



16th March 2021

VITAL STATISTICS 2020 – PRELIMINARY DATA

NEGATIVE NATURAL BALANCE ACCENTUATES

IN 2020 THE NUMBER OF DEATHS INCREASED 10.2 % AND THE NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS DECREASED 2.6 %

In 2020 there were registered 84,558 live births and 123,467 deaths in the national territory (preliminary data). The number of live births of mothers residing in Portugal was 84,296, 2.6% less than in 2019. The number of deaths of residents in Portugal was 123,152, 10.2% more than in 2019. In the context of COVID-19, the increase in the number of deaths, as well as the decrease in the number of live births, resulted in a strong reduction of the natural balance (-38,856). The natural balance has been negative for 12 years.

Table 1: Live births by place of residence of the mother, deaths by place of residence and natural balance

	Live births			Deaths			Natural balance (Portugal)
	Total	Portugal	Abroad	Total	Portugal	Abroad	
Unit: No.							
2020⁽¹⁾	84,558	84,296	262	123,467	123,152	315	-38,856
January	7,327	7,300	27	11,862	11,821	41	-4,521
February	6,363	6,332	31	9,878	9,844	34	-3,512
March	7,165	7,127	38	10,617	10,582	35	-3,455
April	6,948	6,913	35	10,421	10,405	16	-3,492
May	7,237	7,213	24	9,587	9,573	14	-2,360
June	6,816	6,800	16	8,563	8,546	17	-1,746
July	7,417	7,404	13	10,385	10,365	20	-2,961
August	7,200	7,184	16	8,931	8,901	30	-1,717
September	7,647	7,625	22	8,965	8,942	23	-1,317
October	7,363	7,355	8	9,853	9,820	33	-2,465
November	6,823	6,811	12	11,454	11,428	26	-4,617
December	6,252	6,232	20	12,951	12,925	26	-6,693
2019	87,026	86,579	447	112,291	111,793	498	-25,214

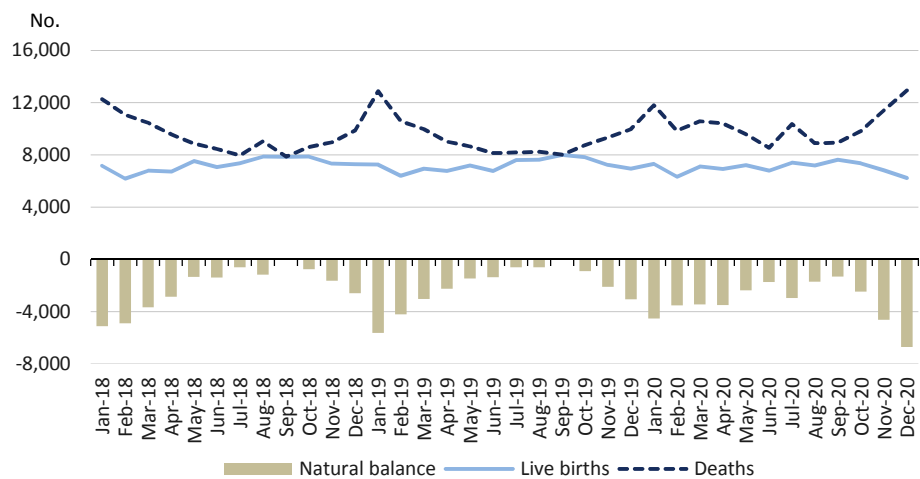
⁽¹⁾ Preliminary values based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until the end of February 2021.

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

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Figure 1: Live births, deaths and natural balance (No.) - Portugal



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



TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases the preliminary annual values of live births and deaths for 2020, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until the end of February 2021. In the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be a greater gap between the moment of birth and the moment of registration, with implications for the entry of live birth records at Statistics Portugal and the consequent possibility of revising the data now released.

On the Statistics Portugal Website the monthly preliminary values, from January to December 2020, by sex and NUTS 1, 2 and 3 geographical breakdowns are also made available. In April the final figures will be released by sex, NUTS 1, 2, 3 and Municipalities.

Data on live births and deaths are obtained from statistical operations of direct and exhaustive collection on live births and deaths 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 still an additional set of variables identified as statistically pertinent to the National Statistic System (NSS) and the European Statistical System (EES).

Data are 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).

DEFINITIONS

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 or not the umbilical cord has been severed and whether or not 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.

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.