



28 April 2023

VITAL STATISTICS 2022

## **NATURAL BALANCE IMPROVED IN 2022, BUT REMAINS NEGATIVE IN ALL REGIONS**

In 2022, there were 83,671 live births to mothers residing in Portugal, representing an increase of 5.1% (4,089 more children) compared to the previous year. Of the total live births, 60.2% were born outside marriage, meaning they were the children of unmarried parents.

In the same year, there were 124,311 deaths of people residing in national territory, corresponding to a decrease of 0.4% (491 fewer deaths) compared to 2021, and there were 217 deaths of children under 1 year old (26 more than in 2021), which were reflected in an increase of the infant mortality rate, from 2.4 in 2021 to 2.6 deaths per thousand live births in 2022.

The increase in the number of live births and the decrease in the number of deaths determined an improvement of the natural balance from -45,220 in 2021 to -40,640 in 2022.

In 2022, 36,952 marriages were celebrated in Portugal (27.2% more than in 2021). In 68.5% of the cases, the spouses already cohabited before marriage.

That year, there were 49,230 marriages dissolved by death of a spouse, which represented a decrease of 1.4% compared to 2021 (49,908 dissolutions), of which resulted 14,385 widowers and 34,845 widows.

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Statistics Portugal releases on the portal – <http://www.ine.pt> – indicators on live births, deaths and marriages with information for 2022, by NUTS 1, 2 and 3, Municipalities and Parishes, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until March 2023.

VITAL STATISTICS 2022

**Number of live births increased 5.1%**

In 2022, 83,671 live births were born to mothers residing in Portugal, 5.1% more than in 2021 (79,582). Of the total live births, 42,925 were male and 40,746 were female, representing a sex ratio at birth of 105 (for every 100 females born, around 105 males were born).

**Figure 1. Live births by sex, Portugal, 2013-2022**

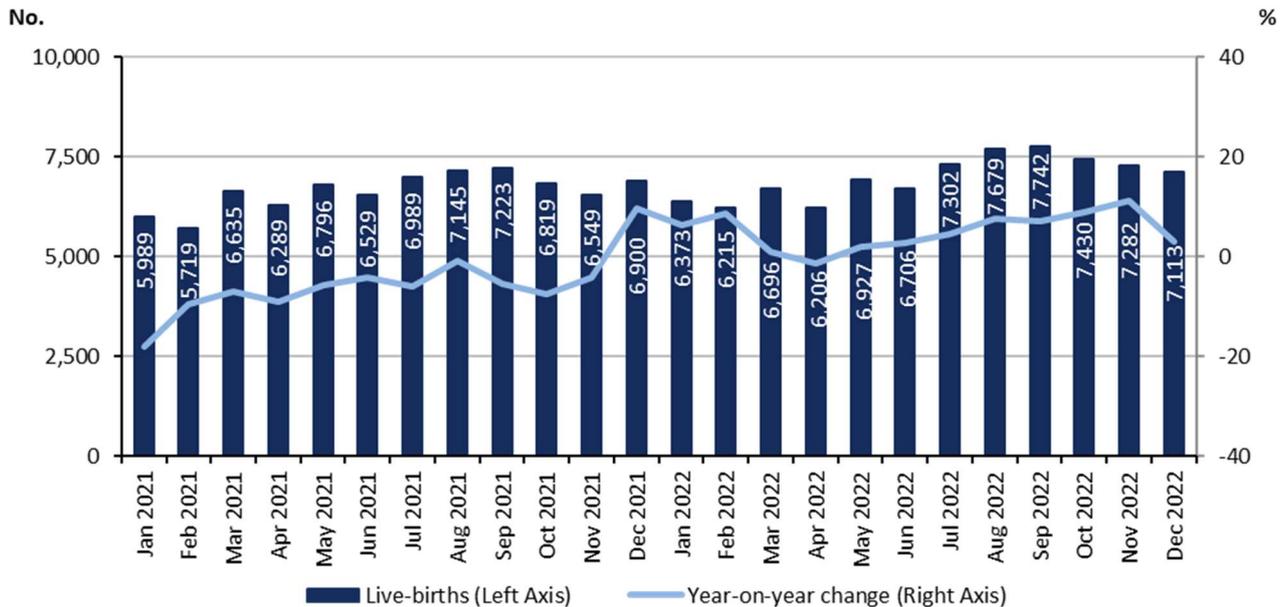


Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

<sup>1</sup>The total number of deaths may not correspond to the sum of the partial figures by sex due to the existence of records with unknown sex.

As in previous years, also in 2022, September was the month in which the highest number of live births was registered. Except for the month of April (-1.3%), the year-on-year change was always positive, with the highest increase registered in November (+11.2%).

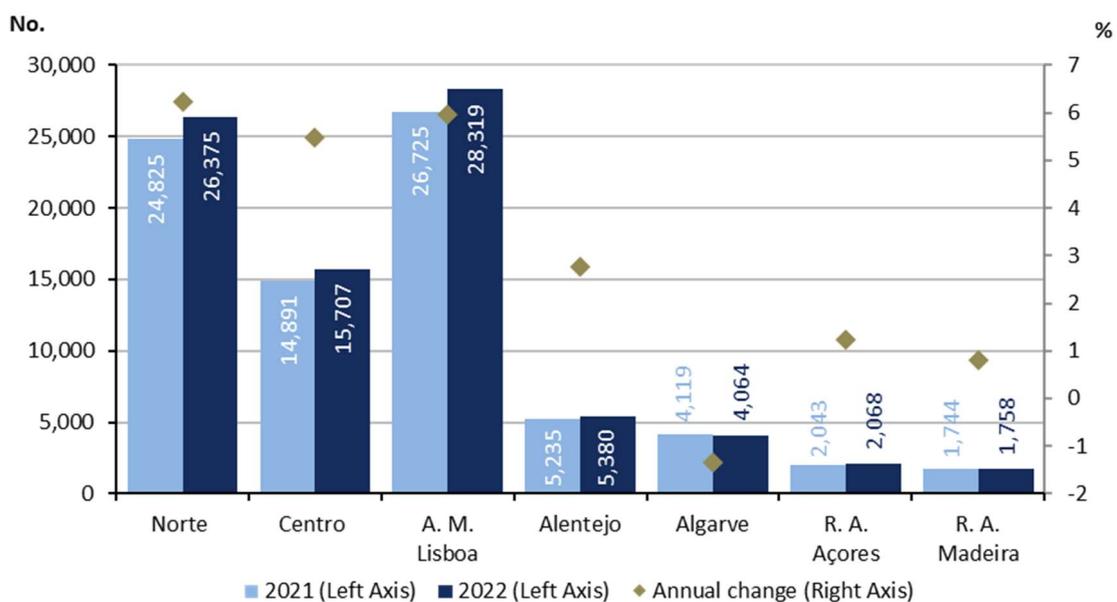
Figure 2. Live births and year-on-year change, Portugal, January 2021 to December 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

Births have increased in all regions of the country, except for the Algarve (-1.3%). In Norte (+6.2%), Centro (+5.5%) and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (+6.0%) regions, the increase was higher than the national value (+5.1%). The Região Autónoma da Madeira registered the smallest increase (+0.8%).

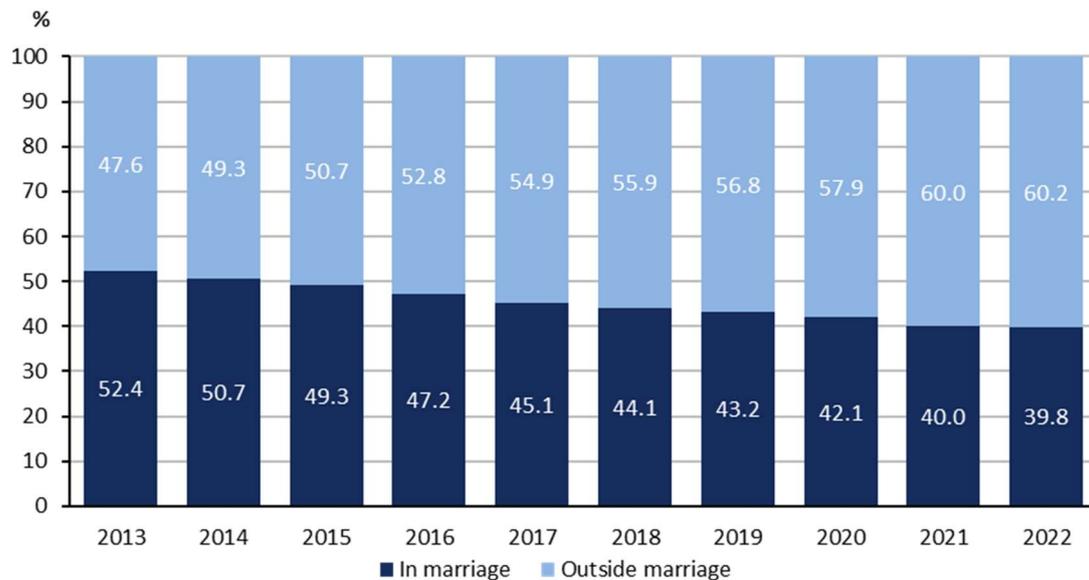
Figure 3. Live births and annual change, NUTS 2, 2021 and 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

In 2022, the proportion of live births born outside marriage, that is, children of parents who were not married to each other, increased to 60.2%, representing, for the eighth consecutive year, more than half of the total births in Portugal.

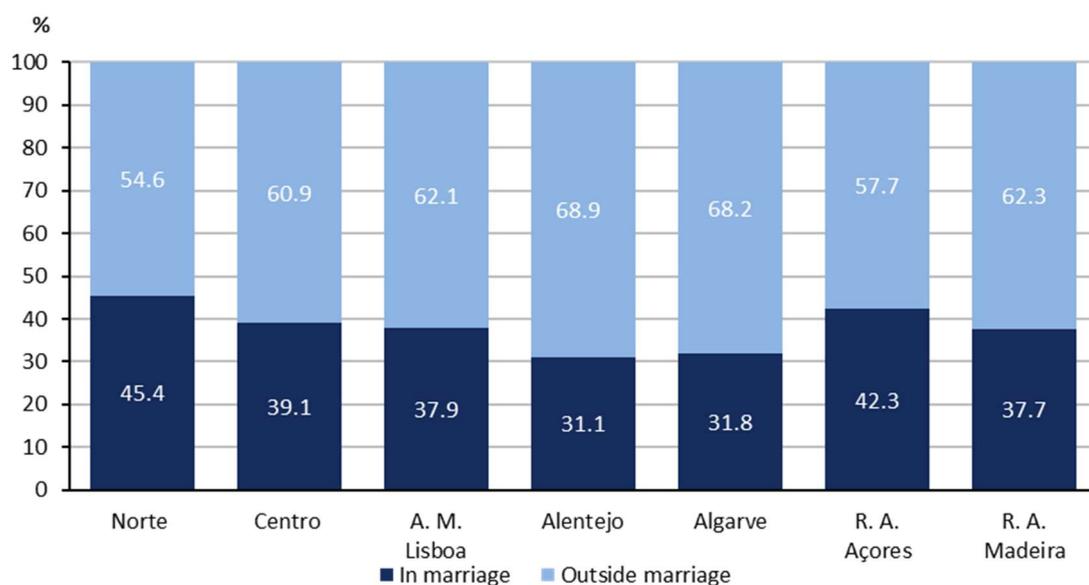
**Figure 4. Live births by legitimacy status, Portugal, 2013-2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

All regions recorded proportions of live births outside marriage above the national figure (60.2%), except for Norte (54.6%) and Região Autónoma dos Açores (57.7%).

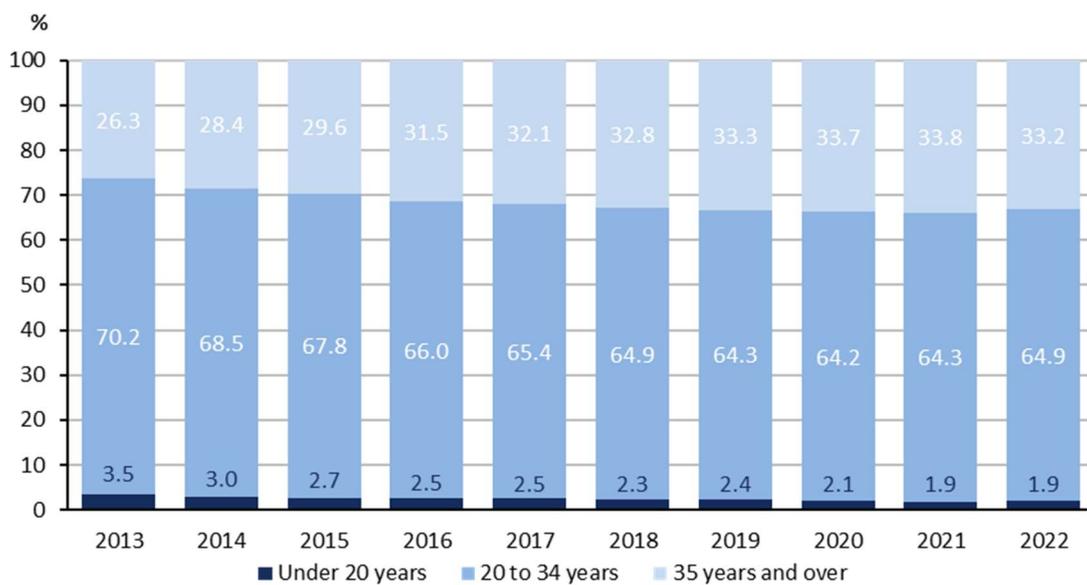
**Figure 5. Live births by legitimacy status, NUTS 2, 2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

In 2022, of the total live births, 64.9% were to mothers aged between 20 to 34 years, 33.2% to mothers aged 35 and over and 1.9% to mothers under 20 years of age. Between 2013 and 2022, there were decreases in the proportions of live births to mothers under the age of 20 and to mothers aged between 20 to 34 years, respectively by 1.6 and 5.3 percentage points (pp). On the other hand, over this period, there was an increase of 6.9 pp in the proportion of live births to mothers aged 35 and over.

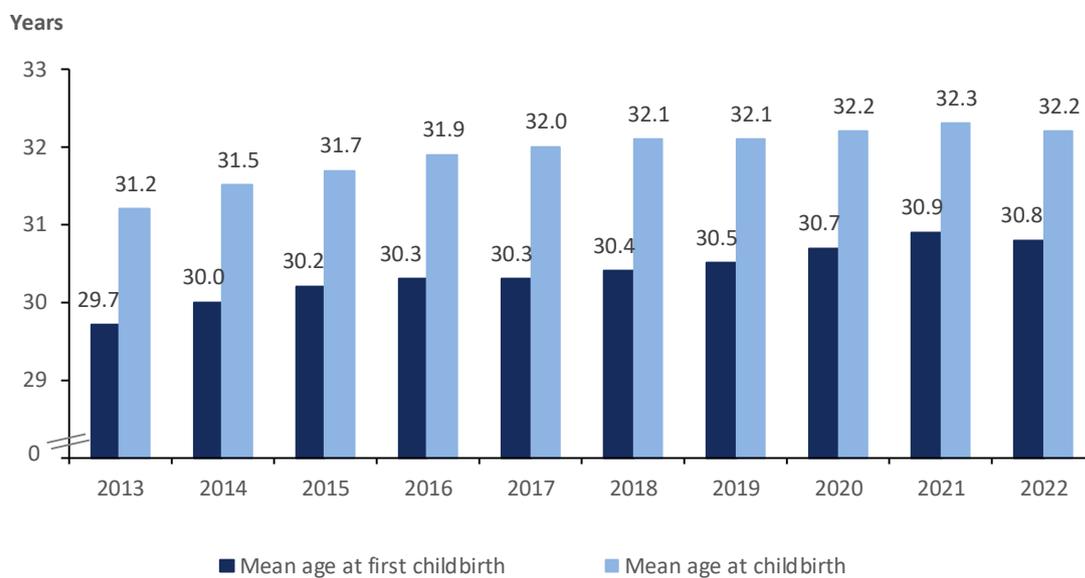
**Figure 6. Live births by age of the mother, Portugal, 2013-2022**



**Source:** Statistics Portugal, Live births.

The mean age of mother at childbirth (regardless of the birth order) was 32.2 years and the mean age of mother at first childbirth was 30.8 years. Between 2013 and 2022, there was an increase of 1.2 years in the mean age at childbirth and of 1.4 years in the mean age at first childbirth.

Figure 7. Mean age of mother at childbirth and at first childbirth, Portugal, 2013-2022

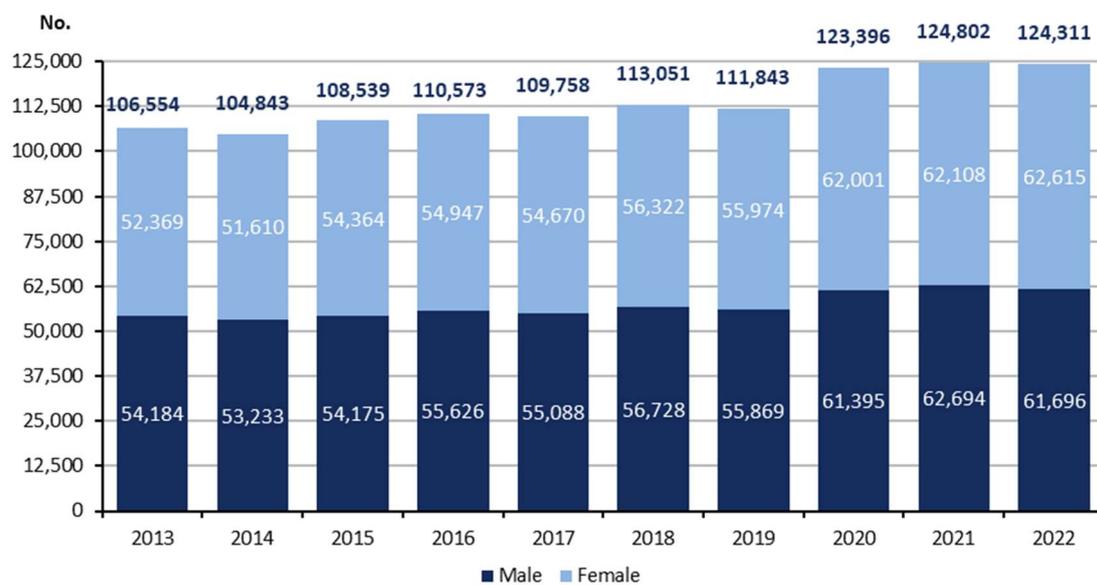


Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic Indicators.

Number of deaths decreased 0.4%

In 2022, there were 124,311 deaths of residents in the national territory, 491 less when compared to 2021 (124,802), representing a 0.4% decrease. Of the total deaths recorded, 62,615 were of women and 61,696 were of men.

Figure 8. Deaths by sex<sup>1</sup>, Portugal, 2013-2022

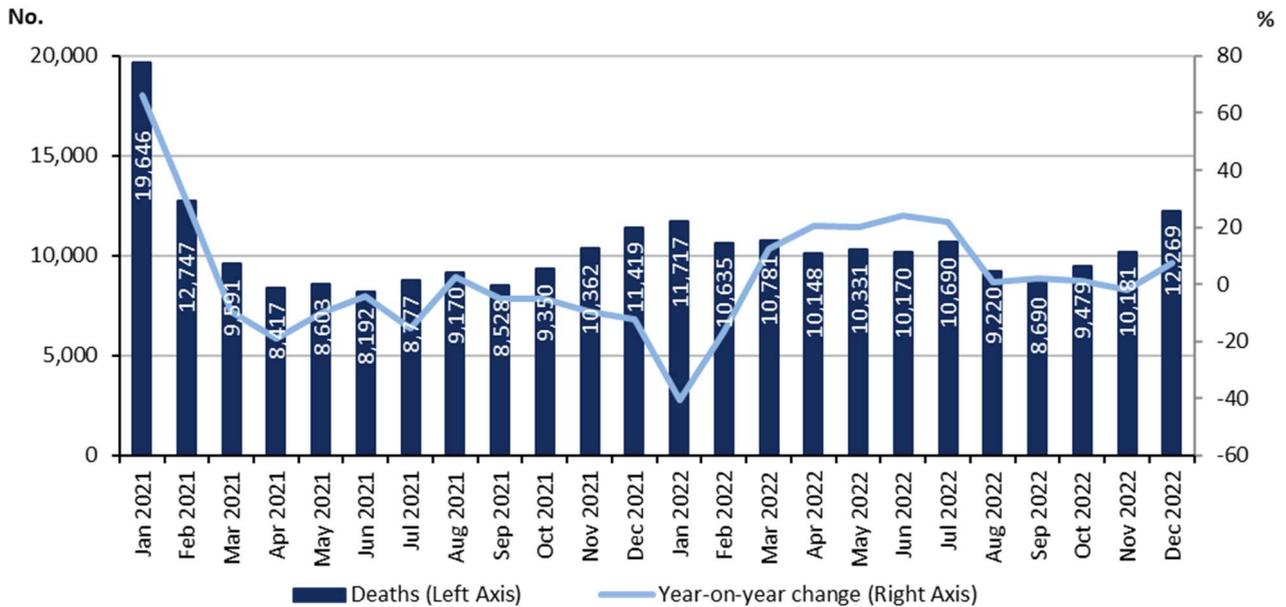


Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

<sup>1</sup>The total number of deaths may not correspond to the sum of the partial figures by sex due to the existence of records with unknown sex.

In January and February 2022, there was a decrease in mortality compared to the same months in 2021 (-40.4% and -16.6% deaths, respectively). Between March and December 2022, except for November, in all months the number of deaths was higher than that observed in 2021. The month of December registered the highest mortality (12,269 deaths).

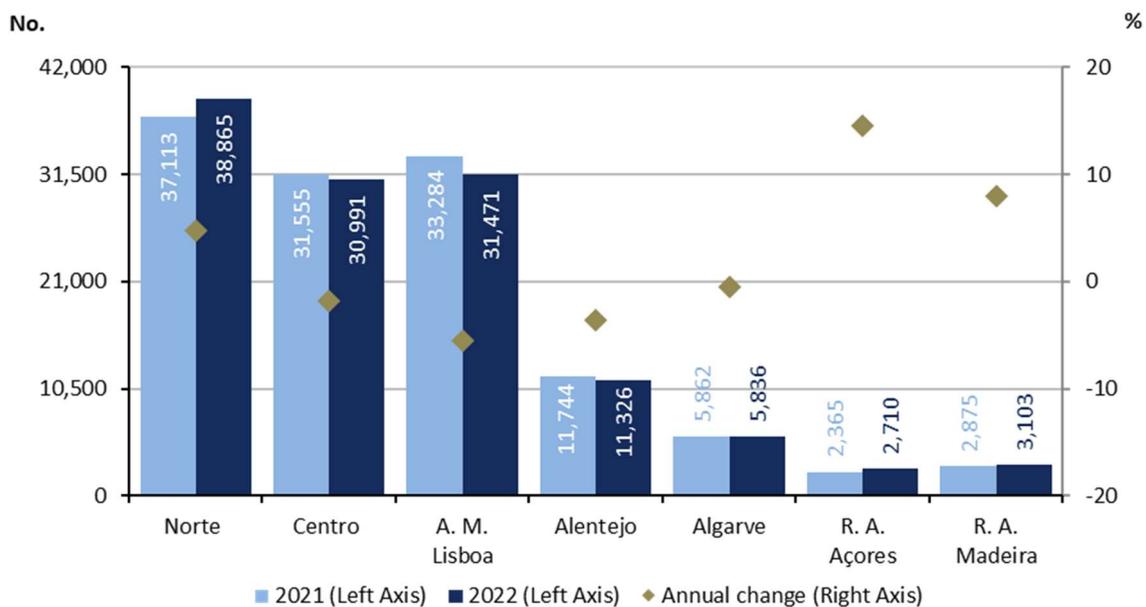
Figure 9. Deaths and year-on-year change, Portugal, January 2021 to December 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

Mortality decreased in four of the seven NUTS 2 regions, namely in Centro (-1.8%), in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (-5.4%), in Alentejo (-3.6%), and in Algarve (-0.4%). In the Norte and in Região Autónoma da Madeira and Região Autónoma dos Açores, there were increases in mortality, with the highest increase occurring in the latter (+14.6%).

Figure 10. Deaths and annual change, NUTS 2, 2021 and 2022

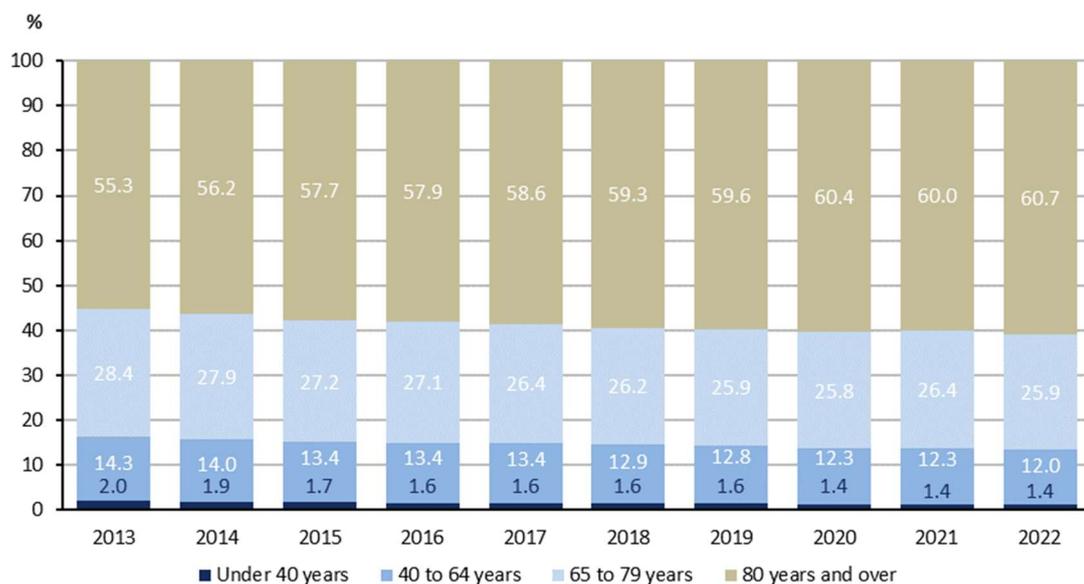


Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

Most deaths occurred at older ages: 86.6% were of people aged 65 and over and more than half (60.7%) occurred at ages 80 and over.

Between 2013 and 2022, there were decreases in the proportions of deaths under the age of 65 and between the ages of 65 and 79, respectively of 2.9 and 2.5 pp. On the other hand, there was an increase of 5.5 pp in the proportion of deaths over the age of 80.

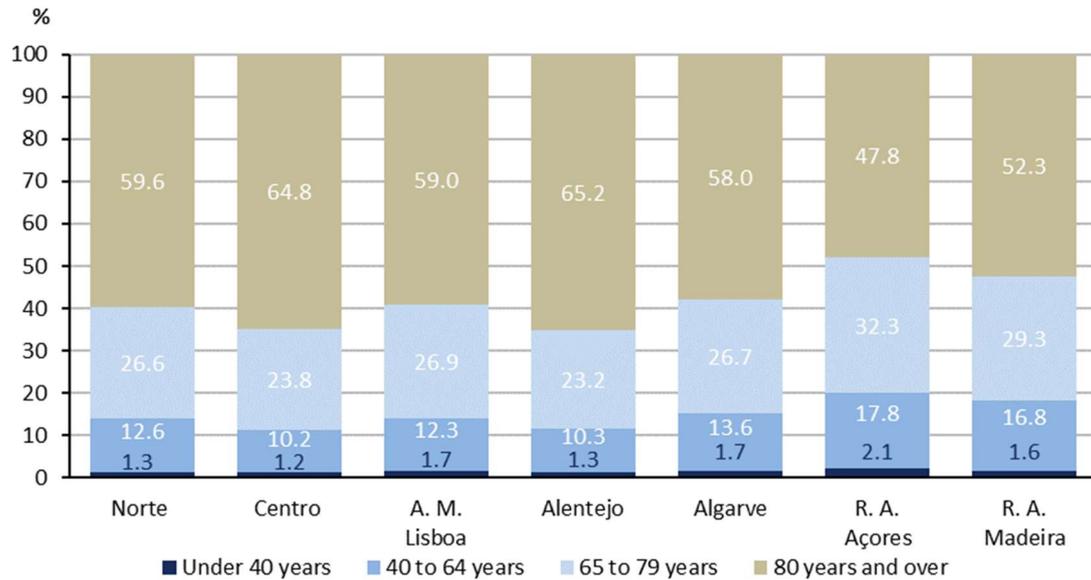
**Figure 11. Deaths by age group, Portugal, 2013-2022**



**Source:** Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

In line with what was observed for the country, in 2022, also in the NUTS 2 regions the highest proportion of deaths occurred in the age group of 80 and over, representing more than 50% of mortality in all regions, except for the Região Autónoma dos Açores (47.8%). In the regions Alentejo and Centro, the proportion of deaths in this age group was higher than the national average (65.2% and 64.8%, respectively, against 60.7%).

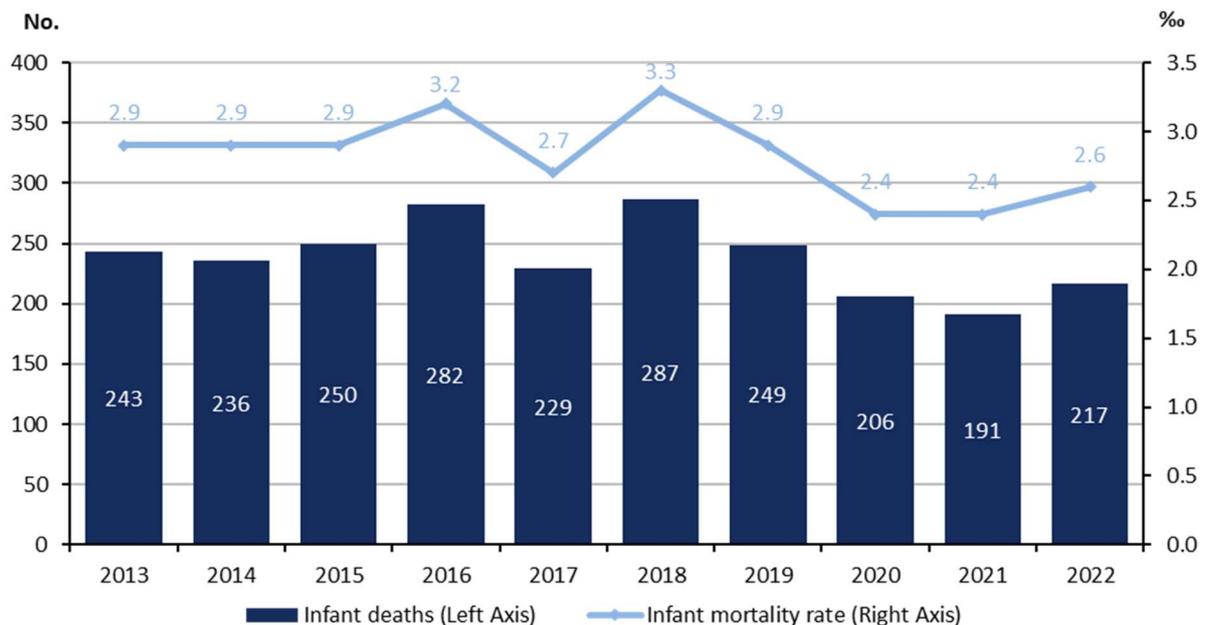
Figure 12. Deaths by age group, NUTS 2, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

In 2022, there were 217 deaths of children under 1 year of age (26 fewer than in 2021). The infant mortality rate increased from 2.4 in 2021 to 2.6 deaths per thousand live births in 2022.

Figure 13. Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Portugal, 2013-2022

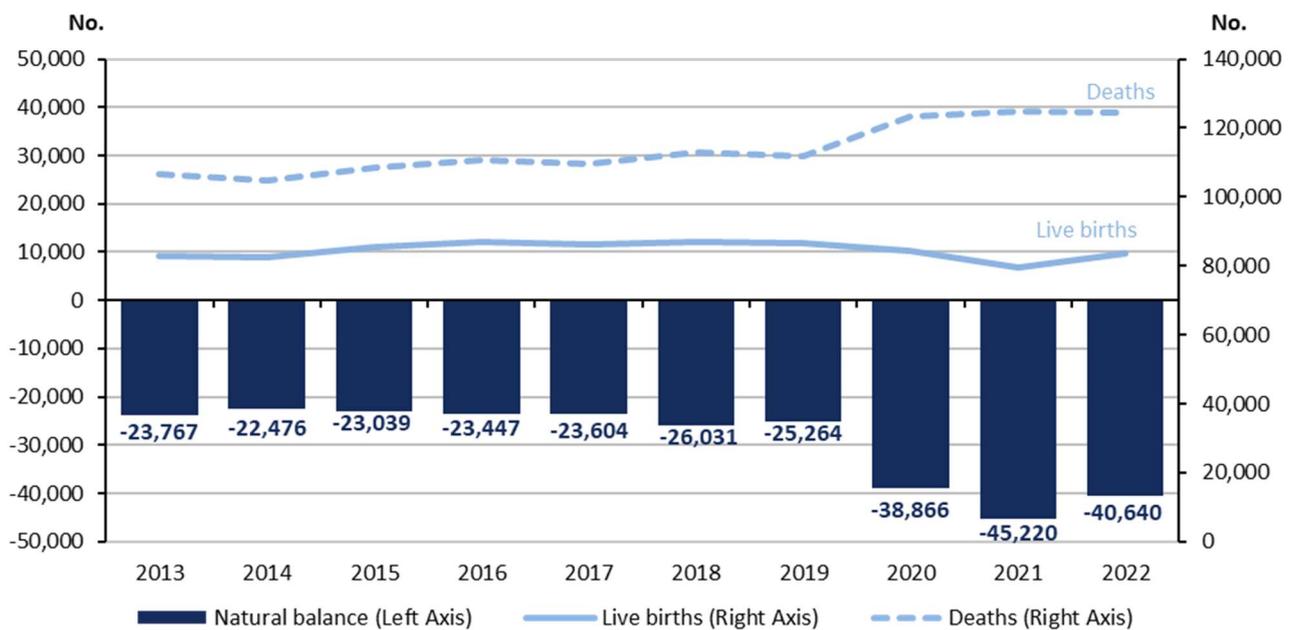


Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

### Negative natural balance improved

In 2022, the increase in the number of live births and the decrease in the number of deaths determined an improvement of the natural balance from -45,220 in 2021 to -40,640 in 2022. Throughout this period, Portugal always recorded a negative natural balance.

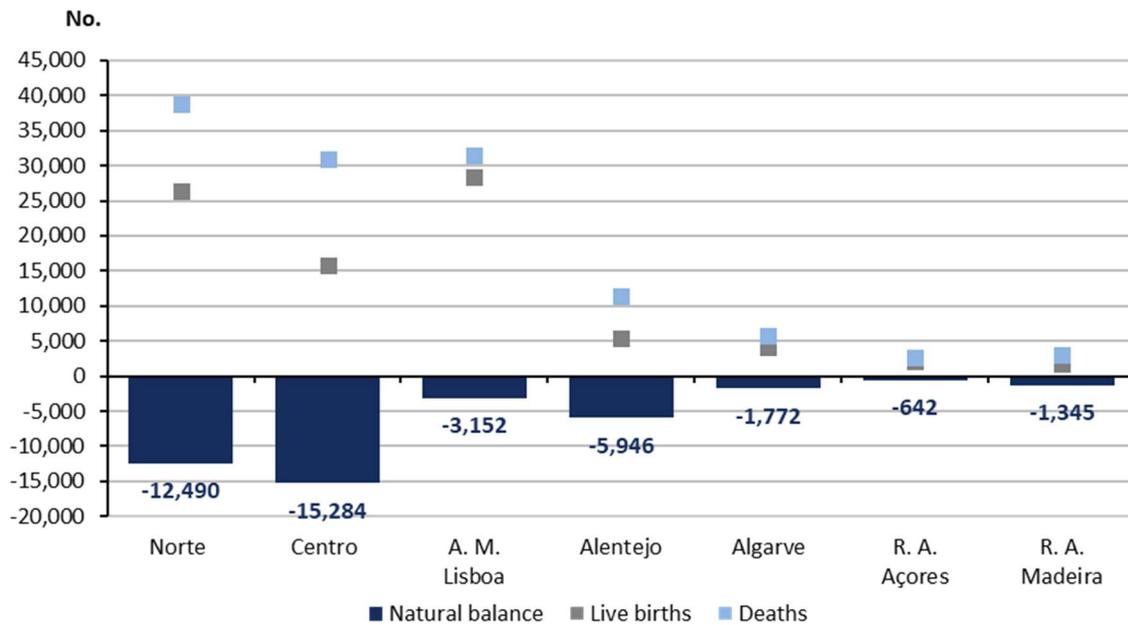
**Figure 14. Live births, deaths and natural balance, Portugal, 2013-2022**



**Source:** Statistics Portugal, Live-births, Deaths and Demographic Indicators.

In 2022, all NUTS 2 regions recorded a negative natural balance. The region Centro was the one with the most negative natural balance (-15,284) and the Região Autónoma dos Açores registered the least negative value (-642).

Figure 15. Live births, deaths and natural balance, NUTS 2, 2022

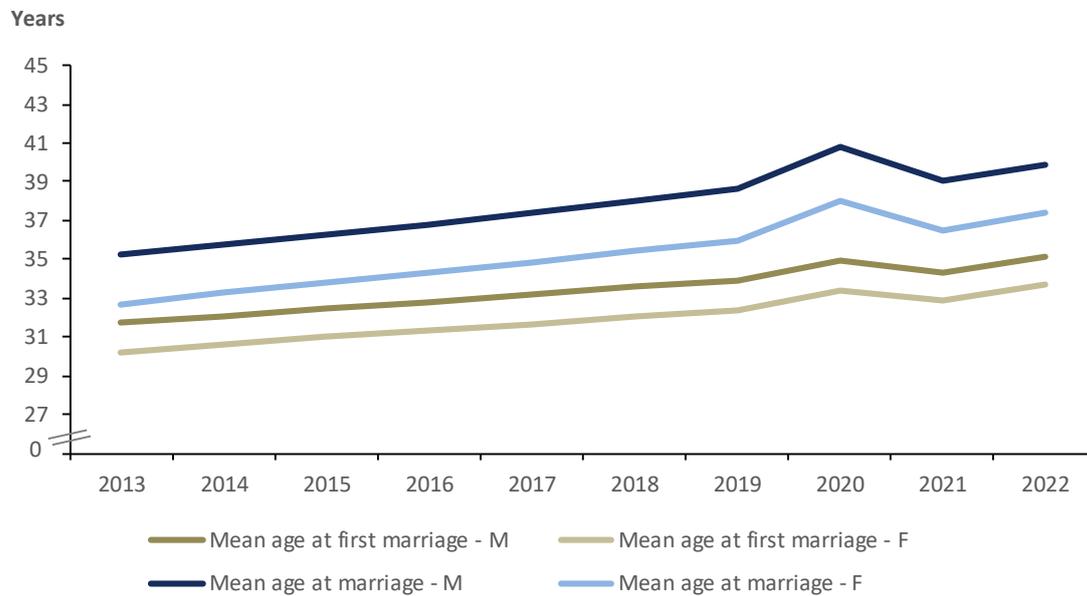


Source: Statistics Portugal, Live-births, Deaths and Demographic Indicators.

### Number of marriages increased 27.2%

In 2022, 36,952 marriages were celebrated in Portugal, 7,895 more than in the previous year, representing an increase of 27.2%. The mean age at marriage was 39.9 years for men and 37.4 years for women. The mean age at first marriage was 35.1 years for men and 33.7 years for women. Between 2013 and 2022, there was an increase of about 5 years in the mean age at marriage and around 4 years in the mean age at first marriage, for both sexes.

Figure 16. Mean age at marriage and mean age at first marriage by sex, Portugal, 2013-2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriage Statistics.

Of the celebrated marriages, 36,151 were opposite-sex marriages (28,508 in 2021) and 801 were same-sex marriages (549 in 2021), of which 413 marriages between men and 388 marriages between women (287 and 262, respectively, in 2021).

In more than half of the marriages held in 2022, spouses already cohabited (25,328 marriages). This proportion has grown considerably over the recent years, with an increase of 18.4 pp since, in 2013, it exceeded for the first time 50% (50.1% in 2013 against 68.5% in 2022).

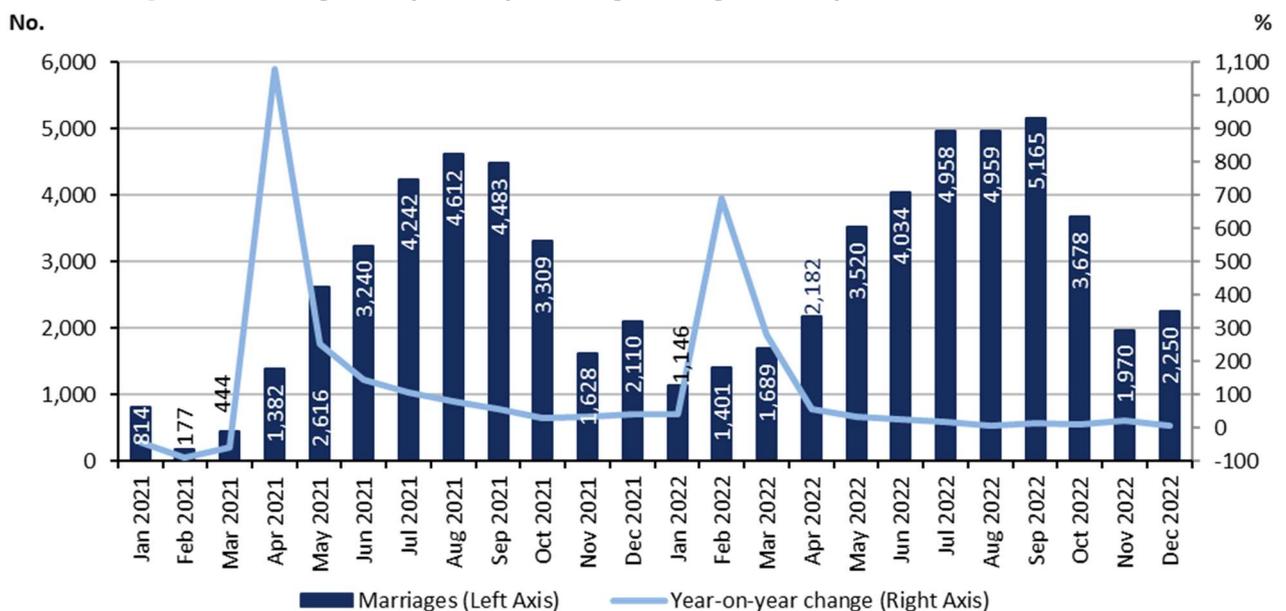
Figure 17. Marriages, with or without previous cohabitation, Portugal, 2013-2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriage Statistics.

In 2022, the number of celebrated marriages recorded positive year-on-year changes in all months, with greater intensity in the first four months of the year. In February and March, the number of celebrated marriages corresponded to, respectively, 8 and 4 times the number of marriages held in the same months of 2021, due to the confinement measures imposed by the pandemic in the first months of 2021. September was the month in which the most weddings took place (5,165).

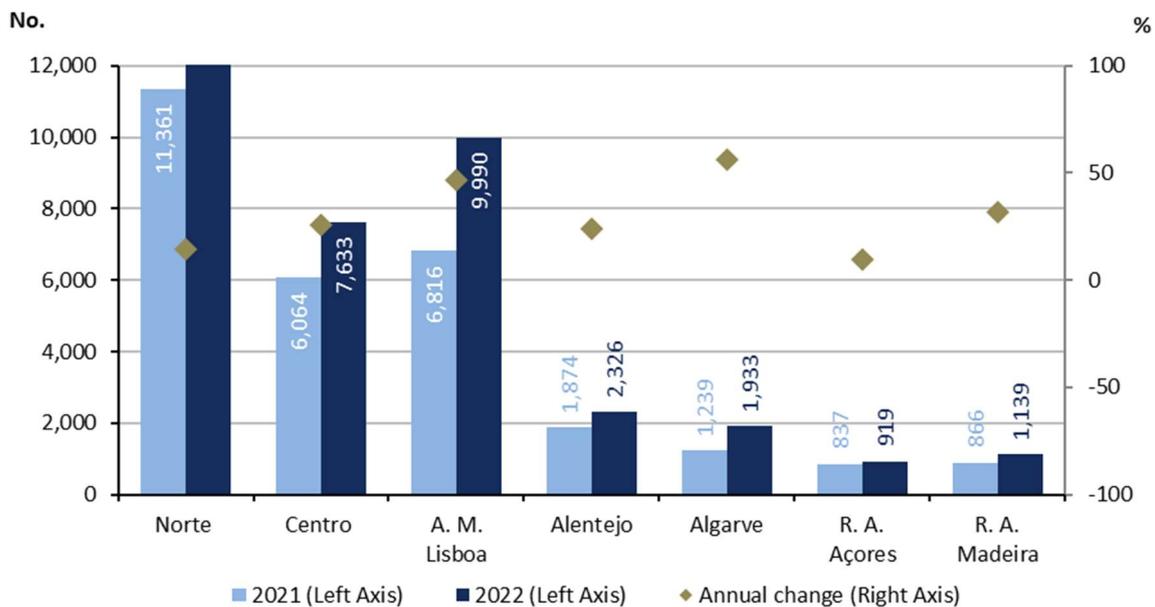
Figure 18. Marriages and year-on-year change, Portugal, January 2021 to December 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriage Statistics.

All NUTS 2 regions followed the national upward trend in the number of marriages in 2022. This increase was higher than the national figure in Algarve (56.0%), Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (46.6%) and in the Região Autónoma da Madeira (31.5%). The Região Autónoma dos Açores registered the smallest increase (9.8%).

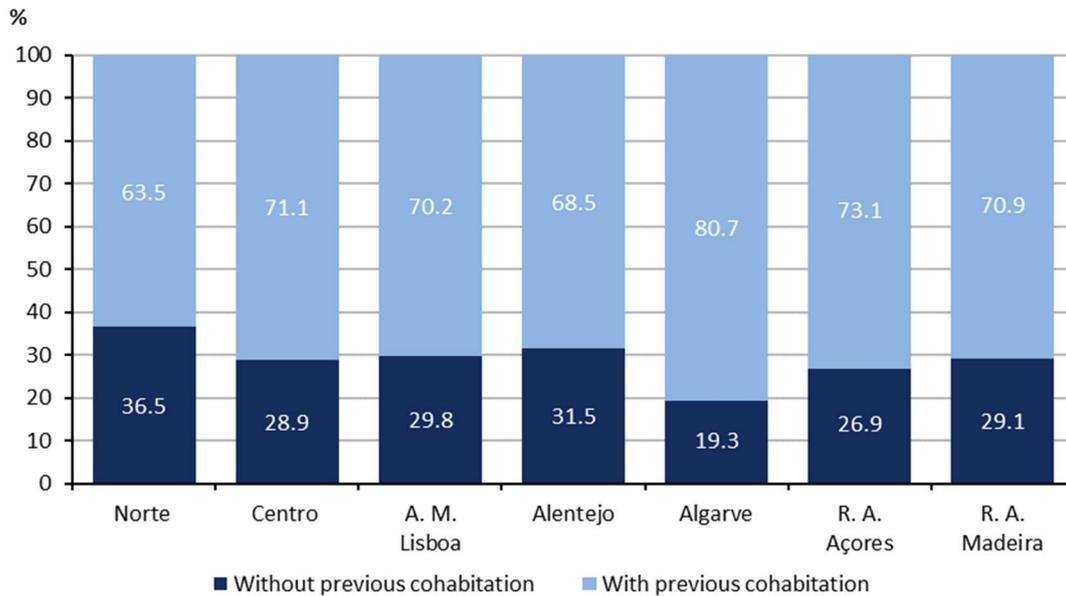
Figure 19. Marriages and annual change, NUTS 2, 2021 and 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriage Statistics.

In all NUTS 2 regions, more than 50% of the spouses already cohabited before marriage, and in the Algarve that proportion exceeded 80%. Only in the Norte region the figure was below the value registered for Portugal (68.5%).

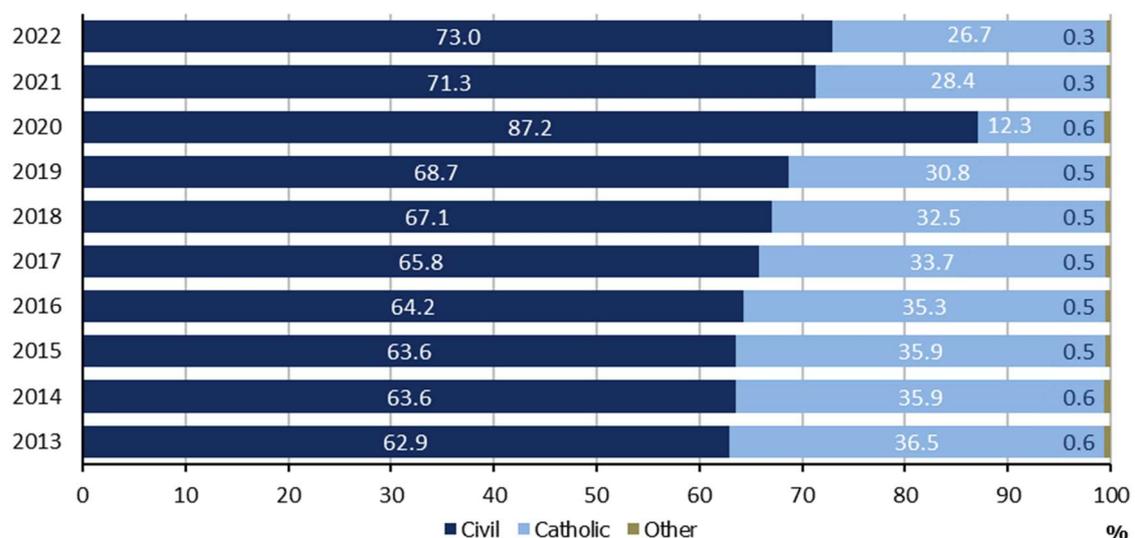
Figure 20. Marriages, with or without previous cohabitation, NUTS 2, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriage Statistics.

Of all opposite-sex marriages celebrated, 26.7% (9,662) were Catholic marriages, 73.0% (27,175) were civil marriages only, and 0.3% (115) were celebrated according to other religious ceremonies<sup>1</sup>.

Figure 21. Marriages between opposite-sex couples, by celebration type, Portugal, 2013-2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriage Statistics.

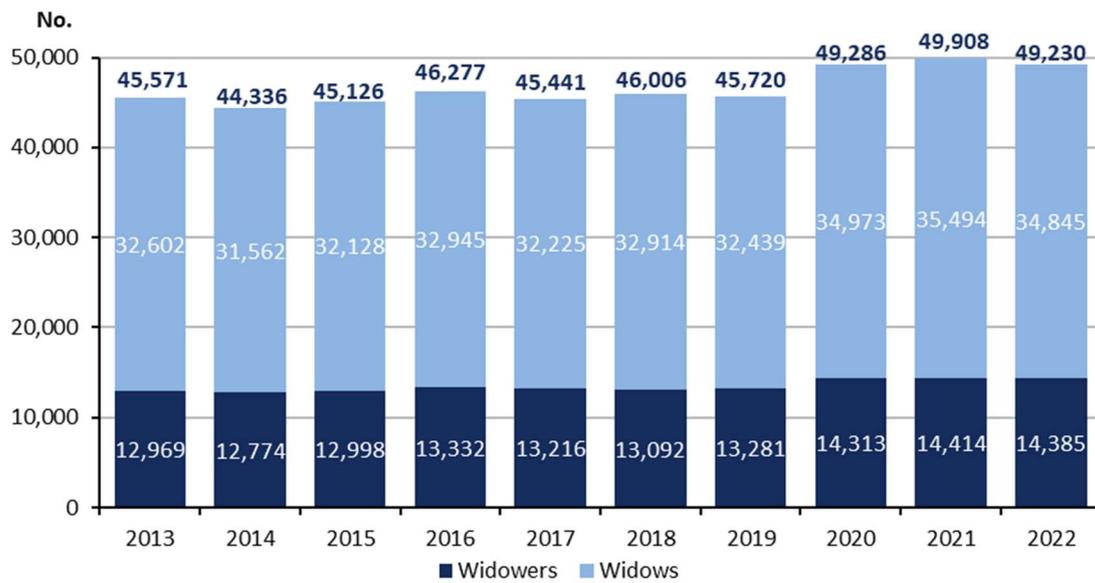
<sup>1</sup> Decree-Law No 324/2007 – Marriages celebrated in religious form before a minister of worship of a church or religious community based in Portugal, which, as from 2007, began to produce civil effects, similar to Catholic marriage.



1.4% less dissolutions of marriages due to the death of one of the spouses

In 2022, there were 49,230 marriages dissolutions by death of a spouse, which represented a decrease of 1.4% compared to 2021 (49,908 dissolutions), of which resulted 14,385 widowers and 34,845 widows.

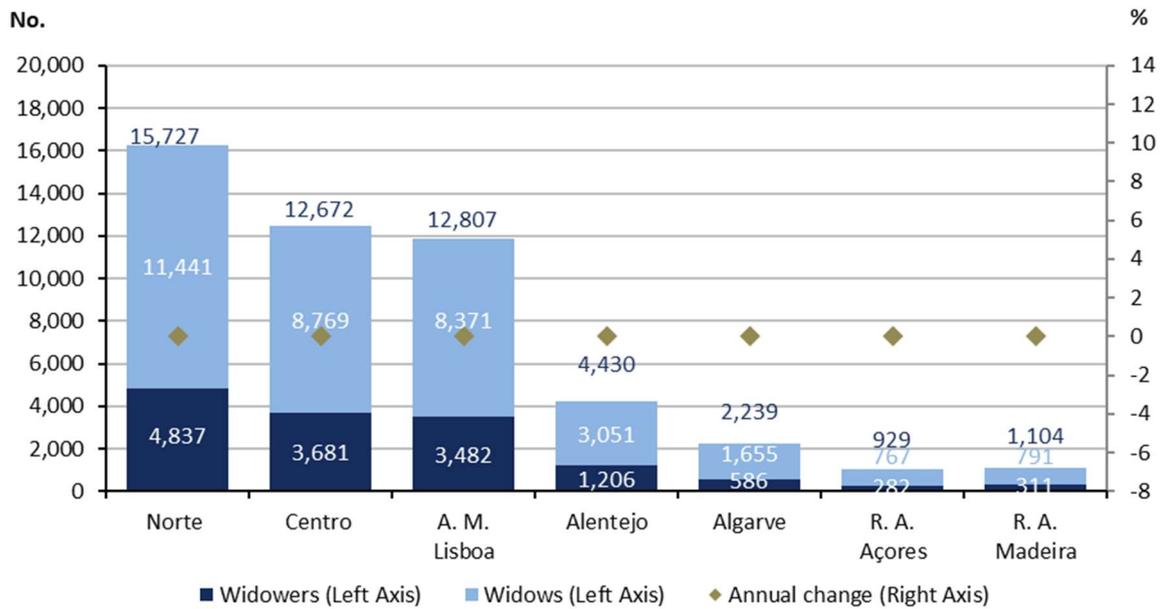
**Figure 22. Dissolved marriages by death and surviving spouses, Portugal, 2013-2022**



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic Indicators.

Both in Portugal and in all the NUTS 2 regions, the number of widows was higher than the number of widowers, reflecting the greater life expectancy of women.

Figure 23. Dissolved marriages by death and surviving spouses, and annual change, NUTS 2, 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic Indicators.



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## TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases indicators on live births, deaths, and marriages with information for 2021, by NUTS 1, 2, 3, Municipalities and parishes geographical breakdowns, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until the end of March 2023. Revisions of mortality data may occur after the codification of the causes of death.

Data on live births, deaths and marriages are obtained from statistical operations of direct and exhaustive collection of information on these demographic events that occurred in Portuguese territory using facts that are subject to compulsory civil registration (birth, death, and marriage) in the Sistema Integrado do Registo e Identificação Civil (SIRIC).

In addition to administrative information obtained from Civil Register Offices, Statistics Portugal also collects an additional set of variables identified as statistically relevant and which are included in data collection Instruments.

Data are recorded and sent electronically, in compliance with the requirements set out by Statistics Portugal and laid down in liaison with the Instituto de Registos e Notariado, IP (IRN) and the Instituto de Gestão Financeira e Equipamentos da Justiça, IP (IGFEJ).

## DEFINITIONS

**Marriage:** contract signed by two persons that intend to start a family in full partnership and cohabitation according to legislation. Note: marriage can be held between persons from different or same sex.

**Mean age at marriage:** the mean age of women (or men) when they get married, during a given period, usually a calendar year.

**Mean age at first marriage:** the mean age of women (or men) when they first get married, during a given period, usually a calendar year.

**Live birth:** complete expulsion or extraction from the mother's body, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, of a product of fertilization that, after separation, breathes or shows any other signs of life, such as a beating of the heart or umbilical cord or actual contraction of any muscle subject to voluntary movement, whether the umbilical cord has been severed or not and whether the placenta is retained or not.

**Mean age of mother at childbirth:** mean age of women when their children are born, usually for a given calendar year.

**Mean age of mother at first childbirth:** mean age of women when their first child is born, during a given period, usually a calendar year.

**Sex ratio at birth:** ratio between male and female live births in a certain period (usually expressed as 100 female live births).

**Death:** the permanent disappearance of vital functions.

**Infant mortality:** deaths of live-born children aged less than one year.



**Infant mortality rate:** the ratio of the number of deaths of children under one year of age during a specific period, usually a calendar year, to the number of live births in that period (usually expressed as the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1000 ( $10^3$ ) live births).

**Natural balance:** the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths during a given period, usually a calendar year.

**Annual change:** the annual change compares the level of a variable between two reference years (year t and year t-1).

**Year-on-year change:** the year-on-year change compares the level of a variable between the reference month and the same month of the previous year.

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Detailed methodological information available at: [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), option Products, Metadata system.

Detailed statistical information available at: [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), option Products, Statistical data, database, theme Population.

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#### Next press release

29<sup>th</sup> April 2024: “Vital Statistics 2023”.

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