

Transport and Communications Statistics  
2018

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**Deceleration in passenger transport across the various modes;  
Broadband Internet access traffic more than doubled in 3 years**

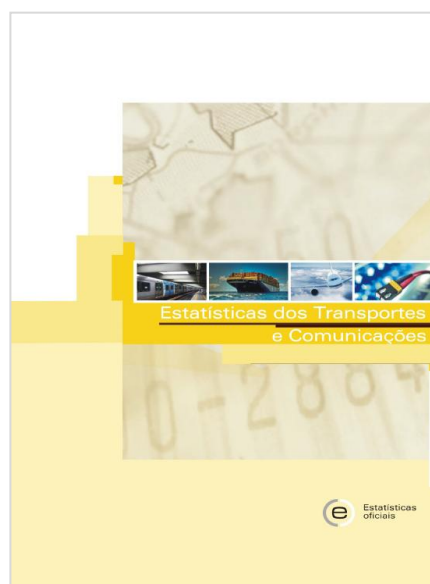
Despite the increase in the number of transported passengers, there was a slowdown across the several modes: air transport +6.8% (+16.5% in 2017), railway transport +3.9% (+6.0% in 2017), underground +4.3% (+5.1% in 2017) and inland waterways transport +3.4% (+5.5% in 2017).

Goods transport showed positive developments in air (+5.2%, +21.0% in 2017) and road transport (+0.1%, +6.1% in 2017), and decreases in maritime mode (-3.2%, +2.2% in 2017) and on the railway (-0.5%, +2.0% in 2017).

Traffic volume associated with broadband Internet access (fixed and mobile accesses) continued to grow quite significantly: +48.0%, after +34.1% in 2017 and +24.6% in 2016.

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With this press release, Statistics Portugal disseminates the publication "[Statistics on Transport and Communications 2018](#)", which provides a wide range of indicators on the several modes of transport, telecommunications and postal services.



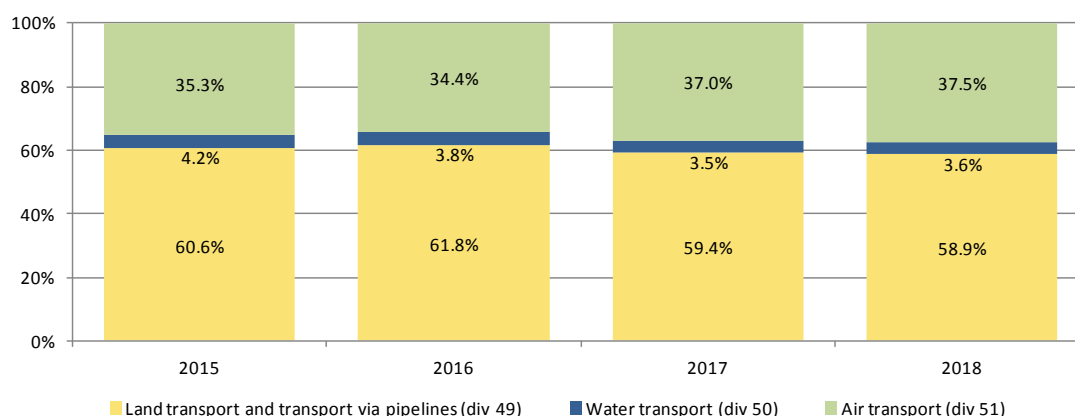
## A. TRANSPORTS

### Enterprises

According to the preliminary results of the Integrated Business Accounts System for 2018, the number of enterprises in the Transport and Storage sector (section H of the NACE) stood at 25.1 thousand (+9.7%). The subset of specific activities related to Transports<sup>1</sup> accounted for 21.9 thousand enterprises (+0.3%).

Turnover of the Transport and Storage sector recorded a slowdown in its growth rate (+6.7% in 2018; +10.7% in the previous year), amounting to a total of EUR 21.8 billion. The subset of Transport enterprises registered a 7.7% growth in turnover which stood for a deceleration compared to 2017 (+10.8%).

**Fig. 1 – Breakdown of turnover of Transport and Storage by activities**



### The explored railway network remained unchanged

As of December 31, 2018, the national railway network remained at 3,620.8 km in length, unchanged in comparison with the previous year.

By the end of 2018, railway stock was comprised of 370 traction vehicles, 3,072 wagons and 999 vehicles for the transport of passengers.

### Passengers transported in railway and subway keep growth

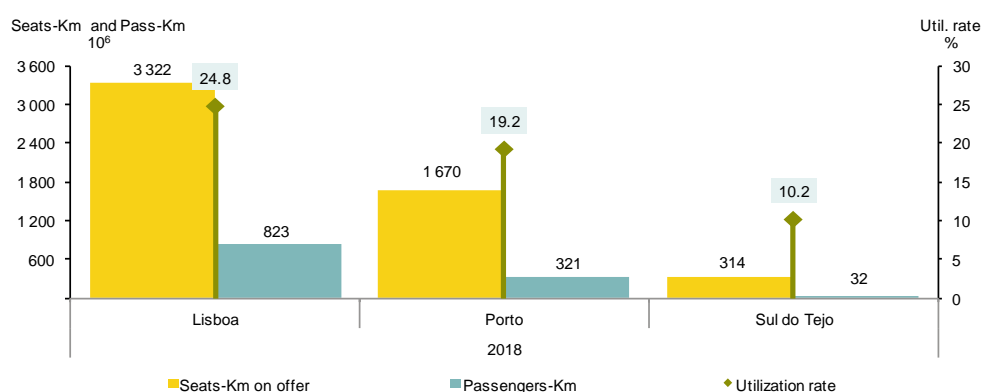
In 2018, the number of passengers transported in railway mode (147.4 million) increased again (+3.9% from +6.0% in 2017). At 4.4 billion passengers-km, the respective volume of transport increased by 2.2%, after growing by 5.9% in 2017.

<sup>1</sup> Only enterprises of divisions 49 - Land transports and oil/gas pipeline transport; 50 - Transport by water and 51 - Air transport; excluding divisions 52 (Warehousing and auxiliary activities) and 53 (Postal and courier activities).

In 2018, the three light railway systems (Lisboa, Porto, and Sul do Tejo) transported 244.1 million passengers, increasing by 4.3% compared to 2017 (+5.1% in the previous year). The Lisboa underground carried 169.2 million passengers and recorded the largest increase amongst the three light railway systems (+4.7%, following +5.4% in 2017 and +7.3% in 2016).

The Porto railway system accounted for 62.7 million passengers, the equivalent to 3.4% more passengers (+4.5% in 2017), while the Metro Sul do Tejo light railway system carried 12.3 million passengers (+3.4%, following +3.6% in 2017).

**Fig. 2 – Supply and demand by subway system, 2018**



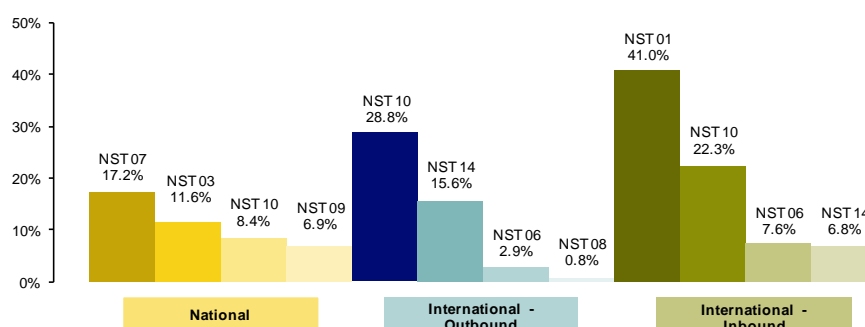
### Transport of goods in railway mode slightly decreased

In 2018, the movement of goods by railway transport amounted to 10.6 million tonnes which stood for a 0.5% reduction, after increasing by 2.0% in 2017. In terms of transport volume, there was a 0.5% increase which mirrored the 1.0% increase in the average distance travelled by each tonne (261.3 km).

The movement of goods in domestic rail transport stood at 8.3 million tonnes (-3.0%, following +1.6% in 2017), corresponding to 78.9% of the total traffic (80.9% in 2017 and 81.3% in 2016). With a total of 2.2 million tonnes transported, the movement of goods in international traffic continued to rise (+10.2%, after +4.1% in 2017 and +10.8% in 2016), with Spain as the origin/destination of the total goods transported.

When considering the NST 2007 classification, the main group of goods carried in railway mode was group 07 - "Coke and refined petroleum products", with 1.4 million tonnes fully transported within the national territory, corresponding to 13.6% of the total (-3.8 p.p. vis-à-vis 2017).

**Fig. 3 – Weight of main categories of goods carried by rail, by type of traffic, 2018**

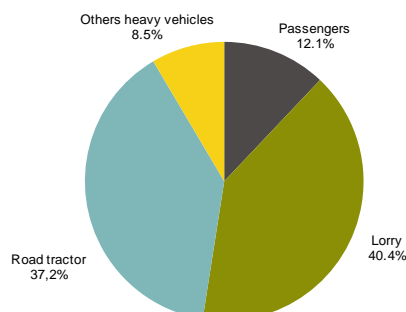


**NST 2007:**  
 01 - Products of agriculture, hunting, and forestry; fish and other fishing products  
 03 - Metal ores and other mining and quarrying prod.; peat; uranium and thorium  
 06 - Wood and prod. of wood and cork (exc. furniture); art. straw and plaiting m.; pulp, paper and paper p.  
 07 - Coke and refined petroleum products  
 09 - Other non-metallic mineral products  
 10 - Basic metals; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment  
 14 - Secondary raw materials; municipal wastes and other wastes  
 16 - Equipment and material utilised in the transport of goods

### Vehicle stock presumably in circulation continued to grow

The presumed number of motorized road vehicles continued to grow in 2018, with 6.7 million vehicles (+4.0%). All vehicle types grew in number.

**Fig. 4 – Distribution of heavy vehicles stock by type, 2018**



### New registrations of vehicles and cancellations with opposed signs

In 2018 there was a 5.8% growth in the number of vehicles registered, amounting to 406.9 thousand vehicles. Conversely, the number of cancelled registrations totalled 138.8 thousand vehicles which stood for a decrease of 4.9%.

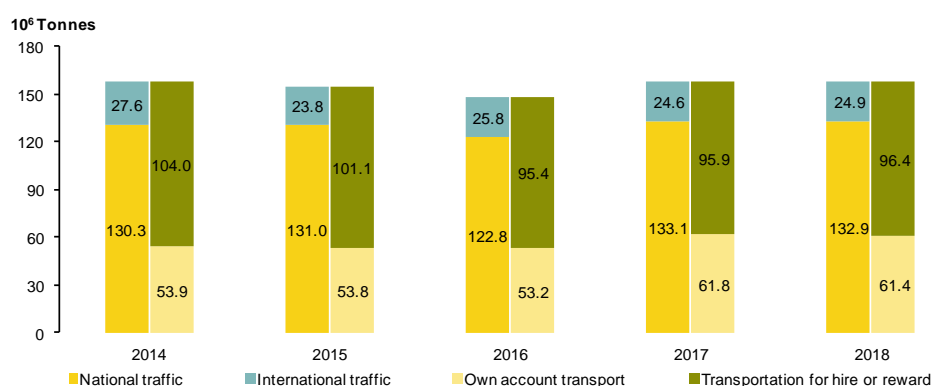
### Sales of new passenger cars and imported used ones grew while sales of heavy vehicles declined

Sales of new passenger cars grew by 2.8% (+7.1% in 2017) to 228.3 thousand units. The sale of used imported passenger cars registered a noteworthy growth (+16.7%) and amounted to 77.2 thousand vehicles. The sales of light goods vehicles grew slightly in 2018 (+2.0%; +10.4% in 2017), as opposed to the sales of heavy vehicles (-1.6%; +10.7% in 2017).

## Freight transport increased in tonnes but declined in terms of tonnes-km

The results of the Road Freight Transport Survey (ITRM) for 2018 showed a slight increase of 0.1% (+6.1% in 2017) in goods transported, which amounted to 157.8 million tonnes. There was a 4.1% reduction in tonnes-kilometre, more so than in the previous year (-1.8%).

**Fig. 5 – Goods (tonnes) carried by type of traffic and transport**



## Road passenger transport recorded an increased number of services and passengers

Road transport supply increased to 29.4 billion seats-km in 2018, with 83.1% of its total being made available on regular transport (+2.0 p.p.). Demand rose less sharply (+6.9%) to 7.9 billion passengers-kilometre. The utilization rate was 26.9%. The number of national transport services increased by 9.2% to 20.5 million, while 541.9 million passengers were carried, representing an increase of 5.5% compared to the previous year.

## Fuel consumption for road transport slows down

Fuel consumption in road transport continued to grow in 2018 (+0.9%), but at an increasingly slower pace (+1.1% in 2017 and +1.8% in 2016). About 5.5 million TEP (oil equivalent tonnes) were consumed, 78.9% of which were diesel fuel (+0.2 p.p.), according to information provided by Directorate-General for Energy and Geology (DGEG).

## Death toll from road accidents increased significantly in 2018

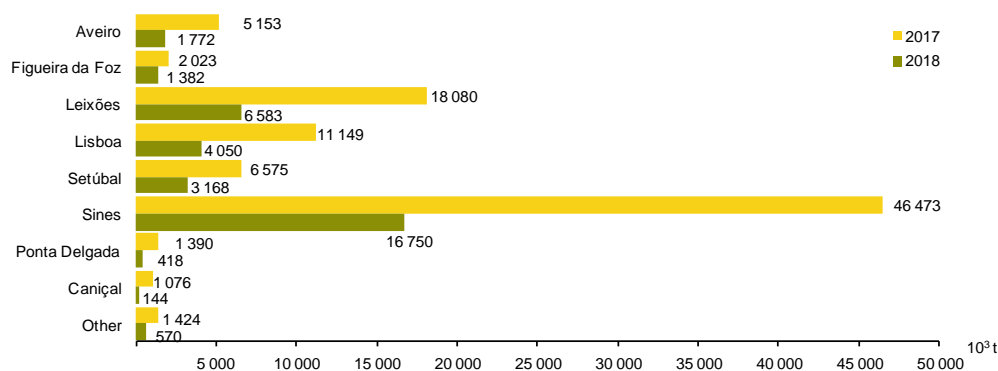
In 2018 there was a significant increase in the number of road accident deaths (+11.7%; +6.9% in 2017) to 704 fatalities. Conversely, the number of victims declined slightly (-0.7%; +6.7% in 2017) to 46.0 thousand people due to the reduction in the number of injured victims (-0.9%; +6.7% in 2017). Regarding the mainland, accidents with victims decreased slightly (-0.5%; +6.6% in 2017) to 34.2 thousand accidents, according to data made available by the National Road Safety Authority (ANSR).

## The national maritime ports activity declined

The movement of goods in national maritime ports stood at 90.4 million tons, reflecting a decrease of 3.2% (following increases of 2.2% and 5.1% in 2017 and 2016, respectively).

The port of Sines, with 44.3 million tonnes, decreased by 4.7% corresponding to a 0.8 p.p. reduction in its weight compared to the national total, but kept being quite representative (49.0%) compared to the national total. This port was followed by Leixões (19.5% of the total) and Lisboa (11.5%), with both ports also recording reductions in goods handled by 2.4% and 6.8%, respectively.

**Fig. 6 – Movement of goods (tonnes) in ports, 2017 and 2018**



International traffic handled by the national ports reached 77.7 million tonnes (-3.6%, from +5.4% in 2017), corresponding to 86.0% of the total maritime traffic.

The most representative loaded group of goods in the national ports continued to be 07 - "Coke and petroleum products", in spite of decreasing by 14.0% (25.2% of the total), followed by group 09 - "Other non-metallic mineral products", as in the previous year. The latter group also declined (-13.6%) but still represented 12.0% of the total loaded goods.

As regards unloaded goods in the national ports, the groups of products that included energy-related products were predominant, such as group 02 - "Coal and lignite; crude oil and natural gas " (-8.2%) which stood for 27.9% of the total, followed by group 07 - "Coke and petroleum products" that, in spite of a 10.1% reduction, corresponded to 20.4% of the total.

The movement of liquid bulk stood at 32.5 million tonnes and accounted for 36.0% of the total movement which in turn decreased by 8.2% (-1.4% in 2017). Cargo in containers (30.4 million tonnes) continues to grow in importance in terms of the total and accounted for 33.6% (+1.9 p.p. vis-à-vis the previous year).

## Inland waterway passenger transport increases while the transport of vehicles declines

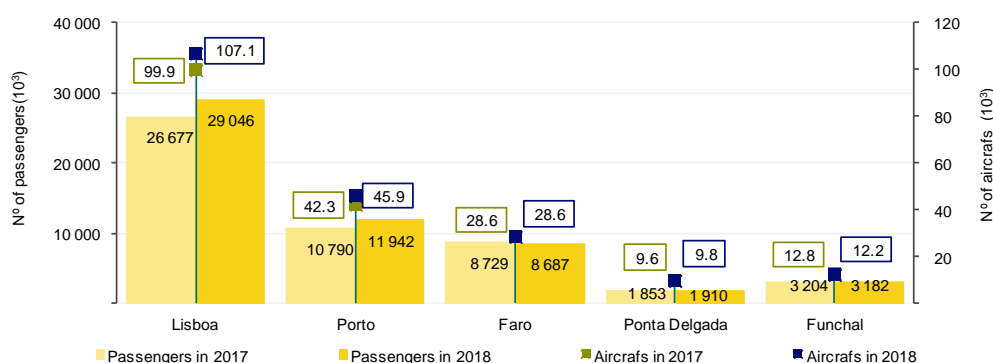
In inland waterways in Portugal, regular (national and international) crossings ensured the transport of 21.4 million passengers (+3.4%) and 354.6 thousand vehicles (-2.4%).

## The movement of passengers across the main national airports decelerated

The movement of passengers in national airports and aerodromes ascended to 56.3 million (+6.8%, from +16.5% in 2017).

The movement of passengers across the main national airports recorded the following evolutions: +7.1% in Lisboa (+18.8% in 2017), +10.7% in Porto (+15.1% in 2017), -0.5% in Faro (+14.4% in 2017), -0.7% in Funchal (+7.8% in 2017) and +3.0% in Ponta Delgada (+22.0% in 2017).

**Fig. 7 - Air traffic indicators at the main national airports**



In terms of goods handled, there was a 5.2% increase in cargo movement (reaching a total of 172.3 thousand tonnes) and +7.0% in mail carried (15.9 thousand tonnes).

## Oil pipeline transport increases and gas pipeline transport decreases

Gas transport through the pipeline decreased in 2018 in terms of inbound (-6.0%) and outbound (-4.0%) transport, after increasing in previous years. The recorded movement was 66.8 thousand GWh in terms of inbound transport and 68.1 thousand GWh of outbound transport.

Transport through the oil pipeline network increased by 6.2% in 2018 (+5.9% in 2017), amounting to 3.0 million tonnes.



## Tonnes of imported goods and exported goods decreased by 2.0% and by 1.3%, respectively

In 2018, according to the provisional data from international trade by modes of transport, around 62.9 million tonnes of goods were imported, which stood for a decrease of 2.0% (+6.9% in 2017).

Maritime transport mode concentrated 60.9% of the imported goods with a total of 38.3 million tonnes (-3.7%). Road freight stood for 20.0 million tonnes of imported goods (+2.2%), corresponding to 31.8% of the total.

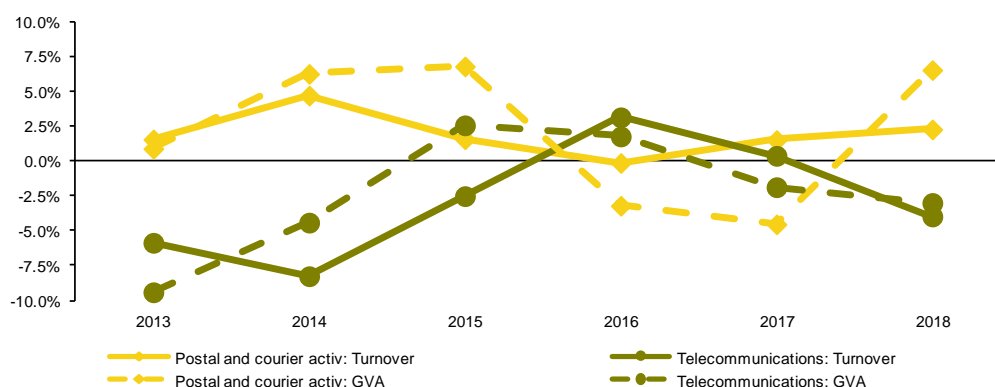
Exported goods accounted for 38.8 million tonnes in 2018, corresponding to a decrease of 1.3% (+4.7% in 2017). Maritime transport mode concentrated 50.6% of the total exported tonnes, 42.4% corresponded to road freight and 3.5% were transported by air.

## B. COMMUNICATIONS

### Reduction in turnover in the Communications Sector

According to the preliminary results of the Integrated Business Accounts System (SCIE)<sup>2</sup>, the turnover in the communications sector amounted to EUR 6.3 billion in 2018, which stood for a decrease of 3.1% compared to the previous year (+0.6% in 2017). The telecommunications sub-sector decreased by 4.0% to EUR 5.4 billion, contrary to postal activities which recorded a 2.3% increase.

**Fig. 8 – Turnover and gross value added rate**



<sup>2</sup> The results of the Integrated Business Accounts System (SCIE) exclude sections K (finance and insurance related), O (Public Administration and Defence; mandatory social security), T (Families) and U (International entities) of NACE Rev3.



### Voice traffic continued to increase in mobile telephone service

Voice traffic originating from the mobile network grew by 4.2% in the number of calls to 10.6 billion. There was a higher growth in terms of the number of minutes (+5.9%) to a total of 28.3 billion. In domestic traffic, the increases in telephone calls to the mobile network from different operators (+8.6% in calls and +10.6% in minutes) and in fixed network connections (+14.1% and +16.5%, respectively) were quite noteworthy. International traffic recorded a very significant increase of 20.8% in minutes of conversation.

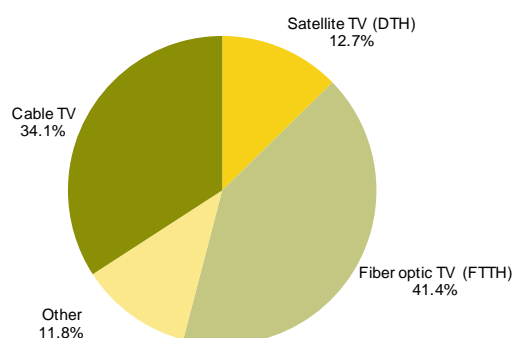
### Internet access traffic volume continued to grow substantially

The number of internet accesses increased by 5.9% in 2018 (as in 2017) and reached 3.8 million. Fibre optics access continued to grow at a noteworthy rate (+23.8%, from +26.8% in 2017). Traffic volume associated with broadband internet access reached 5.0 billion GB, continuing to grow quite significantly: +48.0%, after +34.1% in 2017 and +24.6% in 2016.

### Increase in the number of fibre optic television subscribers

The number of subscribers to the TV signal distribution service accelerated again in 2018 (+3.7%; +0.5 p.p.) and reached 3.9 million subscribers. Fibre optic service (FTTH) was the only service to record an increase in the number of subscribers (+22.8%; -2.5 p.p.) and stood for 41.4% of the total, reaching 1.6 million subscribers.

**Fig. 9 – Distribution of subscribers TV by type of subscription, 2018**



### Postal network with fewer access points and less traffic

The national postal network decreased slightly in 2018 (-0.1%) and is comprised of 13,742 access points. The number of post offices decreased to 538 (-11.5%) while the number of post offices increased to 1,845 (+4.8%). Postal traffic continued to decline (-6.0%, from -5.2% in 2017), with 733.9 million objects being shipped.

## **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

The results presented are developed in the publication "Statistics on Transport and Communications 2018", with date of availability on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

The information disclosed was based on the following sources:

### **Rail transport**

Inquiries to the passenger and freight rail transport companies and to the metro systems, "Infraestruturas de Portugal SA" and "Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes IP" (IMT).

### **Road transport**

Surveys for Road Transport of Passengers and Goods; IMT; "Autoridade Nacional de Segurança Rodoviária" e "Comandos Regionais da Polícia de Segurança Pública dos Açores e da Madeira"; "Direção Geral de Energia e Geologia"; "Associação Automóvel de Portugal".

### **Maritime and waterway transport**

Surveys for maritime transport of passengers and freight and for river transport (port administrations, river transport companies, municipalities, IMT and "DocaPesca SA").

### **Air transport**

ANAC – Autoridade Nacional de Aviação Civil e ANA – Aeroportos de Portugal SA.

### **Transport by pipeline**

REN Gasodutos SA and CLC - Companhia Logística de Combustíveis SA.

### **Communications**

Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) and the main communications companies.

These and other information on Statistics on Transport and Communications are available on the Official Statistics Portal at [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt).

## **METHODOLOGICAL NOTES**

### **TRANSPORT**

**Passengers-Km (PKm)** - Unit of measurement corresponding to the transport of a passenger within one kilometer.

**Places-Km (LKm)** - The number resulting from the vehicle stocking by the distance traveled on each route. Corresponds to the maximum number of passengers-km if the vehicle is always full.

**Tonnes-Km (TKm)** - Unit of measurement of the freight transport corresponding to the transport of one tonne of merchandise in the distance of one kilometer.

### **MARITIME AND FLUVIAL TRANSPORT**

**Gross tonnage (GT)** - Measurement of the total internal volume of a vessel, determined in accordance with the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships of 1969 and expressed in an integer without unit.

**Career (fluvial)** - Regular service carried out by means of collective transports, following itineraries, schedules or minimum frequencies and pre-fixed rates.

### **AIR TRANSPORT**

**Regular air service** - Air service open to the public, operated in accordance with an approved and duly publicized timetable or with such regularity or frequency, constituting a systematic and obvious series of flights, as well as flights of deployment at that time.

**Non-regular air service** - Flight or series of flights operated without governmental standards of regularity, continuity and frequency and intended to meet specific passenger and baggage or cargo requirements on aircraft used on behalf of one or more charterers, for remuneration or in performance of a charter contract.

**Passenger in direct transit** - Passenger who temporarily stays at the airport or aerodrome and continues his journey on the aircraft in which he arrived or another, but retaining the same flight number. Passengers in transit are counted only once upon arrival.

**Rate of occupancy (passengers)** - Percentage ratio between passengers on board and seats offered.

### **RAIL TRANSPORT**

**Usage rate (passengers)** - Percentage ratio between the calculated PKm and the LKm offered.

Heavy rail data includes all licensed operators.

### **ROAD TRANSPORT**

**Transportation for hire or reward** - remunerated transportation of goods on behalf of third parties by companies authorized to carry on the transport activity.

**Own account transport** - transport carried out by a company with its vehicles for the transport needs of its own goods, with no financial transaction associated with transport.