

Demographic Statistics

2017

Number of marriages increases and number of divorces decreases; infant mortality rate is the lowest ever

The demographic situation in Portugal in 2017 continues to be characterized by the decrease of the resident population, despite a slight reduction of mortality, a decrease of emigration and an increase of immigration. The population decline has been occurring since 2010, although it has been attenuated in the last four years.

The number of births was 86,154 (live births), a decrease of 1.1% compared with 2016 (87,126). However, the total fertility rate slightly increased to 1.37 children per woman (1.36 in 2016), slightly improving for the fourth consecutive year. The mean age of women at childbirth was 31.2 years (31.1 in 2016), while the mean age at first childbirth remained the same as in 2016 (29.6 years).

The number of deaths was 109,758, a reduction of 0.7% compared to 2016 (110,573). The number of infant deaths was 229, less 53 deaths than in 2016, the lowest observed in Portugal since there are records. The infant mortality rate decreased to 2.7 deaths per thousand live births (3.2‰ in 2016).

In 2017 there were 33,634 marriages in Portugal, an increase of 3.8% over the previous year (32,399). The mean age at first marriage was 33.2 years for men and 31.6 years for women (32.8 years and 31.3 years, respectively in 2016).

The number of divorces (21,577) decreased 3.4% compared to the previous year. The mean age at divorce was 46.7 years for men and 44.5 years for women.

The number of permanent immigrants who entered Portugal in 2017 was estimated at 36,639, 22.4% more than in 2016 (29,925), and the number of permanent emigrants who left the country was estimated at 31,753, 17.0% less than in 2016 (38,273).

In 2017, 23,320 foreigners acquired Portuguese citizenship, 20.5% lower than in 2016 (29,351): 18,022 citizenship acquisitions were attributed to foreigners residing in Portugal and 5,298 to residents abroad.

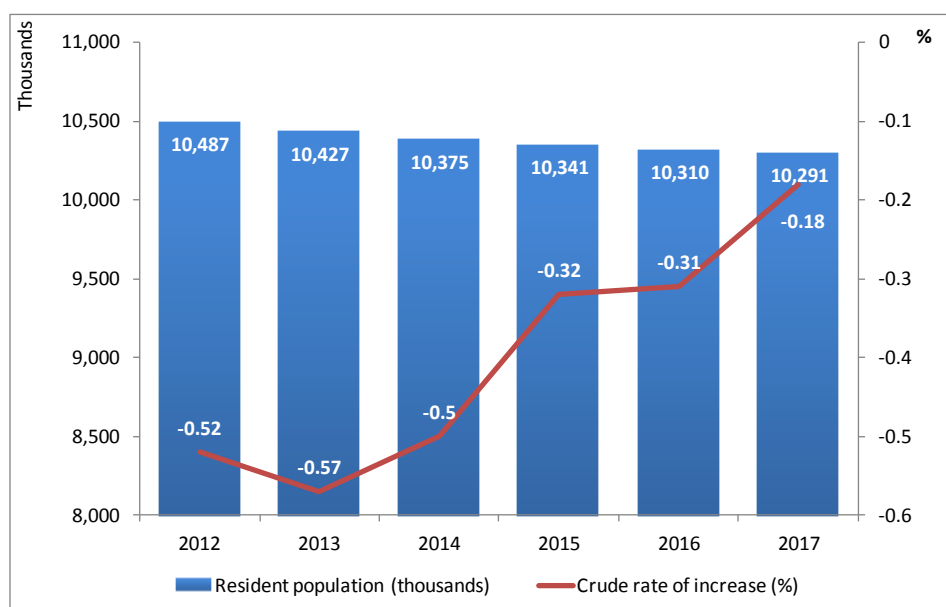
Statistics Portugal releases today on its website - www.ine.pt - the publication [Demographic Statistics 2017](#), which presents an analysis of the demographic situation based on resident population (volume and structure), births and fertility, mortality and life expectancy, family formation and dissolution (celebrated marriages and dissolved marriages by divorce or death), international migration, and Portuguese citizenship acquisitions.

Resident population

The decline of the resident population continued in 2017, albeit at a slower pace.

In 2017, the resident population in Portugal was estimated at 10,291,027 people, which accounted for a 18,546 decline from the previous year, i.e. a negative crude rate of increase of -0.18% (-0.31% in 2016), which resulted from a crude rate of natural increase of -0.23% and a positive crude rate of net migration of 0.05%. Despite the positive net migration in 2017, the population's downward trend observed since 2010 continued in 2017, although in the last four years at a slower pace.

Resident population (thousands) and Crude rate of increase (%), Portugal, 2012-2017

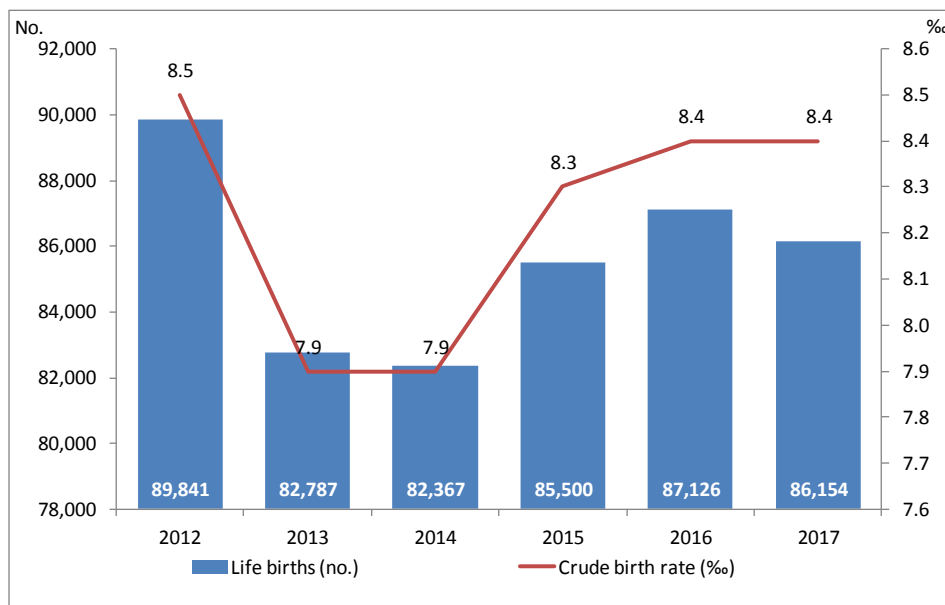


Births and fertility

Number of live births decreased 1.1%, and total fertility rate increased to 1.37.

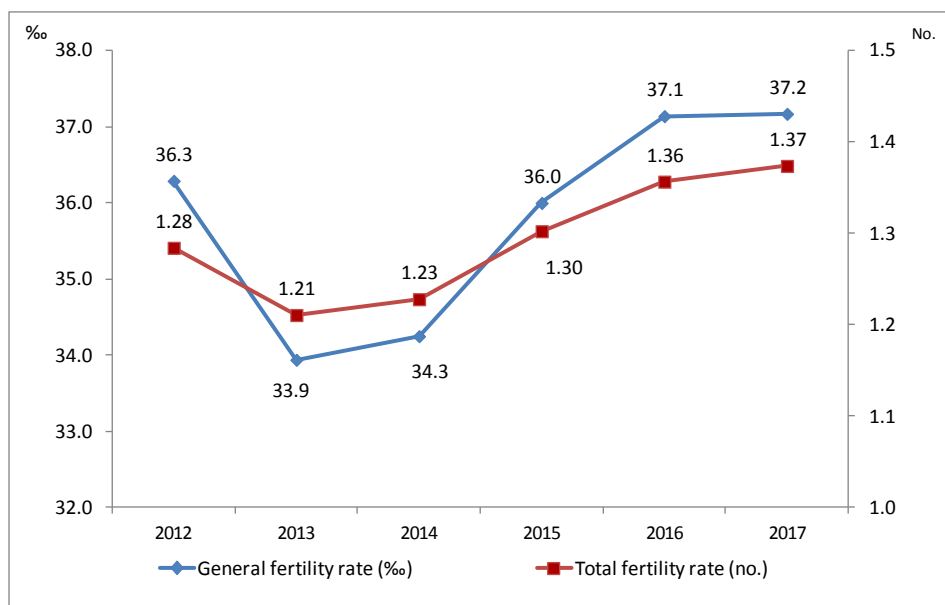
In 2017, there were 86,154 live births from mothers residing in Portugal, corresponding to a decrease of 1.1% compared to 2016. The crude birth rate, however, remained at 8.4 live births per thousand inhabitants, the same value as in 2016.

Live births (No.) and Crude birth rate (‰), Portugal, 2012-2017



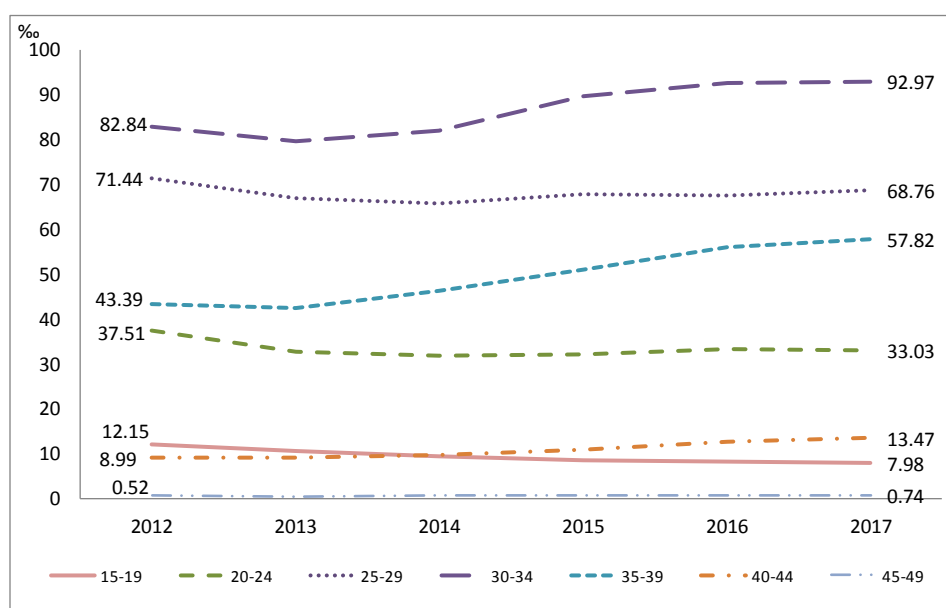
Despite the decrease in the number of live births registered in 2017, there was a slight increase in the total fertility rate to 1.37 children per woman compared to the previous year (1.36).

General fertility rate (‰) and Total fertility rate (No.), Portugal, 2012-2017



This increase in fertility resulted from a positive change in the general fertility rate (37.17 live births per thousand women aged 15-49, compared to 37.14 in 2016). The decomposition of the general fertility rate by women age showed that, as in 2016, the highest increases in fertility rates were observed in the age groups 25-29 and 35-39 years, although there were increases in all age groups over 25 years.

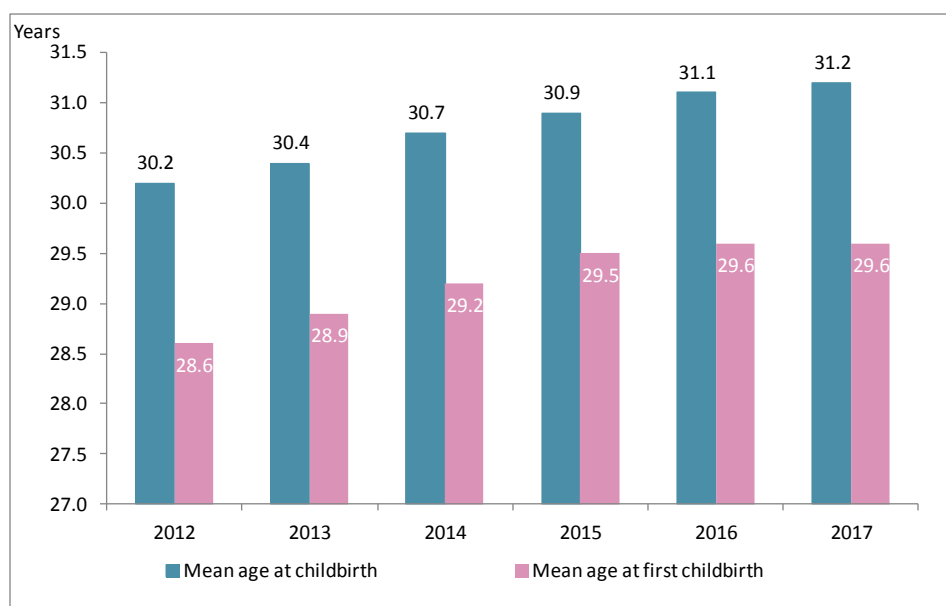
Specific fertility rates by age group (‰), Portugal, 2012-2017



Mean age of women at first childbirth remained the same as the one observed in 2016

Between 2012 and 2017, in Portugal, the mean age of women at childbirth increased. The mean age of women at childbirth (regardless of the birth order) rose from 30.2 to 31.2 years. The mean age of women at first childbirth increased from 28.6 to 29.6 years, the same as in 2016.

Mean age of women at childbirth and at first childbirth (years), Portugal, 2012-2017



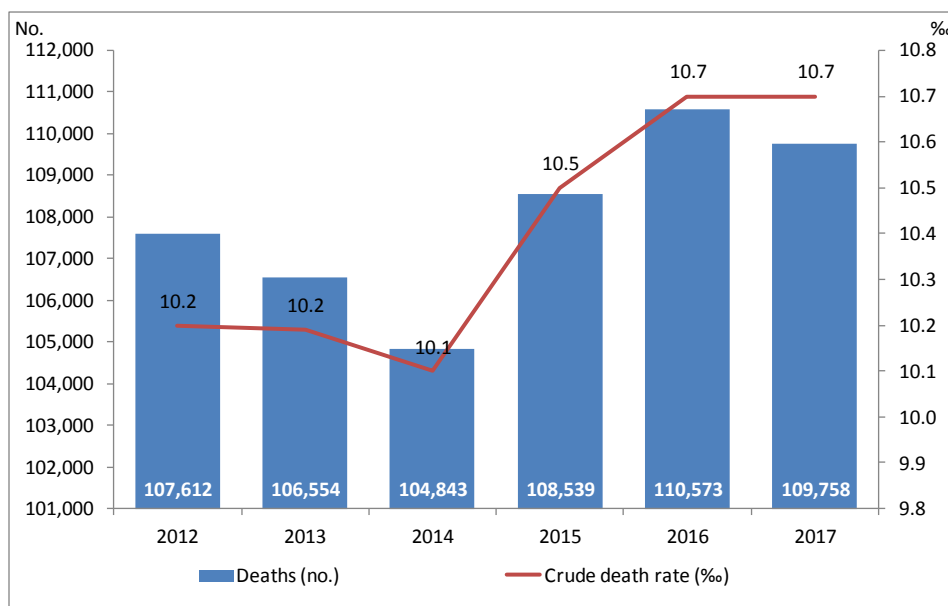
Mortality¹ and life expectancy

Number of deaths decreased 0.7%, and infant mortality reached the lowest level ever recorded.

In 2017, there were 109,758 deaths of persons residing in Portugal (55,088 male deaths and 54,670 female deaths), leading to a reduction of 0.7% (-815 deaths) compared with 2016. The crude death rate was 10.7‰, the same as in 2016.

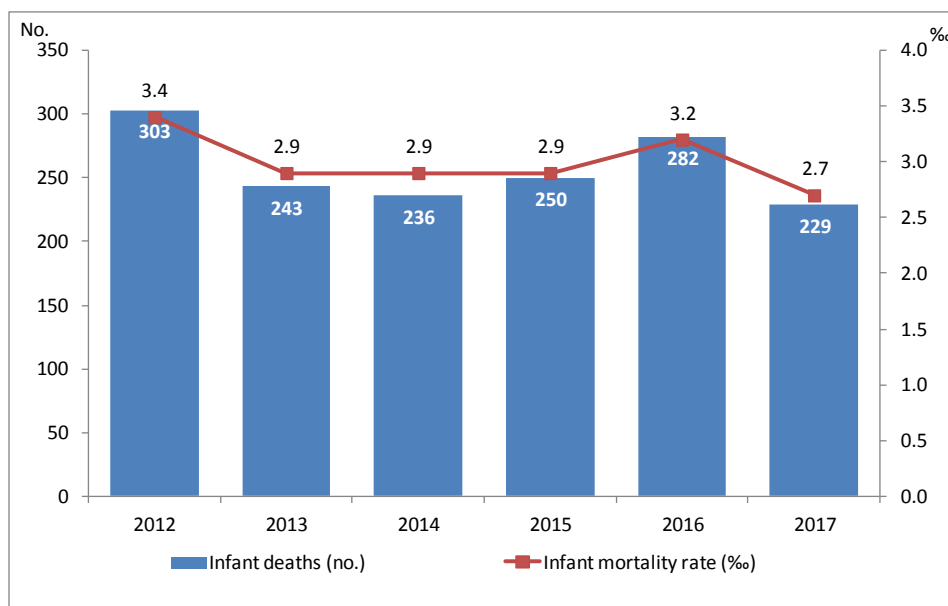
¹ Mortality data for 2017 are those available in October 2018, updated as a result of the final codification of causes of death in the death registers for 2017. As such the data here presented differ from those previously made available by Statistics Portugal in the press releases "Vital Statistics 2017" and "Portugal Resident Population Estimates 2017", published, respectively, April 30th and June 15th, 2018.

Deaths (No.) and Crude death rate (‰), Portugal, 2012-2017



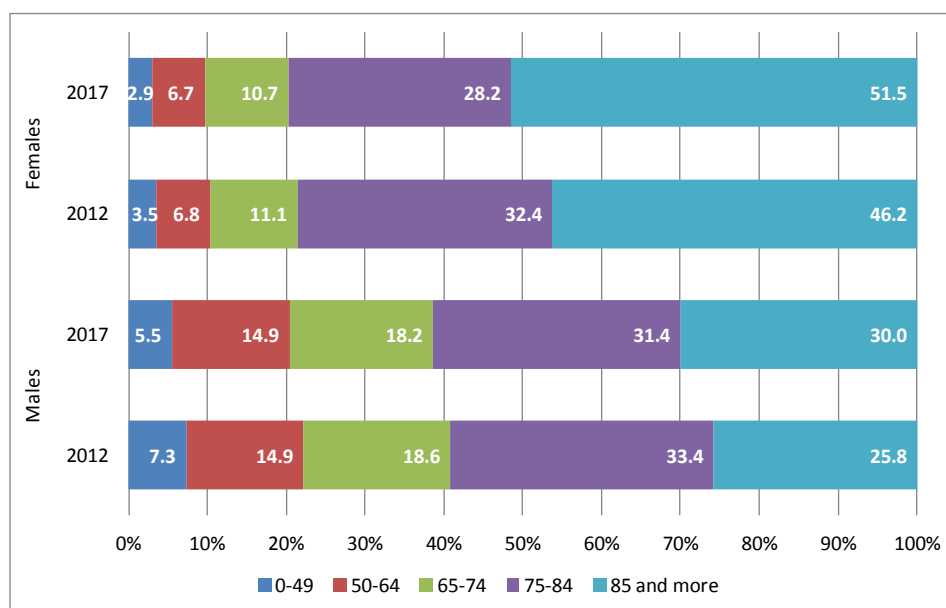
In 2017, there were 229 infant deaths, corresponding to a decrease compared with the previous year (less 53 infant deaths) and to the lowest number observed in Portugal since there are records. The infant mortality rate decreased to 2.7 deaths per thousand live births (3.2 ‰ in 2016).

Infant deaths (No.) and Infant mortality rate (‰), Portugal, 2012-2017



In 2017, of the total deaths of residents in Portugal, 40.7% (39.7% in 2016) occurred at ages of 85 years old and over. More than half (51.5%) of the female deaths occurred at ages of 85 years and over (50.5% in 2016) while the majority of male deaths still occur at ages below 85 years (70.0% in 2017).

Distribution of deaths by sex and age groups (%), Portugal, 2012 and 2017

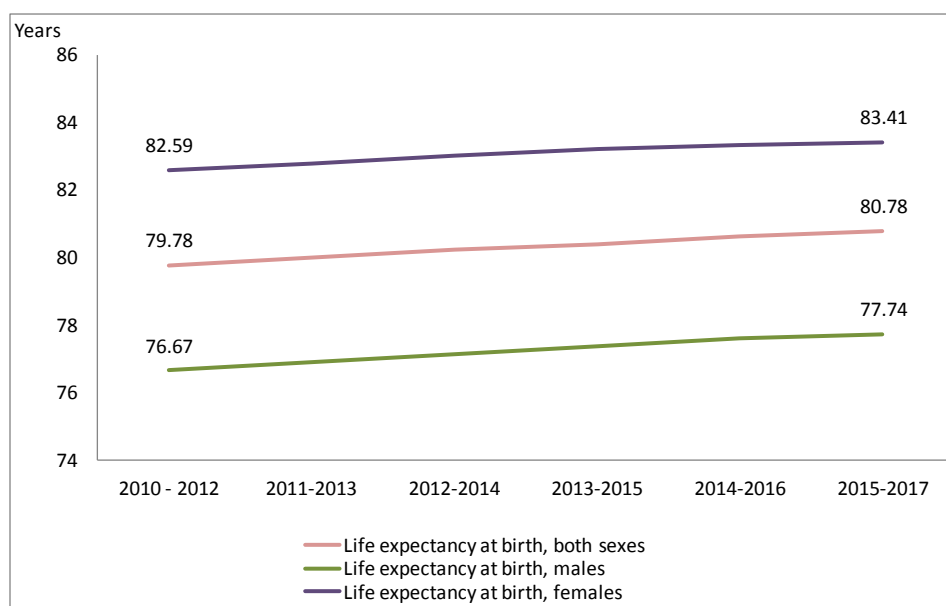


Higher gains in life expectancy for males, but higher longevity for women

Life expectancy at birth, which corresponds to the average number of years that a newborn child can expect to live if subject throughout his or her life to the current mortality conditions, was estimated at 80.78 years in the 2015-2017 triennium.

Although recent gains in expected life years were higher for the male population (1.07 years for men and 0.82 years for women, between 2010-2012 and 2015-2017); life expectancy at birth continues to be higher for women. In the period 2015-2017, women could expect to live 83.41 years and men 77.74 years.

Life expectancy at birth (years), Portugal, 2010-2012 to 2015-2017



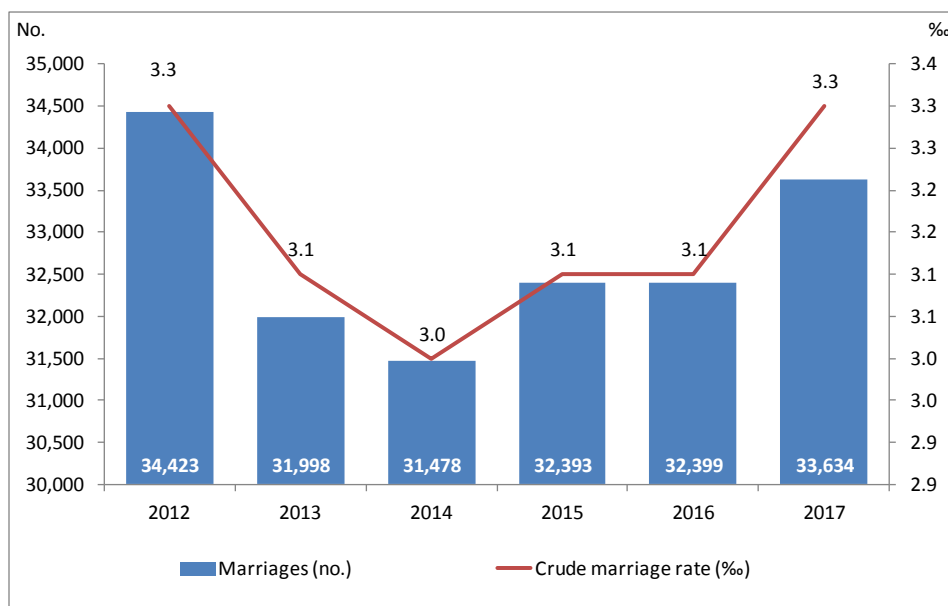
Marriages and divorces

Number of marriages increased 3.8% and number of divorces decreased 3.4%.

In 2017, 33,634 marriages took place in Portugal, from which 523 between couples of the same sex. The total number of marriages increased by 1,235 compared with 2016 (32,399), consequence of the increase of marriages both between couples of the opposite sex (1,134 marriages) and couples of the same sex (more 101 marriages).

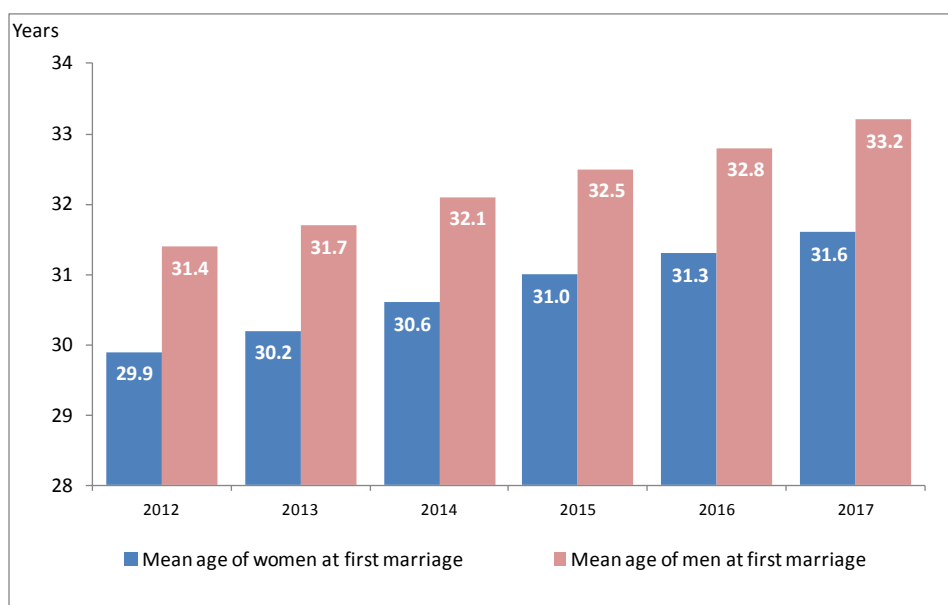
The crude marriage rate increased to 3.3 marriages per thousand inhabitants (3.1 in 2016).

Marriages (No.) and Crude marriage rate (‰), Portugal, 2012-2017



The age at marriage continues the growth recorded over the last decades for both sexes: the mean age at first marriage in 2017 was 33.2 years for men and 31.6 years for women, compared with 32.8 years and 31.3 years, respectively, in 2016.

Mean age at first marriage (years) by sex, Portugal, 2012-2017

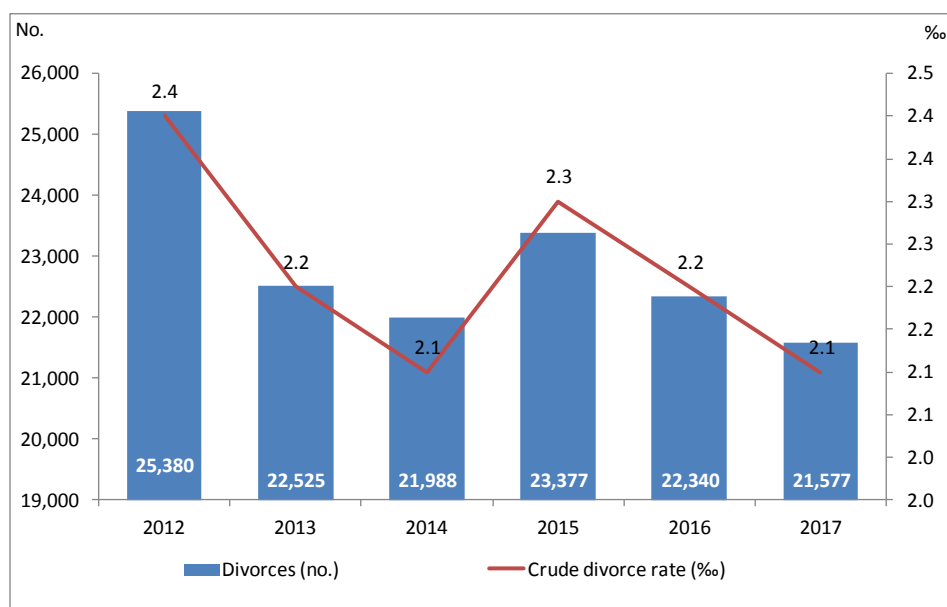


In Portugal, in 2017, there were 21,930 divorces, 719 less than in 2016: 21,577 divorces were from couples residing in national territory (22,340 in 2016) and 353 from couples residing abroad (309 in 2016).

The increase in the number of divorces of couples residing in national territory occurring since 2006 was interrupted in 2011, decreased until 2015, when there was an increase, and decreased again in 2016 and 2017. The largest decline happened in 2013, with a reduction of 2,855 divorces. In 2017, and compared to the previous year, there were 763 less divorces.

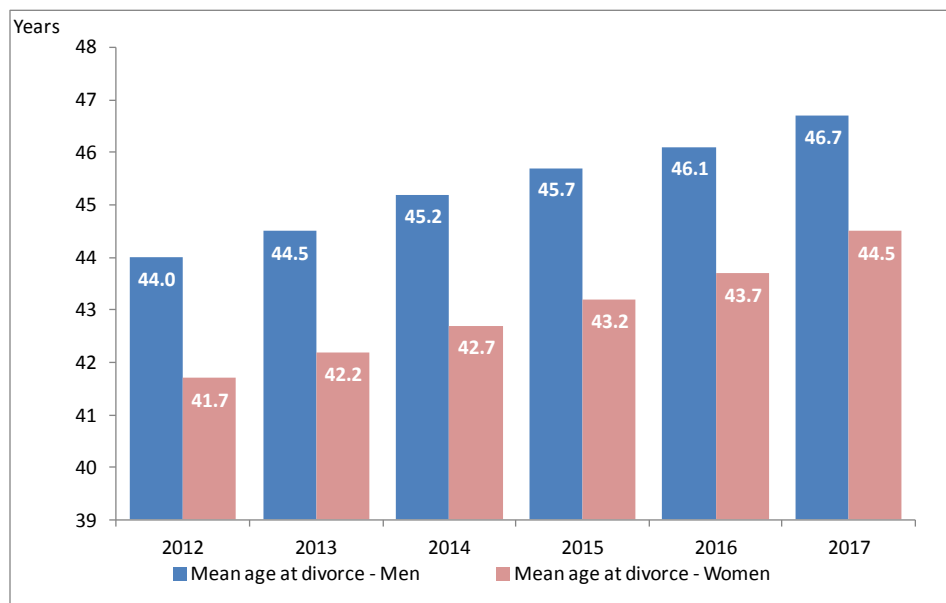
The crude divorce rate follows the trend of the number of divorces. Since 2011, the crude divorce rate has been below 2.5‰, reaching in 2017, 2.1 divorces per thousand inhabitants, lower than in the previous year (2.2 ‰).

Divorces (No.) and Crude divorce rate (‰), Portugal, 2012-2017



The mean age at divorce was 45.6 for both sexes, higher than the one registered in the previous year, which stood at 44.9 years. The mean age at divorce for men was 46.7 years and 44.5 years for women.

Mean age at divorce (years) by sex, Portugal, 2012-2017



International migrations

Number of immigrants increased for the fifth consecutive year and number of emigrants decreased for the fourth consecutive year.

The number of permanent immigrants (persons who entered Portugal to reside for a period of one year or more) was estimated at 36,639, corresponding to an increase of 22.4% over that estimated for 2016 (29,925).

Of the total number of permanent immigrants:

- 51% were women;
- 55% had Portuguese citizenship;
- 38% were born in Portugal;
- 47% had previously resided in a European Union country;
- 81% were of working age (15-64 years).

The number of permanent emigrants (persons who left Portugal to reside abroad for one year or more) was estimated at 31,753, corresponding to 17.0% less than in 2016 (38,273).

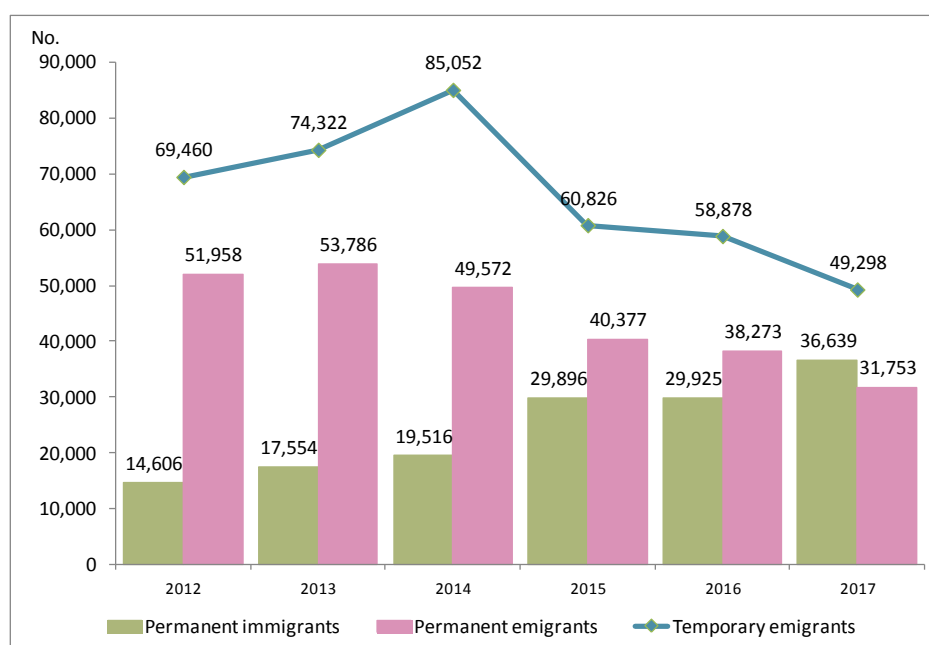
Of the total number of permanent emigrants:

- 69% were men;

- 99% had Portuguese citizenship;
- 71% had a European Union country as destination;
- 95% were of working age.

Also, the estimated number of persons who left the country with the intention of residing abroad for a period from three months to one year – temporary emigrants – decreased 16.3% compared with 2016, from 58,878 to 49,298 in 2017.

Temporary and permanent emigrants and Permanent immigrants (No.), Portugal, 2012-2017

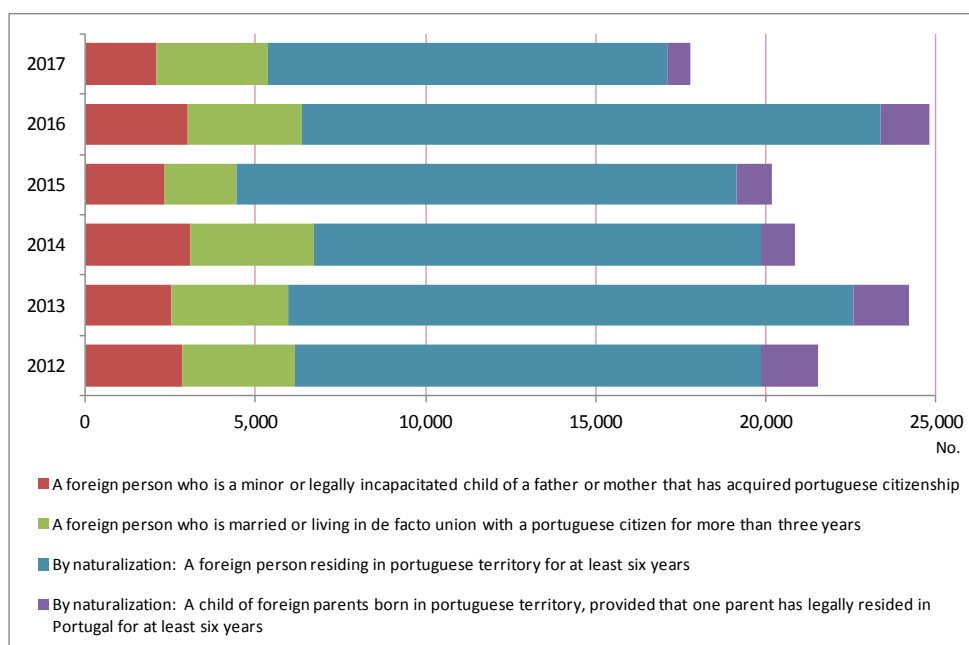


Portuguese citizenship acquisitions

Number of Portuguese citizenship acquisitions totaled 23,320; 18,022 granted to foreigners residing in Portugal and 5 298 residing abroad.

In 2017, 18,022 foreigners residing in Portugal acquired Portuguese citizenship, a decline of 28.2% compared with 2016 (25,104). The main reason for the acquisition of Portuguese citizenship by foreigners residing in Portugal was naturalization (69.7%), followed by "marriage or *de facto* union with Portuguese citizen for more than three years" (18.3%) and by "minor or legally incapacitated child of a father or mother that has acquired Portuguese citizenship" (11.6%).

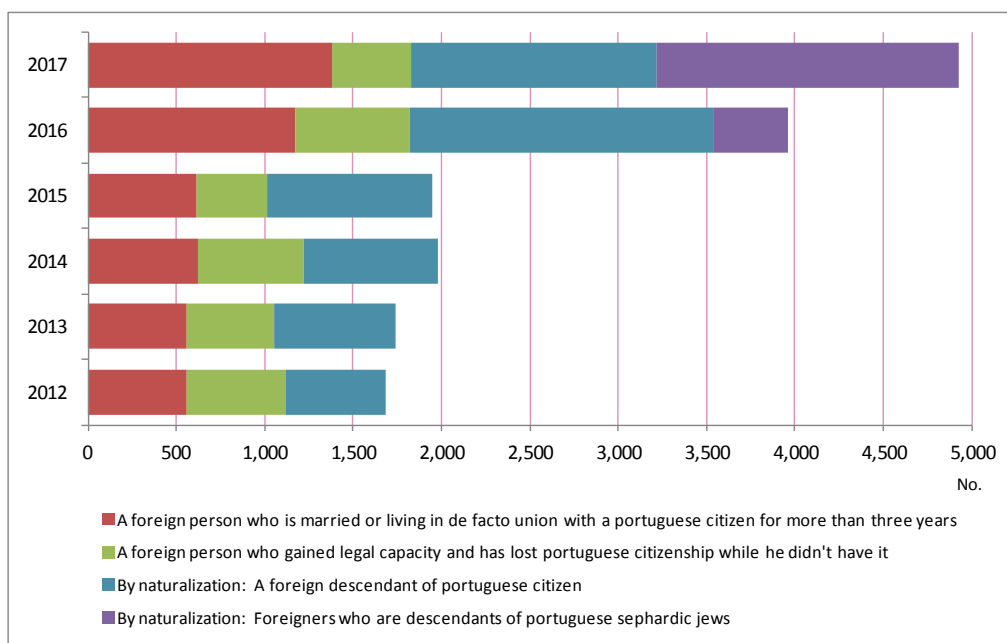
Foreign population resident in Portugal that acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition 2012-2017



Regarding the Portuguese citizenship acquisitions by foreigners residing abroad, the growth trend in the last years continued in 2017 (5,298 cases in 2017, which represents an increase of 24.7% over the previous year). This growth is a result, in particular, of legislative changes that have enhanced the possibility of citizenship acquisition by foreign descendants of national citizens and by descendants of Sephardic Jews of Portuguese origin.

As a matter of fact, in 2017, the main reason for acquiring Portuguese citizenship by non-resident foreigners was being a descendent of Portuguese Sephardic Jews (32.3% of the total (1,713 cases)), followed by "being a descendant of Portuguese citizen", with a relative weight of 26.2% (1,387) in total. The third main reason regards marriage or *de facto* union with a Portuguese citizen for more than three years (26.0%).

Foreign population residing abroad who acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition 2012-2017

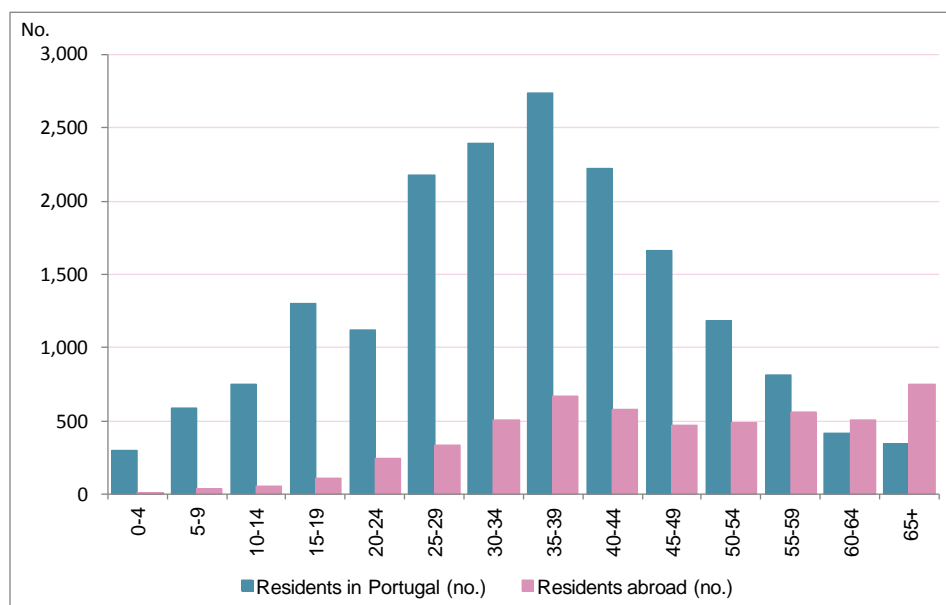


The nationals from Brazil accounted for the highest number of Portuguese citizenship acquisitions in 2017, both as residents in Portugal (6,084) and as residents abroad (2,793). Among those residing in Portugal, the nationals from Cape Verde were the second most representative citizenship, with a relative weight of 14.4%. As far as non-resident foreigners are concerned, Turkish and Israeli nationals were for the first time in 2nd and 3rd place (18.3% and 8.4% respectively).

In 2017, regarding foreigners residing in Portugal, 55.8% of the acquisitions were granted to women; as for foreigners residing abroad, citizenship acquisitions by women represented 53.9% of the total.

Regarding the distribution by age, the mean age of foreigners residing in Portugal was 35.3 years, younger than those residing abroad (46.9 years).

Foreign population that acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by age group and residence (Portugal and Abroad), 2017



Technical note

Demographic Statistics 2017

The electronic publication Demographic Statistics is released annually and aims to analyze the various themes of demographic behaviour 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 migratory movements, foreign population residing or staying in Portugal with legal framework and Portuguese citizenship acquisition.

This edition corresponds to the 77th edition of the thematic yearbook on Demography, published by Statistics Portugal since 1935.

The published data are generally disaggregated to the first and second levels of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes (NUTS 1 and NUTS 2) and refer to the period 2012-2017. Associated to each figure are hyperlinks to data with greater geographic and temporal detail. Long series of the main demographic indicators with 10-year information are available for the period 1900-1980 and annually from 1980 to 2017 (Chapter 6 - summary tables).

The complete publication, as well as the statistical data supporting the analysis, is available at www.ine.pt, under the option *Statistical Information > Publications > Population* theme. Also available at www.ine.pt is a broad set of demographic indicators with territorial breakdowns by NUTS 1, 2 and 3 and Municipality, under the option *Statistical Information > Statistical Data > Database > Population*.