

Demographic Statistics

2012

Number of live births decreases again in 2012

The number of live births decreased to 89,856 (96,856 in 2011) and the number of deaths increased to 107,612 (102,848 in 2011).

The number of marriages kept declining (34,423, 1,612 less than in 2011) and the number of divorces had its second consecutive drop (25,380, a decrease of 1,371 from 2011).

On 31st December 2012, the resident population in Portugal was estimated to be of 10,487,289 persons, 55,109 less than the estimated population for December 31st 2011.

Statistics Portugal publishes today through its Portal – www.ine.pt – the publication Demographic Statistics 2012, with a global analysis of Portuguese demographic situation and a vast range of demographic indicators, addressing issues related to population growth, volumes and structure, fertility, mortality and life expectancy, marriages and divorces, and international migrations.

Resident population in Portugal decreased again in 2012

On 31st December, the resident population in Portugal was estimated to be of 10,487,289 persons, 4,995,697 men and 5,491,592 women.

In 2012, estimates point to a decrease of 55,109 inhabitants in the resident population, resulting in a negative population growth rate (-0.52%), emphasizing the decrease estimated for 2011, where the variation in population volume was estimated to be -30,323 (corresponding to a population growth rate of -0.29%) .

Simultaneously, the population aging trend is persistent, as a result of a decrease in the proportion of the young (14.9% in 2011 to 14.8% in 2012) and working age (66.0% in 2011 to 65.8% in 2012) population, and the increasing proportion of elderly population (19.0% in 2011 to 19.4% in 2012). This trend echoes the continuing decline of birth rates, the increasing longevity and, most recently, the rise of emigration flows.

Number of live births was under 90 thousand in 2012

In 2012 there were 89,841 live births from mothers residing in Portugal, 7.2% less than in 2011 (96,856), a value under 90 thousand live births for the first time since there are records.

In this year, the total fertility rate was 1.28 children per women (1.35 in 2011), reaching the lowest level ever. The average age of women at first birth was 29.5 years and the average age of women at childbirth was 31 years (29.2 years and 30.9 years, respectively, in 2011), reinforcing the trend of postponement of motherhood.

Number of deaths increased 4.6% in 2012

In 2012, there was a 4.6% increase in overall mortality compared to 2011, a consequence of the progressive aging of the population. From all registered deaths of residents in Portugal (107,612), 68.8% occurred on population aged 75 or older (66.8% in 2011). The crude mortality rate went from 9.7 deaths per thousand inhabitants, in 2011, to 10.2‰ in 2012. In 2012 the infant mortality rate was of 3.4 deaths of infants under 1 year of age per thousand live births, a slight increase from the 2011 value (3.1 deaths of infants under 1 year of age per thousand live births).

Life expectancy at birth, meaning the average number of years a newborn may expect to live if mortality rates per age observed over the reference year are the same, was estimated at 79.78 for the 2010-2012 triennium.

Although recent gains in life expectancy are higher for male population – 1.5 years for men and 1.0 years for women, between periods 2005-2007 and 2010-2012 –, life expectancy at birth is still higher for women. In 2010-2012, newborn women could expect to live up to 82.59 years, while men only expect to live until 76.67.

Marriage rate reaches minimum value

In 2012 there were 34,423 marriages, from which 324 were between same sex individuals. The number of marriages decreased again (1,612 less than marriages celebrated in 2011) and the average age at marriage has continued to increase: in 2012, stood at 34.7 years for men and 32.3 years for women (34.6 years and 32.0 years, respectively, in 2011).

The number of divorces continued to drop

In 2012, the number of divorces of couples residing in national territory enacted in Portugal was 25,380, 1,371 less than the value observed in 2011, accentuating the decrease previously observed. The crude divorce rate was 2.4 divorces per thousand inhabitants, a value slightly lower than the one from 2011 (2.5‰).

In 2012, the average age at divorce exceeded 42 years (42.9 years) for men and women, higher than the 42.4 years from the previous year.

Looking at the evolution of the average age at divorce since 2007, men always have had a higher average age than women. In 2012 it was of 44.0 years for men and 41.7 years for women.

Net migration growth kept a negative value in 2012

In 2012, the number of permanent emigrants (51,958) exceeded again the number of permanent immigrants (14,606), resulting in a negative net migration (-37,352), more pronounced than the value estimated for 2011 (-24,331) .

With regard to temporary emigration, estimates for 2011 indicate that about 56,980 persons left the country with the intention of staying abroad for a period no longer than one year. In 2012 this figure rose to 69,460 individuals.