



February 18th 2022

VITAL STATISTICS – Monthly data

January 2022

MORTALITY, LIVE BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

NEGATIVE NATURAL BALANCE GOT WORSE IN 2021: THE NUMBER OF DEATHS INCREASED 1.2% AND THE NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS DECREASED 5.9%

In 2021, there were 125,147 deaths in Portugal, more 1,468 (1.2%) deaths compared with 2020 and more 12,856 (11.4%) deaths compared with 2019. The number of deaths from COVID-19 registered in 2021 was 12,004 (6,972 in 2020), accounting for 9.6% of all deaths.

In January 2022, the number of deaths was 11,690, higher than that registered in December 2021 (245 more deaths) and lower in 7,981 deaths (-40.6%) than in January 2021. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 increased to 972, accounting for 8.3% of all deaths. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 increased compared with December 2021 (454 more deaths) and decreased compared with January 2021 (4,813 fewer deaths).

In December 2021, 6,875 children were born alive, corresponding to an increase of 9.4%, when compared to the same month of 2020. The total number of live births registered in 2021 was 79,692, lower than those recorded in the same period of 2019 and 2020, respectively, 7,334 and 4,999 less live births.

In December 2021, the natural balance was -4,542, less negative when compared with the same month of 2020, when it recorded the value of -6,703. The natural balance in 2021 was -45,289, worse regarding the same period of 2019 (-25,214) and 2020 (-38,932).

In December 2021, 2,107 marriages were celebrated, which represents an increase of 40.6% (608 more marriages) when compared with December 2020. In 2021, 29,045 marriages were celebrated, 10,143 more than in same period of 2020 and 4,227 less than in the same period of 2019.

In this press release, Statistics Portugal provides **preliminary data** regarding the number of deaths, per month until January 2022 and per week until the 5th week 2022 (January 31st to February 6th), and the number of live births and marriages per month until December 2021, that occurred in the national territory, making a comparison with the homologous period. Indicators on the preliminary monthly number of live births, deaths, and marriages, from January to November 2021, with geographical breakdowns up to NUTS 3, as well as weekly number of deaths, until the 5th week 2022, by NUTS 3 and daily number of deaths, until February 6th, by NUTS 2 are made available on the Statistics Portugal Website.

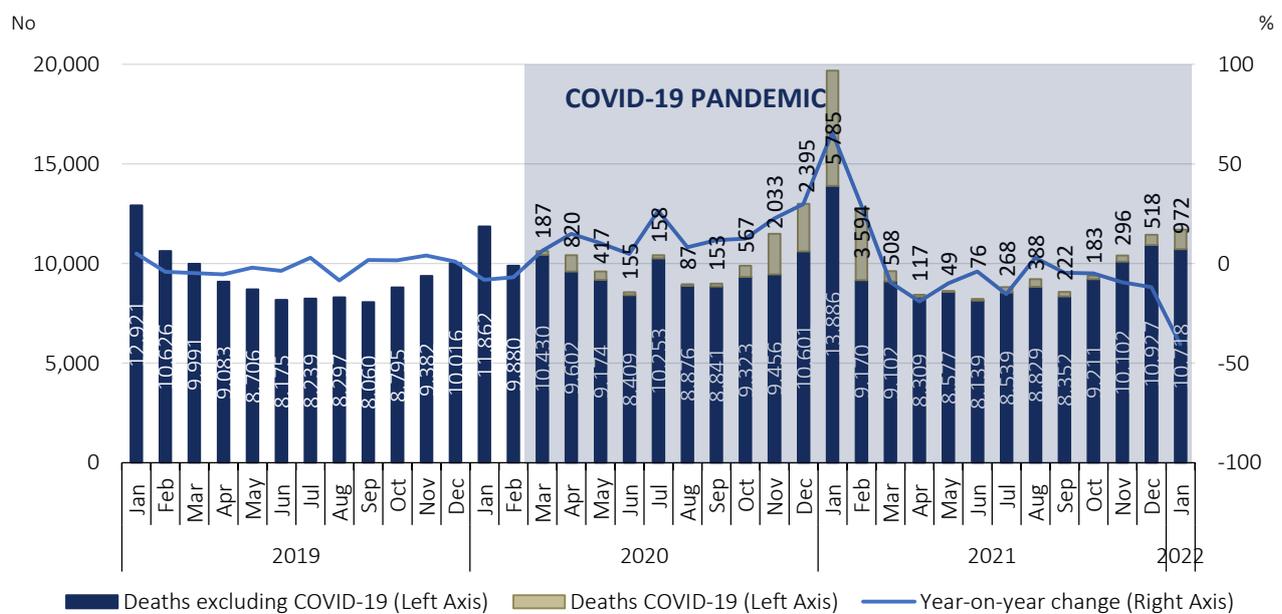
The information is obtained through the Civil Register collected under the Integrated Civil Registration and Identification System (SIRIC) until February 15th, 2022.

Mortality increased in January compared to the previous month, but decreased 40.6% compared to the same month of 2021

In 2021, there were 125,147 deaths in Portugal, more 1,468 (1.2%) deaths compared with 2020 and more 12,856 (11.4%) deaths compared with 2019. The number of deaths from COVID-19 registered in 2021 was 12,004 (6,972 in 2020), accounting for 9.6% of all deaths.

In January 2022, the number of deaths was 11,690, 245 more deaths than in the previous month. Compared to the same month of 2021, the number of deaths in January 2022 decreased by 40.6% (7,981 fewer deaths). The number of deaths due to COVID-19 increased to 972 (454 more deaths compared with December 2021), accounting for 8.3% of all deaths. Compared with January 2021, there was a decrease of 4,813 deaths due to COVID-19.

Figure 1: Deaths and year-on-year change, January 2019 to January 2022

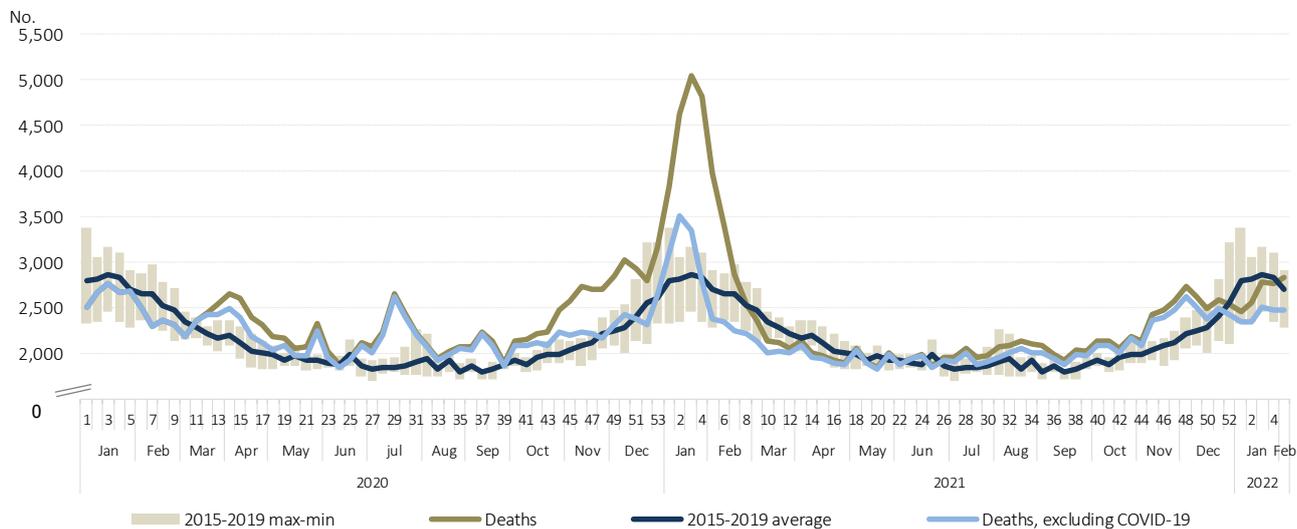


Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.

Analyzing weekly mortality, it was in the 3rd week of 2021 (January 18th to 24th) that the highest number of deaths (5,044) was registered since the beginning of the pandemic. However, it was in the 4th week (January 25th to 31st) that the highest number of deaths by COVID-19 (2,036) was reached.

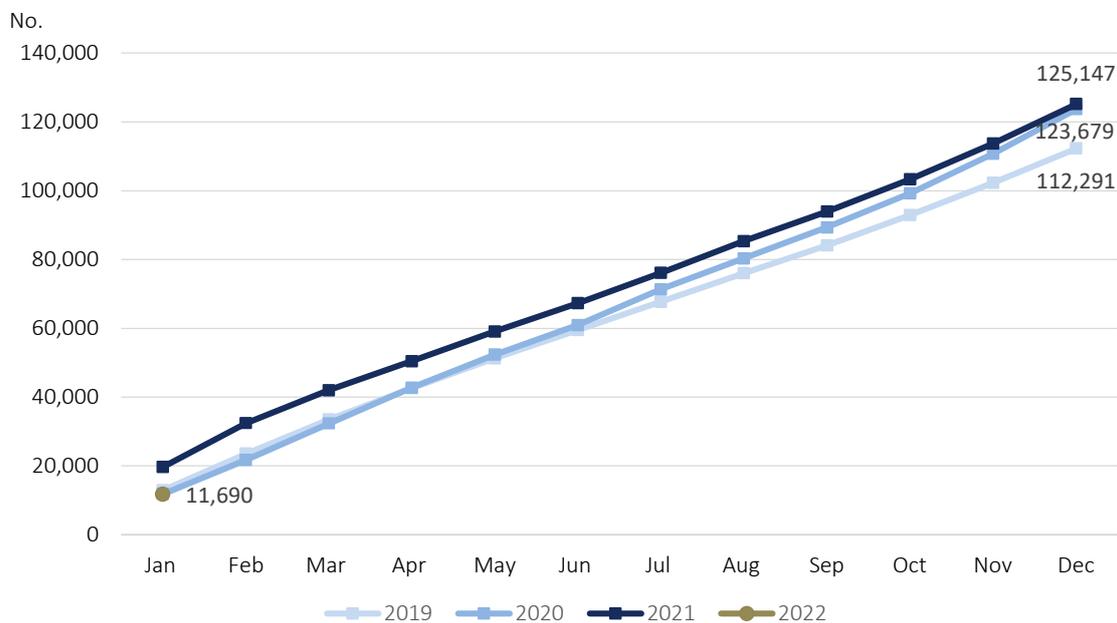
Between January 3rd and 30th, 2022 (weeks 1 to 4), as had already been registered in the last week of 2021, the number of deaths was lower than the average of the 5 years before the pandemic. However, in the 5th week of 2022 (January 31st to February 6th), the number of deaths once again surpassed the 2015-2019 average. In this week, there were 2,828 deaths, of which 353 were due to COVID-19, accounting for 12.5% of all deaths.

Figure 2: Deaths 2020, 2021 and average 2015-2019, by week, weeks 1 of 2020 to 5 of 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.

Figure 3: Monthly deaths (cumulative numbers), 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.



Considering the indicator “excess mortality” calculated by Eurostat, which compares the number of deaths recorded in each month, in the European Union (EU-27) and EFTA countries, with the average number of monthly deaths in the period 2016-2019, Portugal was, in the month of January 2021, one of the countries with the highest excess of mortality: 60.5% more deaths than the 2016-2019 average, ranking 2nd, only behind Slovakia (75.0% more). In February, excess mortality was reduced in Portugal and in most countries.

In March and April 2021, mortality registered a new increase in the EU-27 countries in comparison with the baseline period 2016-2019, reaching a new peak in April (21,0%), then decreased in May and fell to a low of 5.6% in July. Contrary to most European countries, between March and June there was no excess mortality in Portugal.

During summer of 2021, the downward trend in mortality in European countries reversed again. In July and August, there was again an excess of mortality in Portugal (respectively, +6.3% and +9.3%), surpassing the value of the EU-27 (+5.6% and +9.0 %). In September and October, although the excess mortality remained in Portugal, it decreased again, contrary to the EU-27 where it continued to increase.

In November, excess mortality reached a new peak in the EU-27 countries and in Portugal, respectively, at 26.0% and 14.1%. In December 2021, excess mortality decreased slightly to 22.9% in the EU-27 and to 6.6% in Portugal.



Figure 4: Monthly excess mortality in EU-27 and EFTA countries, January to December 2021 (2016-2019 average = 100)

Countries	2021											
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
EU 27	117.3	106.1	110.8	121.0	110.6	106.9	105.6	109.0	112.8	117.8	126.0	122.9
Austria	109.2	97.1	100.3	111.7	109.0	112.2	105.9	109.3	112.6	112.6	134.7	119.6
Belgium	102.0	91.1	89.7	107.1	105.1	100.9	98.1	99.2	103.1	111.2	116.6	112.9
Bulgaria	100.2	105.7	153.5	177.1	126.4	108.9	107.9	119.7	151.3	173.7	187.8	143.3
Croatia	107.9	102.3	102.5	130.9	124.5	115.2	105.9	107.4	119.7	122.4	160.4	144.5
Cyprus	106.3	94.2	106.9	130.5	114.3	116.3	136.4	152.2	130.8	119.2	123.1	131.4
Czechia	154.5	141.0	162.1	131.0	107.4	101.1	99.9	99.3	104.8	108.3	143.0	140.4
Denmark	110.9	92.7	87.9	97.6	105.8	106.1	108.1	112.3	111.1	113.8	114.0	117.5
Estonia	112.6	109.4	130.8	126.7	114.4	118.7	115.0	110.5	120.9	127.4	140.2	122.9
Finland	98.2	98.3	96.3	99.4	105.8	106.0	110.4	113.1	112.7	112.7	114.7	105.4
France	110.2	109.0	107.2	117.0	109.3	102.5	102.6	111.2	109.1	107.4	106.7	113.7
Germany	123.1	98.2	90.8	106.8	108.0	108.5	103.3	104.1	111.0	111.8	122.3	122.7
Greece	92.2	97.2	116.1	124.8	121.4	112.8	121.2	134.1	124.8	118.0	132.2	139.4
Hungary	105.8	100.3	150.7	150.0	110.1	108.4	104.5	98.6	103.9	110.1	148.8	137.3
Ireland	121.4	117.7	95.2	99.8	106.2	100.5	110.1	111.7	112.5	114.1	116.3	105.4
Italy	109.1	104.9	118.7	123.1	108.0	107.1	106.5	110.8	109.9	104.5	104.3	108.2
Latvia	129.6	114.1	98.2	105.2	114.7	120.9	113.7	108.2	116.7	151.3	155.6	118.5
Lithuania	128.7	102.2	105.5	110.1	113.0	115.1	109.5	111.9	131.6	142.3	135.1	127.1
Luxembourg	108.5	96.4	109.5	108.1	101.1	106.3	100.8	99.1	106.4	109.3	117.9	116.7
Malta	103.6	115.7	132.6	99.9	113.0	101.7	117.7	126.8	117.5	112.0	111.9	116.5
Netherlands	118.6	103.6	97.3	110.6	107.8	107.2	105.7	111.0	112.4	114.7	135.0	131.4
Poland	126.0	111.0	138.3	165.3	127.0	113.7	107.4	105.8	110.0	114.5	150.9	168.9
Portugal	160.5	124.6	95.4	93.6	99.2	99.8	106.3	109.3	108.9	107.9	114.1	106.6
Romania	112.6	106.7	126.1	139.5	116.1	104.9	106.4	102.9	132.9	210.4	169.7	111.6
Slovakia	175.0	168.8	155.0	129.0	110.4	109.0	102.4	101.0	112.6	126.8	172.0	159.2
Slovenia	127.7	99.2	103.5	111.5	111.2	115.0	100.5	96.0	115.8	119.0	151.1	127.4
Spain	117.7	109.7	99.3	103.5	103.9	103.7	109.1	120.3	111.7	104.8	109.5	109.6
Sweden	118.6	95.2	92.6	95.8	100.9	98.3	98.4	99.7	103.7	100.1	102.8	104.4
Iceland	104.5	102.0	95.4	102.9	102.6	102.8	110.3	116.9	88.6	85.9	108.8	130.3
Liechtenstein	109.5	117.5	65.0	134.5	118.0	60.5	124.6	90.6	94.8	80.9	107.4	112.9
Norway	94.6	89.5	91.9	96.6	98.3	98.9	101.6	108.7	111.5	111.1	119.8	115.3
Switzerland	123.4	94.6	94.1	102.8	103.1	102.2	101.8	108.1	112.0	106.0	115.1	124.5

Source: Eurostat, [Excess mortality – monthly data](#) (extracted on 16/02/2022).

In December 2021, the number of live births increased by 9.4% when compared to the same month of 2020

In November 2021, 6,546 children were born alive, corresponding to a reduction of 4.3% (297 less) when compared to November 2020. In December 2021, 6,875 children were born alive, corresponding to an increase of 9.4% (588 more) when compared to the same month of 2020.

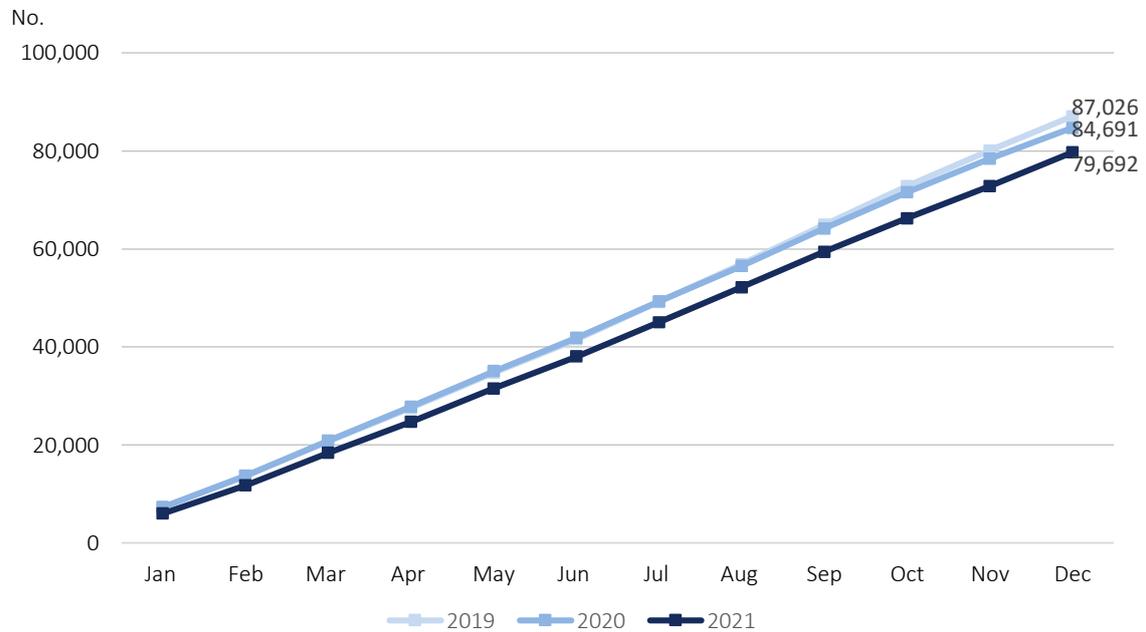
Figure 5: Live births and year-on-year change, January 2019 to December 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

Despite some recovery in births from March 2021, the total number of live births in 2021 (79,692) was lower than that registered in 2019 and 2020, representing, respectively, a total of 7,334 and 4,999 less live births.

Figure 6: Monthly live births (cumulative numbers), 2019, 2020 and 2021



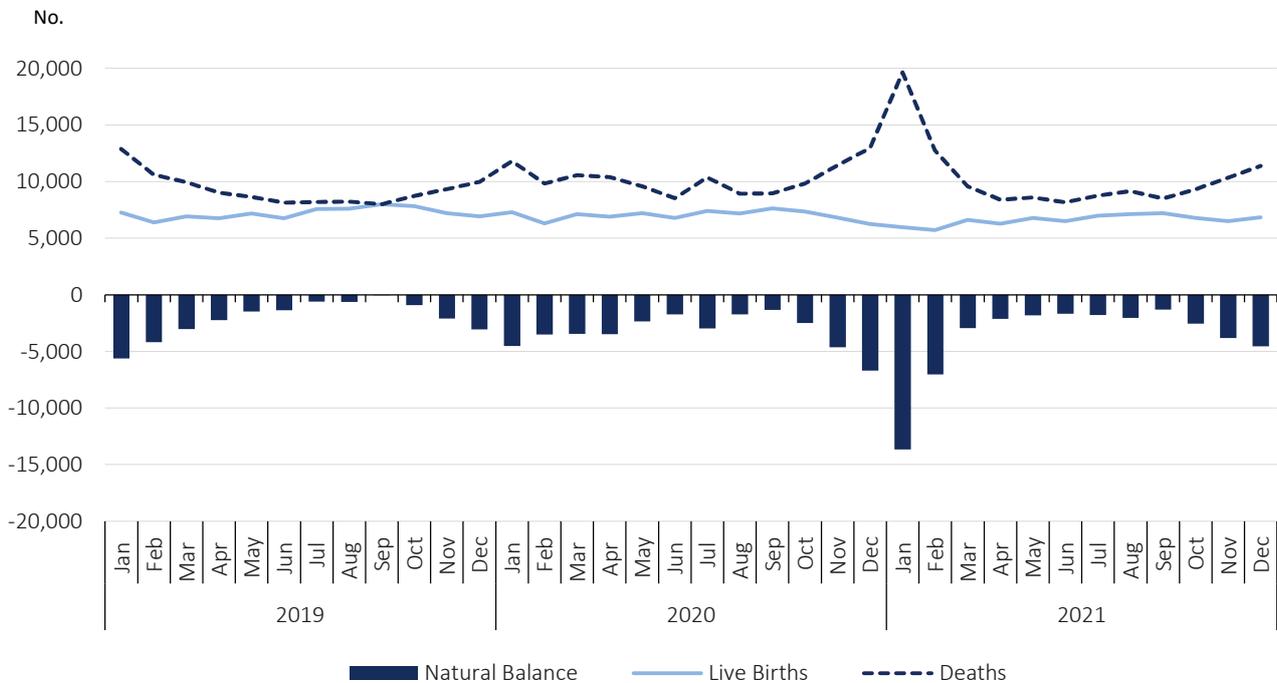
Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

In December 2021, the natural balance was -4,542

The increase in the number of deaths, to which mortality due to COVID-19 contributed, as well as the decrease in the number of live births, resulted in a strong reduction of the natural balance in 2020 and in the first two months of 2021. As of March 2021, the natural balance, despite being negative, has eased.

In November and December 2021, the natural balance registered, respectively, values of -3,825 and -4,542. The value of the natural balance recorded in December was less negative when compared to that registered in the same month of 2020 (-6,703).

Figure 7: Live births, deaths, and natural balance¹, January 2019 to December 2021

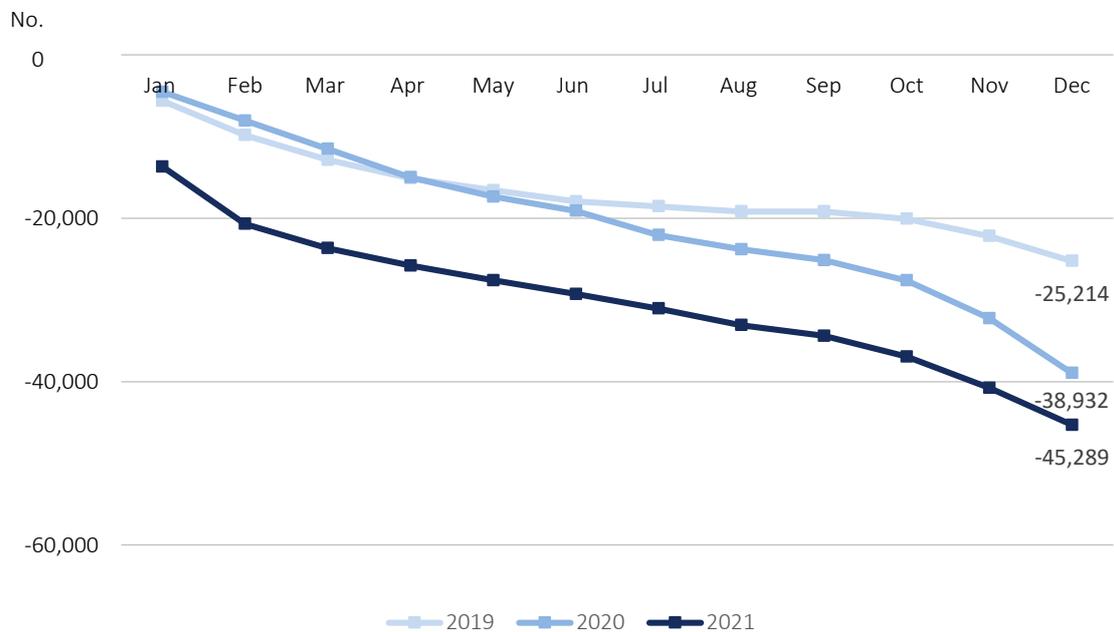


Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

In 2021, the accumulated value of the natural balance was -45,289, lower than the accumulated value in 2019 (-25,214) and 2020 (-38,932).

¹ The natural balance is calculated based on the number of live births of mothers residing in Portugal and the number of deaths of residents in Portugal.

Figure 8: Monthly natural balance (cumulative numbers), 2019, 2020 and 2021



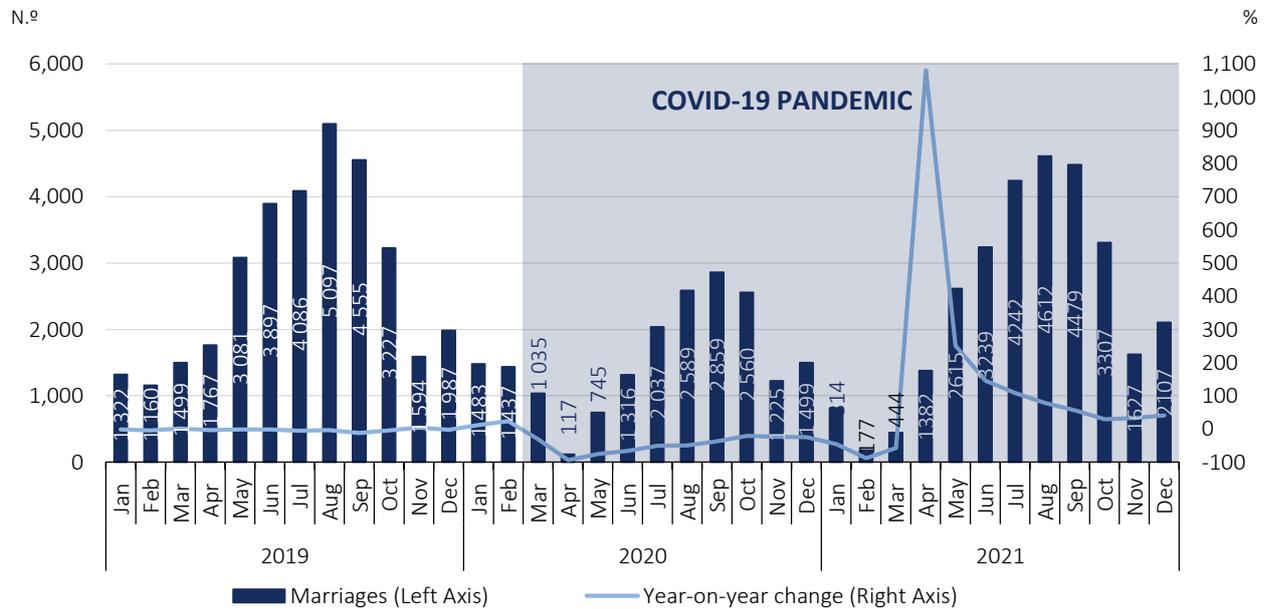
Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

In December 2021, marriage celebrations-maintained growth trend

The measures resulting from the containment of the pandemic had an impact on the lives of citizens, including mobility and social contact. As such, the statistical data on marriages celebrated from March 2020 onwards should be read in this context.

In November and December 2021, 1,627 and 2,107 marriages were celebrated, respectively, which corresponds to increases of 32.8% and 40.6% regarding the months of November and December 2020 (402 and 608 more, respectively).

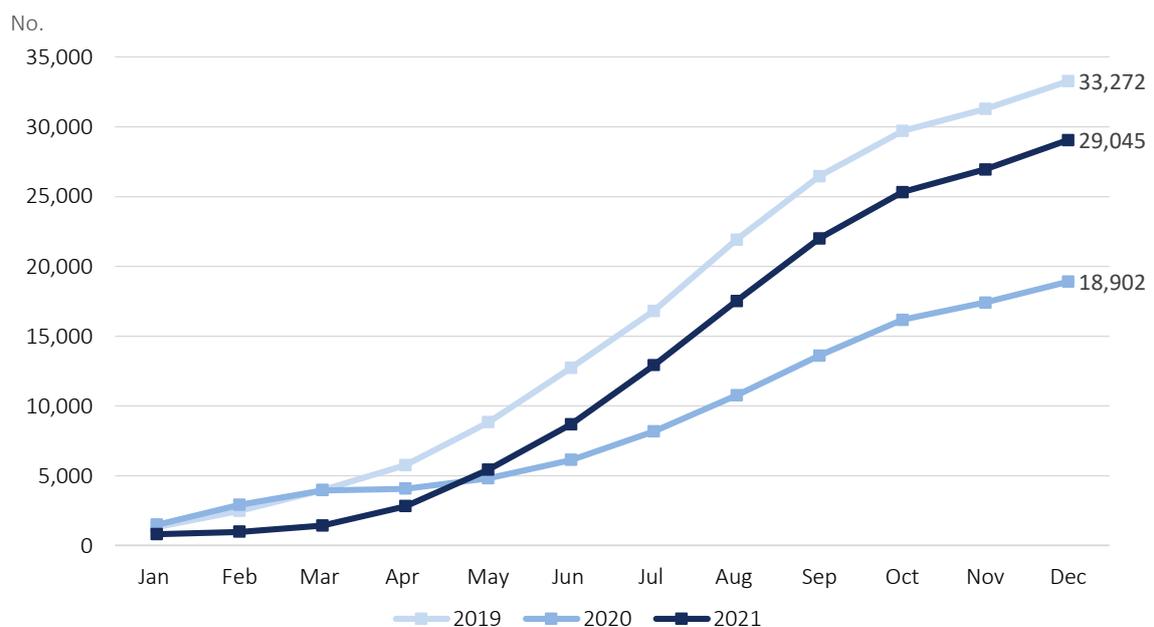
Figure 9: Marriages and year-on-year change, January 2019 to December 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages.

In 2021, 29,045 marriages were celebrated, 10,143 more than in the same period of 2020 and 4,227 less than in the same period of 2019.

Figure 10: Monthly marriages (cumulative numbers), 2019, 2020 and 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages.



TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases the **preliminary** monthly **numbers** of deaths, live births, and marriages based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until February 15th, 2022. Indicators on the preliminary monthly number of live births, deaths, and marriages, from January to November 2021, with geographical breakdowns up to NUTS 3, as well as weekly number of deaths, until the 5th week 2022, by NUTS 3 and daily number of deaths, until February 6th, by NUTS 2 are made available on the Statistics Portugal Website. In this Press Release the total **preliminary figures** of live births and marriages are disclosed for the month of December 2021.

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

In addition to administrative information obtained from Civil Register Offices, Statistics Portugal collects an additional set of variables identified as statistically pertinent to the National Statistic System (NSS) and the European Statistical System (EES). Data is 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 (IRN) and the Instituto de Gestão Financeira e Equipamentos da Justiça (IGFEJ).

Data on the number of deaths by COVID-19 are also used, whose source is the daily situation report COVID-19 of the Directorate-General for Health that provides only a partial measure of the pandemic on mortality.

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.

Live birth: This is the 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 and whether the placenta is retained.

Death: The permanent disappearance of vital functions.

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

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.

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, subtheme Births and natality rates and subtheme Mortality and life expectancy.