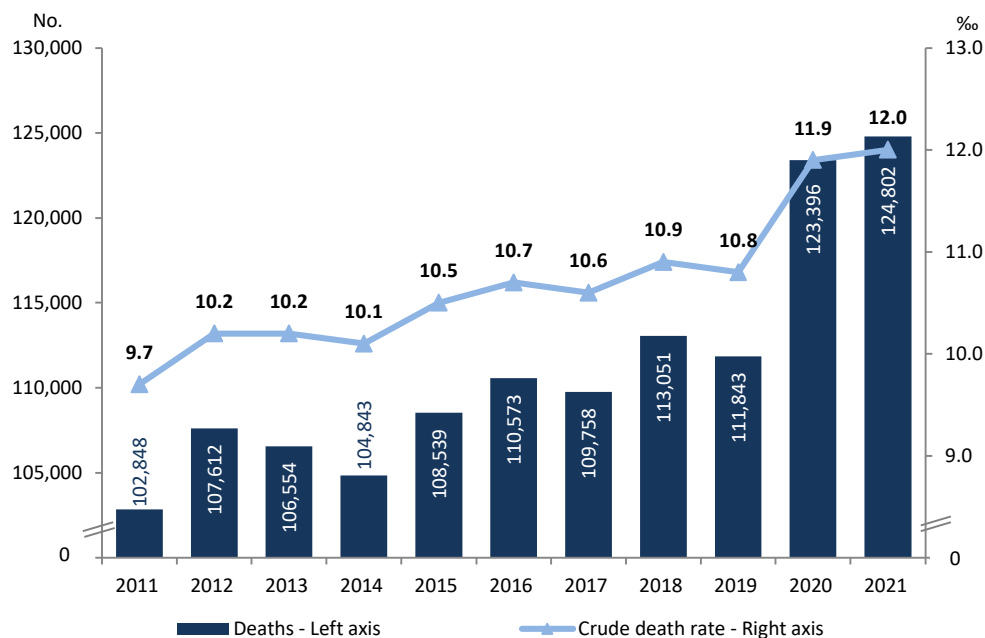
Number of deaths increased by 1.1%

In 2021, there were 124,802 deaths of residents in Portugal (50.2% male deaths and 49.8% female deaths), leading to an increase of 1.1% (1,406 more deaths) compared with 2020. The crude death rate was 12.0‰, higher than in 2020 (11.9‰) and the highest value registered in the 2011-2021 period.

In 2021, there were 191 infant deaths, 15 less deaths than in 2020. The infant mortality rate remained the same as in 2020, at 2.4 deaths per thousand live births (3.1 ‰ in 2011).

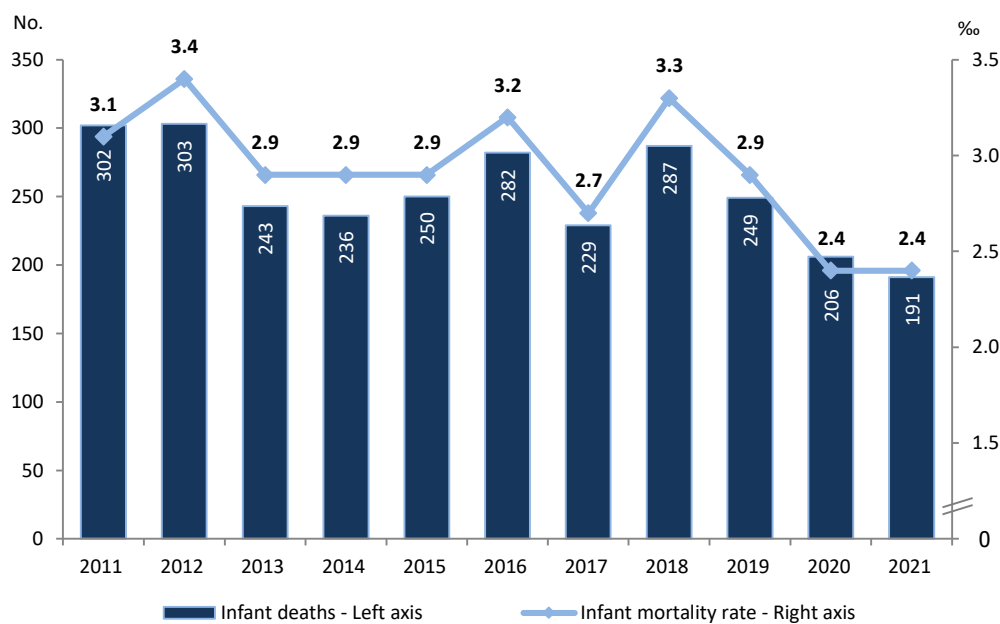
In 2021, of the total deaths of residents in Portugal, 43.3% (43.1% in 2020) occurred at ages of 85 years old and over. Between 2011 and 2021, the proportion of deaths at the most advanced ages increased by 9.7 percentage points. More than half (53.9%) of the female deaths occurred at ages of 85 years and over while most male deaths occurred at ages below 85 years (67.9% in 2021).

Figure 9. Deaths (No.) and Crude death rate (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



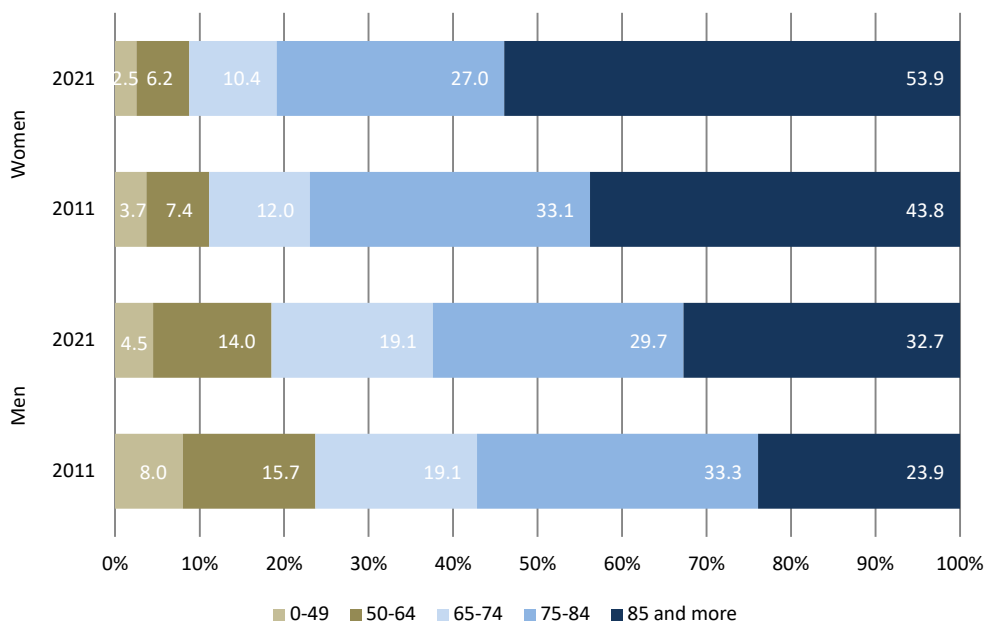
Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

Figure 10. Infant deaths (No.) and Infant mortality rate (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

Figure 11. Distribution of deaths by sex and age groups (%), Portugal, 2011 e 2021



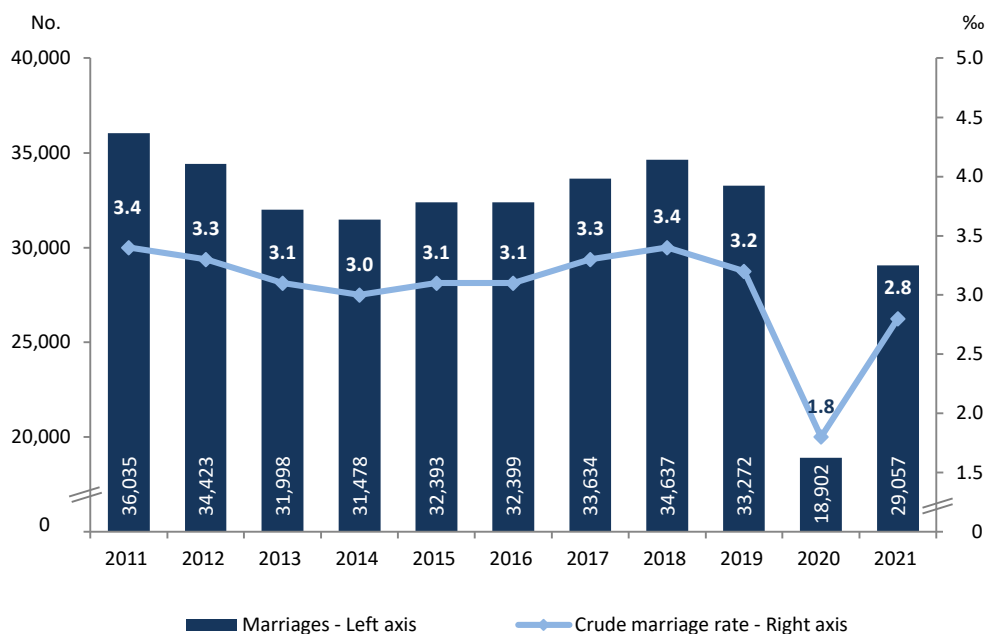
Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

4. Marriages and divorces

Number of marriages increased in 2021 compared to the previous year

In 2021, 29,057 marriages were celebrated in Portugal. Of these, 549 were between same-sex couples (445 in 2020): 287 between men and 262 between women. The total number of marriages increased by 53.7% (10,155 more) when compared to 2020 (18,902). The growth in the number of marriages also resulted in an increase of the crude marriage rate, from 1.8 (the lowest value in the period under analysis) to 2.8 marriages per thousand inhabitants, still below the values observed since 2011 (3.4%).

Figure 12. Marriages (No.) and Crude marriage rate (%), Portugal, 2011-2021

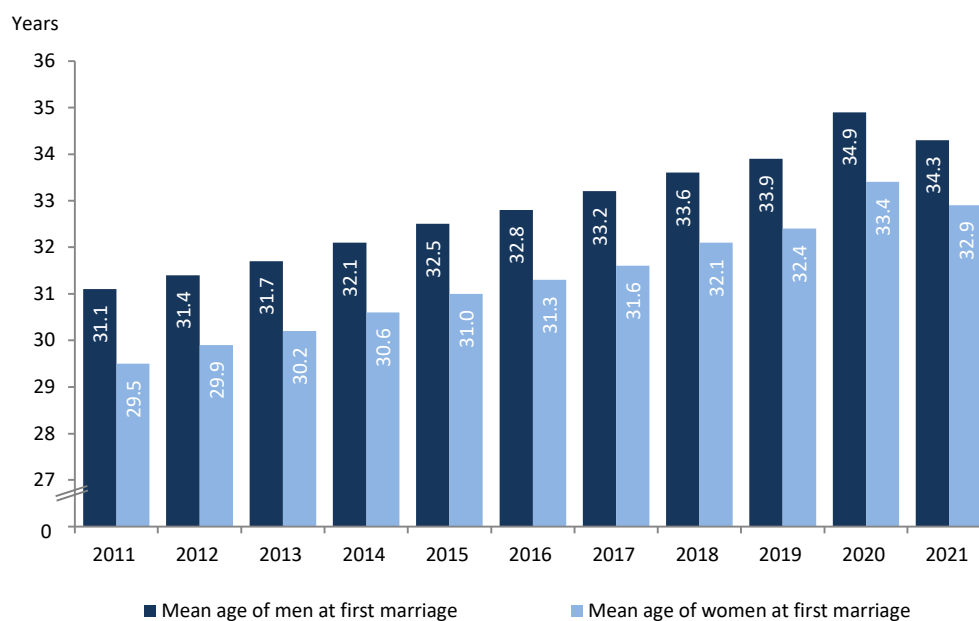


Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages and Demographic indicators.

In 6.4% of the marriages celebrated in Portugal, spouses declared that their future residence would be abroad (6.0% in 2020; 5.3% in 2011).

The postponement of marriage to older ages is a trend that has continued over the last decades for both sexes. In 2021, the mean age at first marriage was 34.3 years for men and 32.9 years for women, representing a slight decrease compared to the previous year for both genders (34.9 and 33.4, respectively).

Figure 13. Mean age at first marriage (years) by sex, Portugal, 2011-2021

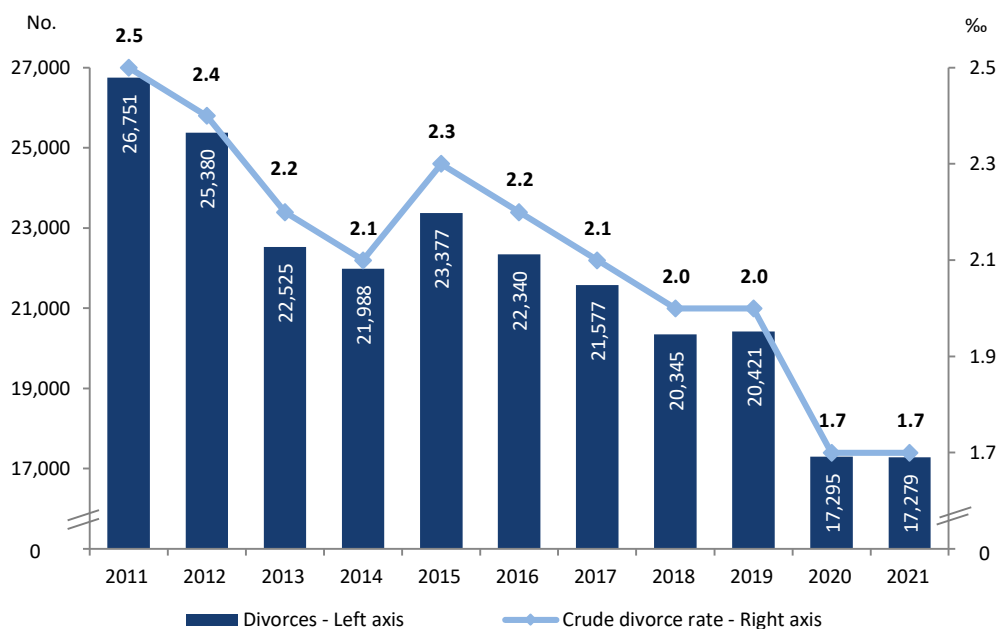


Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

In 2021, 17,279 divorces were decreed for couples whose family home was in Portugal, 16 less than in 2020 (17,295), corresponding to a decrease of 0.1%. Compared to 2011, in 2021 fewer 9,472 divorces were decreed. The crude divorce rate was 1.7 divorces per thousand inhabitants, the same value as in the previous year and lower than the 2.5‰ registered in 2011.

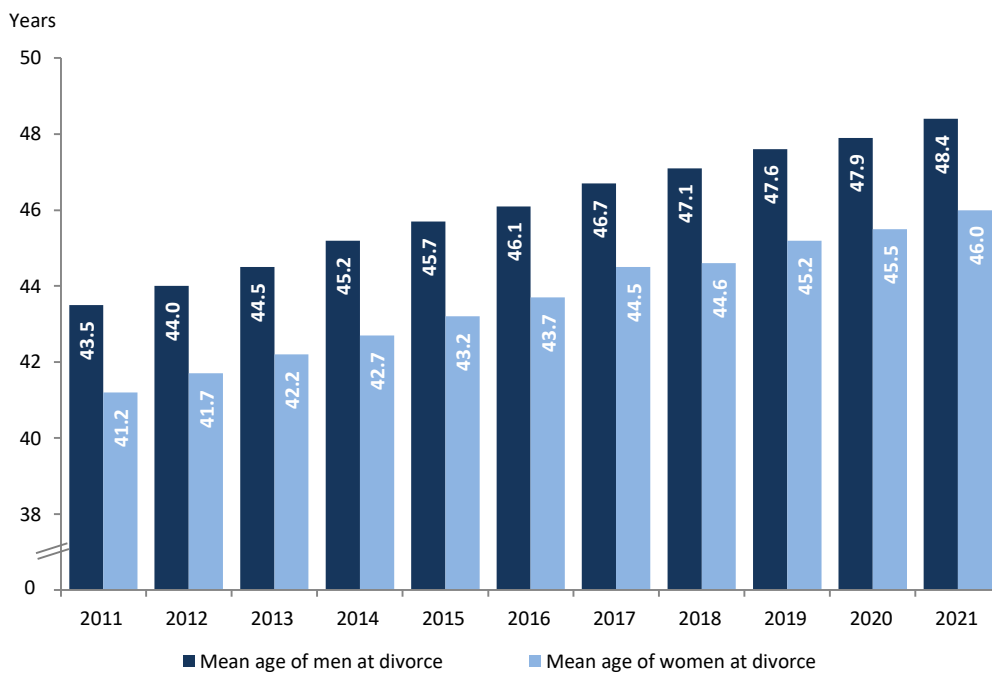
Over the period from 2011 to 2021, the mean age at divorce increased in all years and for both sexes, standing in 2021 at 48.4 years for men and 46.0 years for women (2.4 years difference).

Figure 14. Divorces (No.) and crude divorce rate (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Statistics on divorces and legal separations and Demographic indicators.

Figure 15. Mean age at divorce (years) by sex, Portugal, 2011-2021



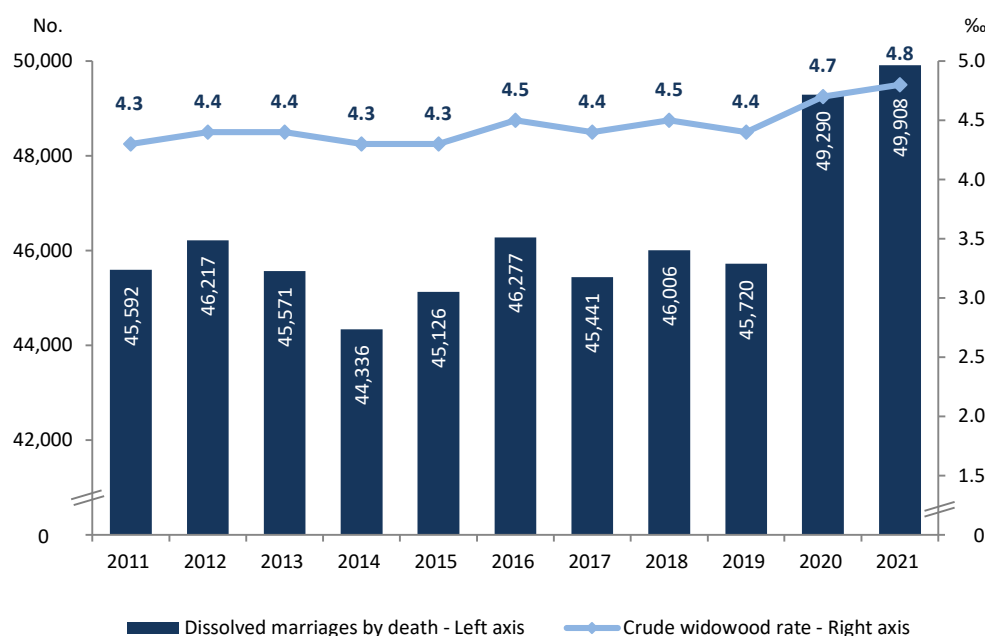
Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.



In Portugal, in 2021, there were 49,908 dissolutions of marriages due to the death of a spouse, 618 more compared to 2020 (49,290). Of these, there were 14,414 widowers and 35,494 widows.

The dissolution of marriage due to the death of a spouse affects women mainly due to male excess mortality, justifying the disparity in the crude widowhood rates by sex: 2.6 per thousand men and 7.2 per thousand women, in 2021.

Figure 16. Marriages dissolved by death (No.) and crude widowhood rate (%), Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

5. International Migration²

For the fifth consecutive year, the number of permanent immigrants exceeded the number of permanent emigrants

In 2011, it is estimated that 18,820 people entered Portugal to reside for a period equal to or more than one year (permanent immigrants). After a decrease in 2012, there was a strong increase in the inflow of permanent immigrants until 2019, when an estimated 95,382 people entered the country. In 2020, reflecting the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of permanent immigrants decreased, remaining, however, above 80 thousand.

² The indicators related to international migrations were subject to review in the context of revisions made to the Provisional Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 and the *ad hoc* population estimates 2021 exercise, based on the Census 2021 final results.

It is estimated that, during 2021, 97,119 permanent immigrants entered Portugal, which corresponds to an annual change rate of 16.1%. Of the total number of permanent immigrants, 63.4% were men and 69.1% were people of working age (15 to 64 years).

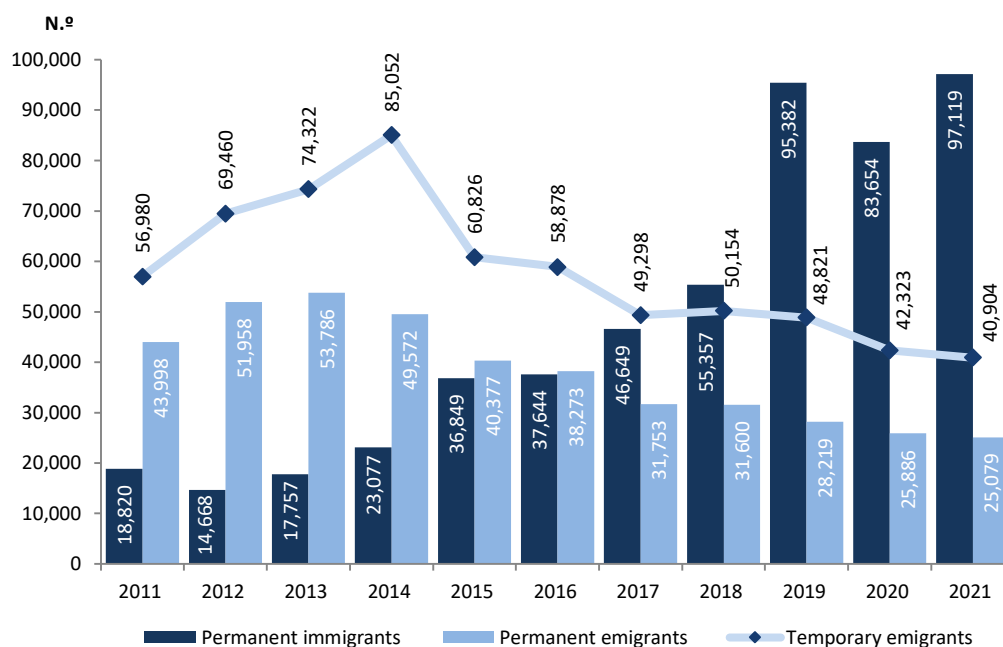
On the other hand, regarding the number of people who left Portugal to reside abroad for a period equal to or over one year (permanent emigrants), at the beginning of the decade from 2011 to 2020, there was an increase from 43,998 in 2011 to 53,786 in 2013. From 2014, there was a period of decline until 2020, year in which it is estimated that 25,886 people have emigrated.

In the year 2021, the number of permanent emigrants reached a total of 25,079 people (corresponding to an annual change rate of -3.1%). Of the total number of permanent emigrants: 60.9% were men; 94.9% had Portuguese nationality; 51.5% went to an EU27 country; and 95.0% were people of working age.

The estimated numbers of emigrants and permanent immigrants resulted in a positive net migration for the fifth consecutive year (72,040).

With respect to temporary emigrants, in 2021, the estimated number of people who left the country with the intent of staying abroad for a period of more than three months, but less than one year, registered a decrease of 3.4%, compared to 2020, going from 42,323 to 40,904 in 2021.

Figure 17. Permanent immigrants and permanent and temporary emigrants (No.), Portugal, 2011-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual emigration and immigration estimates.



6. Portuguese citizenship acquisitions

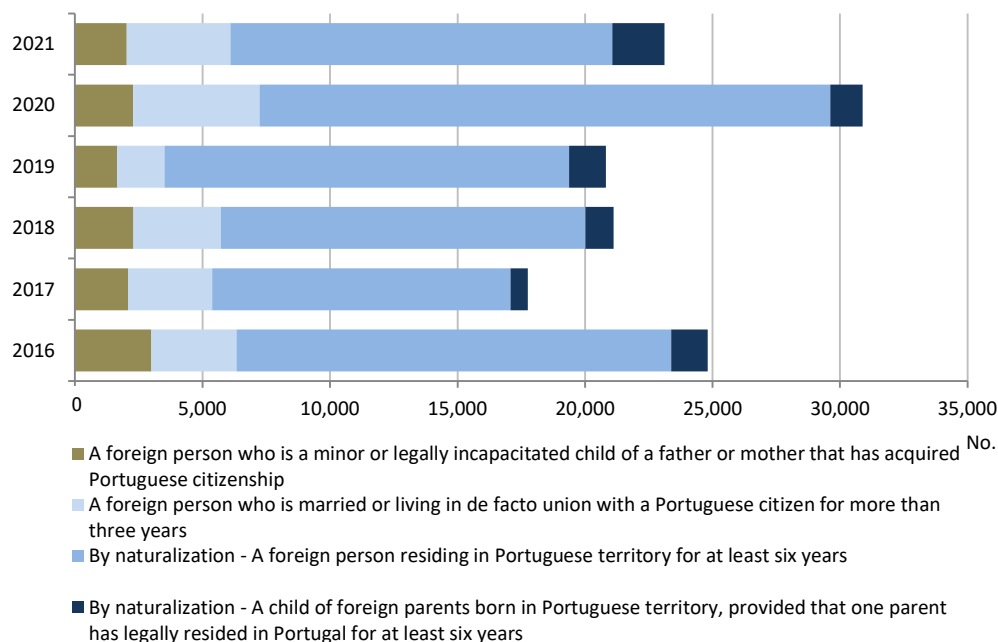
The number of Portuguese citizenship acquisitions reached 54,537: 24,516 granted to foreigners residing in Portugal and 30,021 to those residing abroad

In 2021, 24,516 foreign citizens residing in Portugal acquired Portuguese citizenship, 23.7% less than in 2020 (32,147). The main reason for the acquisition of Portuguese citizenship by foreigners residing in Portugal was naturalization (74.7%), followed by "marriage or partnership with Portuguese citizen for more than three years" (16.6%) and by "minor or legally incapacitated child of a father or mother that has acquired Portuguese citizenship" (8.3%).

Regarding the Portuguese citizenship acquisitions by foreign citizens residing abroad, the growth trend continued, from 27,670 in 2020 to 30,021 in 2021. This evolution is associated, in part, with legislative changes that favored the possibility of citizenship acquisition by foreigners of Portuguese descent and, particularly, of Portuguese Sephardic Jews.

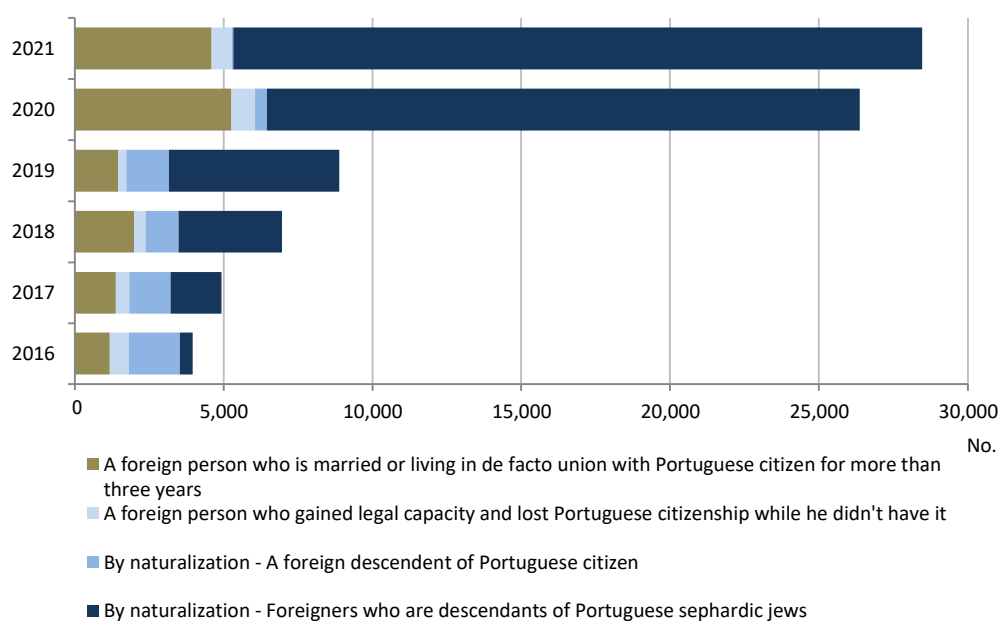
In 2021, the main reason for acquiring Portuguese citizenship by non-resident foreigners was being "descendent of Portuguese Sephardic Jews", representing 77.1% of the total (23,143 cases). Following, in descending order of importance, "marriage or partnership with a Portuguese citizen for more than three years" with 15.3% (4,591 cases) and "a foreign person who gained legal capacity and lost Portuguese citizenship while he didn't have it" accounting for 2.3% of the total (689 cases).

Figure 18. Foreign population resident in Portugal that acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition, 2016-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Acquisition and attribution of Portuguese citizenship.

Figure 19. Foreign population residing abroad who acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition, 2016-2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Acquisition and attribution of Portuguese citizenship.



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The electronic publication Demographic Statistics is released annually and aims to analyze the various themes of demographic behavior of the resident population in Portugal, namely aspects related to the volume and age structure of the population, live births and fertility, mortality and life expectancy, family formation and dissolution (marriages and divorces), international migration movements, foreign population residing or staying in Portugal with legal framework and acquisition, attribution and loss of Portuguese citizenship.

This edition corresponds to the 81st edition of the thematic yearbook on Demography, published by Statistics Portugal since 1935.

The published data refer to the 2011-2021 period and, generally, are disaggregated to the first and second levels of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes (NUTS 1 and NUTS 2). Associated to each figure are hyperlinks to data with greater geographic and temporal detail. In chapter 6, long series of the main demographic indicators with 10-year information are available for the period 1900-1980 and annually from 1980 to 2021.

This edition also publishes the Definitive Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 series (intercensal estimates), by sex, age, and municipality, revising the Provisional Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 series, which Statistics Portugal discloses in June each calendar year. This is a revision that is carried out every ten years, after the release of the final results of each new population census and falls under the typology “Regular General Revisions”. The 2021 Provisional Resident Population Estimates (post-census estimates based on the 2021 Census) are also made available, which review the *ad hoc* population estimates exercise, released in June 2022 and which were based on the provisional results of the 2021 Census.

Demographic indicators for 2011-2020 and 2021 were revised based on the Definitive Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 and on the Provisional Resident Population Estimates 2021.

It should be noted that the resident population estimates refer to December 31st of each calendar year. Thus, the 2021 population estimate, and all related demographic indicators, do not match the 2021 Census figures, which has reference date April 19th, 2021.

In Portugal, population census is carried out every ten years, providing information on the resident population and its sociodemographic characteristics. In intercensal years, Statistics Portugal publishes resident population estimates for the end of each year, by sex, age or age group, and place of residence, down to the municipality level.

There are two types of annual resident population estimates in Portugal: intercensal estimates, which are calculated based on the results of two consecutive census for all years comprised between their reference years, designated as “Definitive Resident Population Estimates”, and post-census estimates, which include the results of the most recent census, calculated for the year of the census and for subsequent years, known as “Provisional Resident Population Estimates”. These estimates are, by definition, provisional until the final results of the next census are disclosed. Thus, the series of Provisional Resident Population Estimates 2011-2020 (measured from the 2011 Census) was subject to revision, to make it compatible with the results of the 2021 Census. The calculation of resident population estimates,



regardless of whether they are provisional or definitive, is based on the natural and migration demographic components, obtained via different Statistics Portugal statistical operations: live births, deaths and emigration and immigration estimates. Regarding live births and deaths, the information is based on the so-called vital statistics, using, for statistical purposes, facts that are subject to compulsory civil registration – live births and deaths. Since migration flows in Portugal are not subject to direct registration, the results of the most recent census, as well as information from other statistical operations carried out by Statistics Portugal – Inquérito aos Movimentos Migratórios de Saída (IMMS) and Inquérito ao Emprego (IE) – is of particular importance for the estimation of migration flows, as well as the analysis of information produced by the Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (SEF).

The Provisional Resident Population Estimates for 2022 (based on the 2021 Census) will be released in June 2023, as usual.

Detailed methodological information available at: www.ine.pt, option Products, Metadata system.

Detailed statistical information available at: www.ine.pt, option Products, Statistical data, database, theme Population.

Next press release

16th November 2023: “Demographic Statistics 2022”.
