



April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021

WEEKLY DEATHS – preliminary data

Weeks 14 and 15 of 2021

## MORTALITY IN PORTUGAL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### DEATHS BETWEEN APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup> CONTINUED TO REMAIN BELOW THE 2015-2019 AVERAGE

Between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> weeks), there were 1,992 and 1,948 deaths in Portugal, respectively, 203 and 170 fewer deaths than the 2015-2019 average. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 33 and 28, representing, respectively, 1.7% and 1.4% of the total deaths.

Of the 3,940 deaths between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 68.8% corresponded to people aged 75 years and over. Compared to the 2015-2019 average, the number of deaths has decreased in all age groups, with the exception of the age group 65 to 69 years (+12.2%).

The regions Norte, Centro and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa accounted for 81.2% of deaths. In terms of the number of deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants, the regions Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (32.9), Norte (34.9) and Região Autónoma dos Açores (36.3) had, in these two weeks, with lower values than the national (38.2).

In this period, 62.6% of deaths occurred in hospitals.

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In this press release, Statistics Portugal provides preliminary data regarding the number of deaths that occurred in the national territory, per week, until the 15<sup>th</sup> week of 2021 (April 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>), making a comparison with the average number of deaths for the same period of 2015-2019. The average for 2015 to 2019 provides a reference for the number of deaths expected per week in a normal (non-pandemic) year, considering that there is an excess of mortality when the number of deaths exceeds the average number of that period.

Information on deaths is obtained through the Civil Register collected under the Integrated Civil Registration and Identification System (SIRIC) until April 27<sup>th</sup> 2021. The information is preliminary and will be subject to updates.



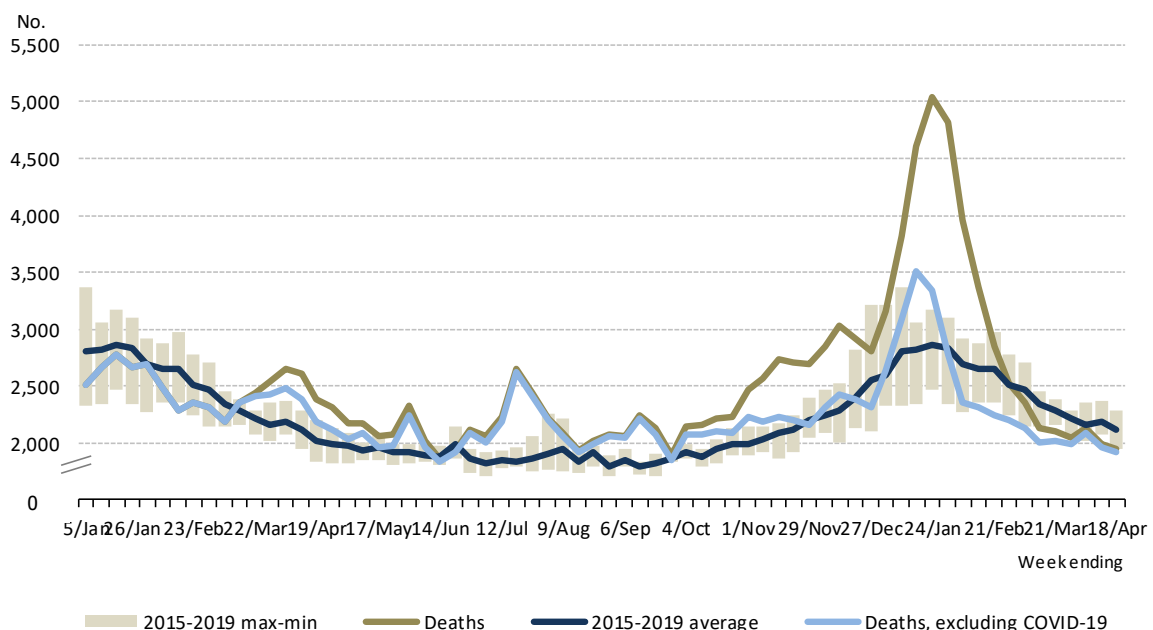
## In the weeks 14 and 15 of 2021 the number of deaths remained below the average of 2015-2019

From the last week of 2020 (December 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 to January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021), the number of deaths increased sharply until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of 2021 (January 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>), reaching in that week the highest number of weekly deaths observed since the beginning of the pandemic (5,038). However, it was in the following week (January 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>) that the highest number of deaths by COVID-19 (2,036) was recorded, from that week onwards the total number of deaths began to decrease. From 9<sup>th</sup> week (March 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>) onwards, the number of deaths decreased to values below the 2015-2019 average. In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> weeks, 1,992 and 1,948 deaths were recorded in Portugal (a total of 3,940 deaths), respectively, 203 and 170 fewer deaths than the 2015-2019 average. The number of deaths by COVID-19 in these two weeks was 33 and 28, representing, respectively, 1.7% and 1.4% of total deaths.

In Figure 1, the shaded bars, defined by the minimum and maximum values of deaths per week in any of the five years between 2015 and 2019, provide an indication of the range of variation in the number of deaths in the considered period. It shows that, from the beginning of March 2020 to the end of February 2021, the number of deaths was, in general, above the upper limit of this range of values. In the last seven weeks the number of deaths decreased to values below the 2015-2019 average, reaching values below the minimum observed in that period.

In Figure 2, the bars represent the total weekly death differential relative to the 2015-2019 average for the same period and the number of COVID-19 deaths.

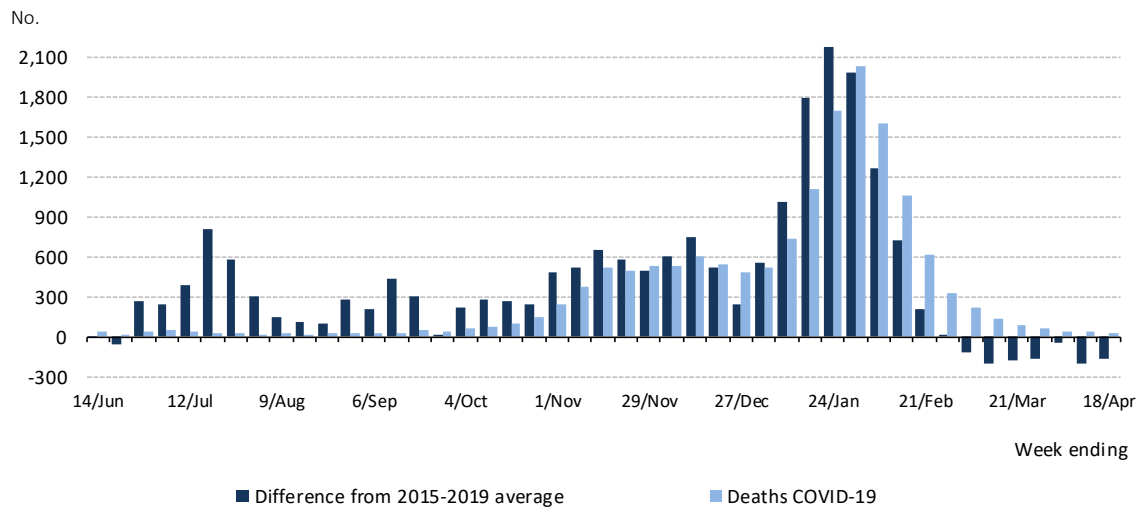
Figure 1: Deaths 2020, 2021 and average 2015-2019, by week, Portugal, weeks 1 of 2020 to 15 of 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.



Figure 2: Difference between deaths 2020, 2021 and 2015-2019 average and COVID-19 deaths, by week, Portugal, weeks 24 of 2020 to 15 of 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.

### Male mortality remains slightly higher than female mortality

Between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> weeks), there were 2,000 deaths of men and 1,940 of women, a decrease of 144 and 229 deaths, respectively, compared with the 2015-2019 average of deaths in the same weeks. The number of deaths of men, which at the 14<sup>th</sup> week was 1,013, decreased to 987 in the 15<sup>th</sup> week, representing, respectively, 20.8 and 20.3 deaths per 100 thousand men. The number of deaths of women was in the 14<sup>th</sup> week of 979, representing 18.0 deaths per 100 thousand women. In the following week it decreased slightly to 961 deaths, corresponding to 17.7 deaths per 100 thousand women.

### The greatest percentage reduction, compared to the 2015-2019 average, occurred in age group 85 to 89 years old

Between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 68.8% of deaths (2,712 deaths) were of people aged 75 years and over and, of these, 57.9% (1,571) were of people aged 85 and over. Compared to the 2015-2019 average, the number of deaths decreased in all age groups, with the exception of age group 65 to 69 years old, that registered an increase of 32 deaths (+12.2%). The greatest percentage reduction occurred in the age group 85 to 89 years old, minus 16.6% (147 fewer deaths).



### **Área Metropolitana de Lisboa with the lowest number of deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants**

Between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> (weeks 14 and 15) there were 1,249 deaths in the region Norte (31.7% of the total), 1,008 (25.6%) in Centro, 943 (23.9%) in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa, 360 (9.1%) in Alentejo, 186 (4.7%) in Algarve, 88 (2.2%) in Região Autónoma dos Açores and 101 (2.6% of the total) in Região Autónoma da Madeira.

In relative terms, the lowest number of deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants was registered in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (32.9 deaths), followed by Norte (34.9) and Região Autónoma dos Açores (36.3), with lower values than the national (38.2).

### **More than 60% of deaths occurred in hospitals**

Of the total of 3,940 deaths recorded between April 5<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2,466 (62.6%) took place in a hospital and 1,474 (37.4%) occurred outside the hospital context (at private homes and other places), corresponding, respectively, to decreases of 247 and 126 deaths compared with the average number of deaths observed in the same weeks of 2015-2019.





Table 1: Deaths 2021 and 2015-2019 average by week, Portugal, weeks 13 to 15 of 2021

	Week 13 of 2021 (March 29 <sup>th</sup> to April 4 <sup>th</sup> )					Week 14 of 2021 (April 5 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> )					Week 15 of 2021 (April 12 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> )				
	Deaths (No.)	Deaths per 100 000 inhab.	2015-2019 deaths average (homologous week)	Change relative to the 2015-2019 average		Deaths (No.)	Deaths per 100 000 inhab.	2015-2019 deaths average (homologous week)	Change relative to the 2015-2019 average		Deaths (No.)	Deaths per 100 000 inhab.	2015-2019 deaths average (homologous week)	Change relative to the 2015-2019 average	
				Absolute values	%				Absolute values	%				Absolute values	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,125</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>-203</b>	<b>-9.2</b>	<b>1,948</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>-170</b>	<b>-8.0</b>
<b>Sex</b>															
Males	1,077	22.2	1,078	-1	-0.1	1,013	20.8	1,096	-83	-7.6	987	20.3	1,048	-61	-5.8
Females	1,048	19.3	1,089	-41	-3.8	979	18.0	1,099	-120	-10.9	961	17.7	1,070	-109	-10.2
<b>NUTS 2</b>															
Norte	619	17.3	667	-48	-7.2	645	18.0	674	-29	-4.3	604	16.9	654	-50	-7.6
Centro	512	23.1	536	-24	-4.5	493	22.2	559	-66	-11.8	515	23.2	554	-39	-7.0
AM Lisboa	582	20.3	547	35	6.4	482	16.8	557	-75	-13.5	461	16.1	509	-48	-9.4
Alentejo	204	29.0	211	-7	-3.3	177	25.1	199	-22	-11.1	183	26.0	196	-13	-6.6
Algarve	95	21.7	100	-5	-5.0	101	23.0	97	4	4.1	85	19.4	96	-11	-11.5
RA Açores	57	23.5	44	13	29.5	40	16.5	47	-7	-14.9	48	19.8	46	2	4.3
RA Madeira	51	20.1	55	-4	-7.3	52	20.5	52	0	0.0	49	19.3	54	-5	-9.3
<b>Age group</b>															
Under 65 years	291	3.6	311	-20	-6.4	311	3.9	314	-3	-1.0	272	3.4	313	-41	-13.1
65 to 69 years	121	19.4	132	-11	-8.3	156	25.0	132	24	18.2	138	22.2	130	8	6.2
70 to 74 years	178	32.4	175	3	1.7	175	31.8	183	-8	-4.4	176	32.0	179	-3	-1.7
75 to 79 years	270	62.5	248	22	8.9	225	52.1	272	-47	-17.3	244	56.5	246	-2	-0.8
80 to 84 years	384	108.7	406	-22	-5.4	341	96.5	384	-43	-11.2	331	93.7	381	-50	-13.1
85 to 89 years	438	195.2	449	-11	-2.4	375	167.2	450	-75	-16.7	364	162.3	436	-72	-16.5
90 years and over	443	450.8	445	-2	-0.4	409	416.2	460	-51	-11.1	423	430.4	431	-8	-1.9
<b>Place of occurrence</b>															
Hospital	1,351	-	1,359	-8	-0.6	1,258	-	1,373	-115	-8.4	1,208	-	1,340	-132	-9.9
Another location	774	-	807	-33	-4.1	734	-	822	-88	-10.7	740	-	778	-38	-4.9

Notes:

- (1) Data for 2021 are preliminary.
- (2) The total number of deaths may not correspond to the sum of the partial figures by sex and residence, due to the existence of records with unknown sex and residence and because it includes deaths in Portugal from residents abroad.
- (3) The week is defined according to ISO 8601. Every week has 7 days, starts on a Monday and ends on a Sunday. The first week of the year is the one that contains the first Thursday of the year.

Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths and Annual Provisional Estimates of Resident Population December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.



## Portugal in the European context

Among the set of European countries that submitted data to Eurostat (see table 2) on the number of weekly deaths for 2021, and for all weeks from years 2016 to 2019 as a basis for comparison, Portugal was in January one of the countries with the highest excess mortality: 60% more deaths than the 2016-2019 average, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup>, only behind Slovakia (73% more). In February, excess mortality was reduced in Portugal and in most countries. In this month, Portugal presented a mortality excess of 24%, ranking 3<sup>rd</sup>, behind Slovakia (+ 65%) and Czechia (+ 40%).

In the 9<sup>th</sup> week (March 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>), Portugal still registered a slight excess of mortality, 1% more deaths than the 2016-2019 average, ranking 10<sup>th</sup> among the 24 countries for which information is available. In the following weeks (March 8<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>) mortality in Portugal decreased to values below the 2016-2019 average.

Table 2: Monthly and weekly deaths in 29 European countries, 2020 and 2021, compared to 2016-2019 average (2016-2019 average = 100)

Countries	2021		Weeks 9 to 13 of 2021				
	January	February	March 1 <sup>st</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup>	March 8 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup>	March 15 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup>	March 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 28 <sup>th</sup>	March 29 <sup>th</sup> to April 4 <sup>th</sup>
Austria	109	97	92	103	107	101	x
Belgium	102	91	82	92	91	95	104
Bulgaria	99	105	122	139	157	173	188
Croatia	108	103	x	x	x	x	x
Cyprus	106	92	94	93	92	78	44
Czechia	153	140	159	167	161	x	x
Denmark	111	93	84	91	85	95	92
Estonia	112	108	127	131	137	125	137
Finland	96	97	98	92	97	93	94
France	110	108	103	106	110	108	112
Germany	122	97	86	90	93	96	99
Greece	95	111	x	x	x	x	x
Hungary	105	97	111	132	148	151	x
Italy	102	101	x	x	x	x	x
Latvia	129	114	95	102	102	95	101
Lithuania	128	101	104	112	105	107	97
Luxembourg	109	96	89	141	x	x	x
Malta	101	105	133	155	119	x	x
Netherlands	118	103	86	94	92	93	100
Poland	126	112	117	129	139	154	167
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>97</b>
Romania	112	105	x	x	x	x	x
Slovakia	173	165	x	x	x	x	x
Slovenia	127	100	105	100	103	x	x
Spain	118	110	100	100	100	97	x
Sweden	116	95	88	95	94	95	91
Liechtenstein	104	104	87	30	86	47	105
Norway	123	105	80	88	84	93	73
Switzerland	94	87	86	91	84	84	75

Source: Weeks 9 to 13 2021: Statistics Portugal calculations based on online Eurostat [database](#) (extracted on 27/04/2021);  
Months of January and February 2021: adapted from Eurostat indicator on [Excess mortality – monthly data](#).



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## TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases the preliminary weekly deaths, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until April 27<sup>th</sup> 2021.

Data on deaths is 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 an additional set of variables identified as statistically pertinent to the National Statistic System (NSS) and the European Statistical System (EES).

Data is 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).

In this release data on provisional annual estimates of resident population referenced to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, released on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 (latest figures available), are used in computing the indicators per 100 thousand inhabitants.

Data on the number of deaths by COVID-19 are also used, whose source is the daily situation report COVID-19 of the Directorate-General for Health that provides only a partial measure of the pandemic on mortality. A more comprehensive measure of the impact on mortality may be provided by the difference between the total number of deaths, by all causes of death, and the average number of deaths for 2015-2019, even though there are other known effects on mortality, such as seasonal flu and spikes or hot or cold waves. Thus, it is considered that there is an excess of mortality when the number of deaths, during a certain period of time, exceeds the number of deaths expected for that period, in this case, the average of the period 2015-2019.

## DEFINITIONS:

**Death:** The permanent disappearance of vital functions.

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Detailed methodological information available at: [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), option Products, Metadata system.

Detailed statistical information available at: [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), option Products, Statistical data, database, theme Population, subtheme Mortality and life expectancy.