

World Population Day

July 11 2015

Population Ageing¹

To mark the World Population Day (July 11), Statistics Portugal elected some demographic indicators concerning population ageing in Portugal and in the context of the European Union (EU 28).

Changes in the age structure of population residing in Portugal and for the EU 28 are enlightening of the ageing population in the last decade. Portugal has, in all the 28 Member States:

- The 5th highest ageing index;
- The 3rd lowest working age population renewal ratio;
- The 3rd highest increase in the median age between 2003 and 2013.

In order to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues in the context of overall development plans and programmes and the need to find solutions for these issues, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme recommended, in 1989, that July 11 should be observed by the international community as World Population Day. This decision comes as a corollary of the commemoration of July 11, 1987, when the world population reached 5 billion, and is intended to draw attention to the importance of demographic change.

As mentioned in "World Population Ageing 2013", published in 2013 by the United Nations Population Division, population ageing is progressing rapidly in many of the pioneering countries of demographic transition - the process by which the declines in mortality are followed by reductions in fertility. According to the United Nations, this process will continue over the next few decades and is likely to affect the entire world.

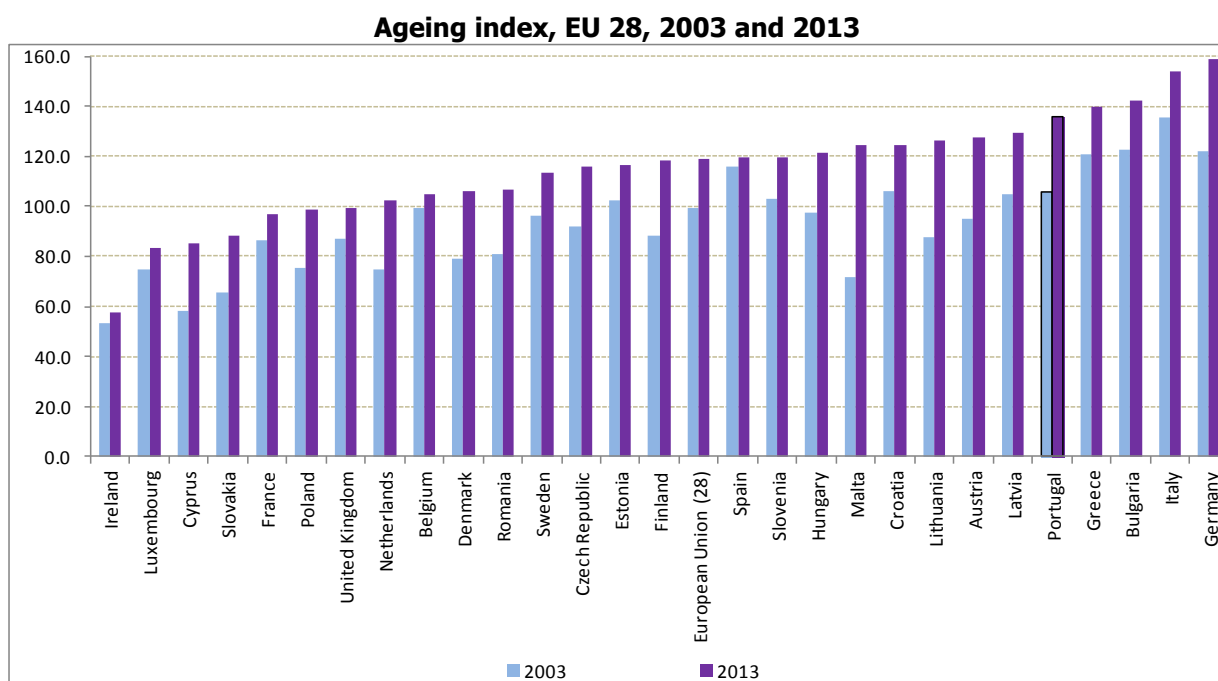
Also according to data presented on the above mentioned report, the global proportion of people aged 60 and more years of age increased from 9.2% in 1990 to 11.7% in 2013, and is expected to continue to increase, reaching 21.1% in 2050. Considering absolute values, the United Nations projections predict that the number of people aged 60 and more years of age will more than doubled, from 841 million people in 2013 to over 2 billion in 2050, and the number of people aged 80 and more years of age could more than triple, reaching 392 millions in 2050.

¹ [Press Release in full in Portuguese only](#)

Portugal has the 5th highest ageing index in the EU 28 countries

Changes in the population age structure result in the increase of ageing index: in 2014 for every 100 young people there were 141 elderly people residing in Portugal (136 in 2013).

The ageing index for the EU 28 in 2013 was 119 elderly people for every 100 young people. Germany had the highest index (159), followed by Italy (154), Bulgaria (142), Greece (140) and Portugal (136). In contrast, the ageing index reflected a higher number of young people in Ireland (57), Luxembourg (84), Cyprus (85), Slovakia (88), France (97), Poland and the United Kingdom (both with an ageing index value of 99).



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population Estimates and Eurostat (numbers computed by Statistics Portugal)

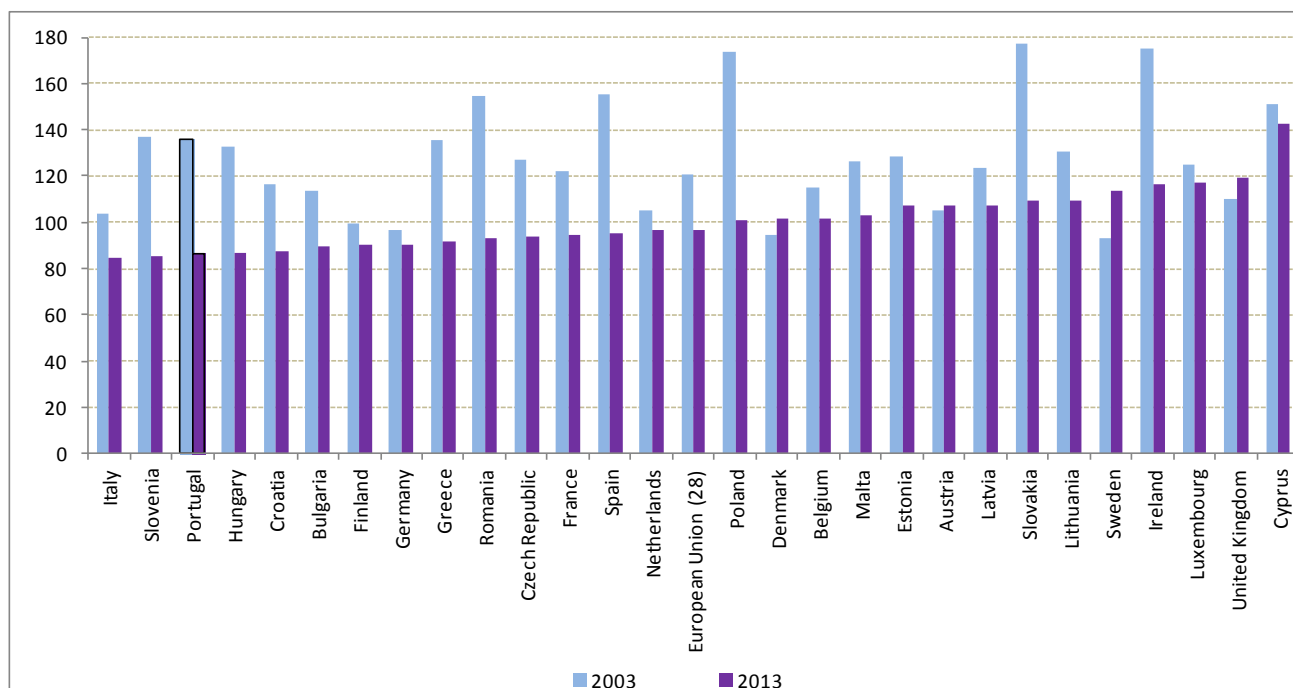
Portugal is the 3rd country with the lowest working age population renewal ratio in the EU28

In Portugal, the working age population is also ageing, as it is evidenced by the decrease in the working age population renewal ratio: in 2003 for every 100 people aged between 55 to 64 years old there were 136 people aged 20 to 29 years of age, a number that dropped to 84 in 2014 (86 in 2013); since 2010 the number of people aged 65 and over is not compensated by the number of people aged between 15 and 64 years old.

In 2013, the working age population renewal ratio for the whole EU 28 also stood below 100 (97 people with 20 to 29 years old for every 100 people aged 55 to 64 years old).

Within the EU 28 countries, Cyprus and the UK recorded the highest values for this indicator (143 and 119 respectively), and the lowest values were observed in Italy, Slovenia (both with 85) and Portugal (86).

Working age population renewal ratio, EU 28, 2003 and 2013

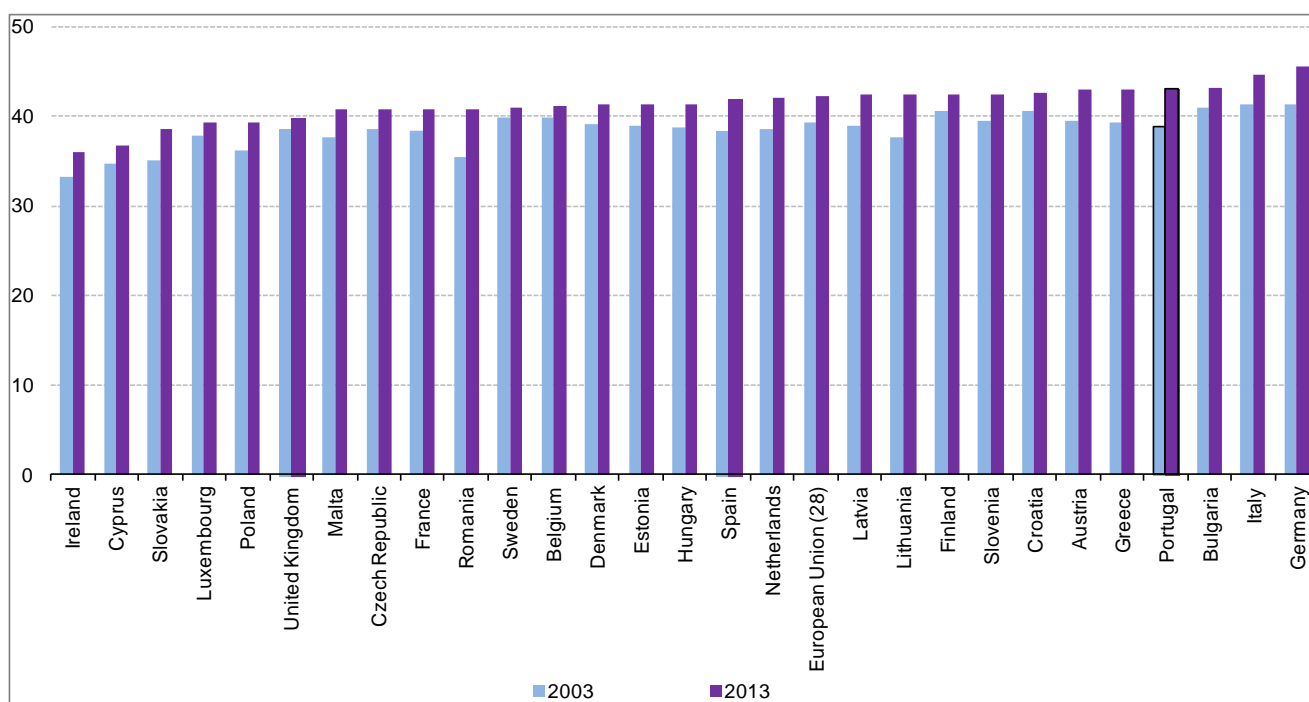


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population Estimates and Eurostat (numbers computed by Statistics Portugal)

Population median age in Portugal is higher than in the EU 28

In 2013, the median age of EU 28 was 42.2 years, ranging from 36.0 years in Ireland and 45.6 years in Germany, corroborating the youngest and oldest population structures of these two countries. Portugal stood at 4th place: 43.1 years.

Population median age (in years), EU 28, 2003 and 2013



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population Estimates and Eurostat