



September 17<sup>th</sup> 2021

VITAL STATISTICS – Monthly data

August 2021

## MORTALITY, LIVE BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

### MORTALITY INCREASED IN AUGUST COMPARED WITH THE SAME MONTH OF 2020

In August 2021, the number of deaths was 9,157, higher than the figure registered in previous month (+361 deaths). In this month, the downward trend in the number of deaths when compared with in the same period of 2020 changed, with 194 more deaths (2.2%) being registered than in August 2020. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 rose to 388 (+120 compared to July 2021), accounting for 4.2% of the total number of deaths. Compared with August 2020, there was an increase of 301 deaths due to COVID-19.

In July 2021, 6,654 children were born alive, corresponding to a reduction of 10.5%, when compared to the same month of 2020, thus maintaining the downward trend registered in births since July 2020.

In July 2021, the natural balance registered the value of -2,136. Despite the worsening when compared to June, the natural balance was less negative when compared to the same month of 2020 (when it recorded the value of -2,966).

In July 2021, 4,200 weddings were celebrated, corresponding to 2.1 times the number of marriages celebrated in July 2020. (+2,163). From January to July 2021, 4,666 more weddings were celebrated than in same period of 2020 and 3,976 less than in the same period of 2019.

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In this press release, Statistics Portugal provides **preliminary data** regarding the number of deaths, per month until August 2021 and per week until the 35<sup>th</sup> week (August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>), and the number of live births and marriages per month until July 2021, that occurred in the national territory, making a comparison with the homologous period.

The information is obtained through the Civil Register collected under the Integrated Civil Registration and Identification System (SIRIC) until September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021.



**Mortality increased in August compared to the same month of 2020, reversing the trend of the last five months**

January 2021 recorded the highest number of monthly deaths since the beginning of the pandemic (19,670), corresponding to an increase in mortality of 65.8% (+7,808 deaths) compared to the same month of 2020. Of the total deaths, 5,785 were by COVID-19, representing 29.4% of mortality in January and the maximum of monthly deaths by COVID-19. Mortality decreased in February to 12,762 deaths, however, continuing to register an increase in relation to the same month of 2020, plus 29.2% (+2,882 deaths). In this month, the number of deaths by COVID-19 was 3,594, the second highest after January, corresponding to 28.2% of the total. Excluding the deaths by COVID-19 recorded in February, mortality in this month would be, for the first time after the start of the pandemic, below the homologous value of 2020 (-712 deaths).

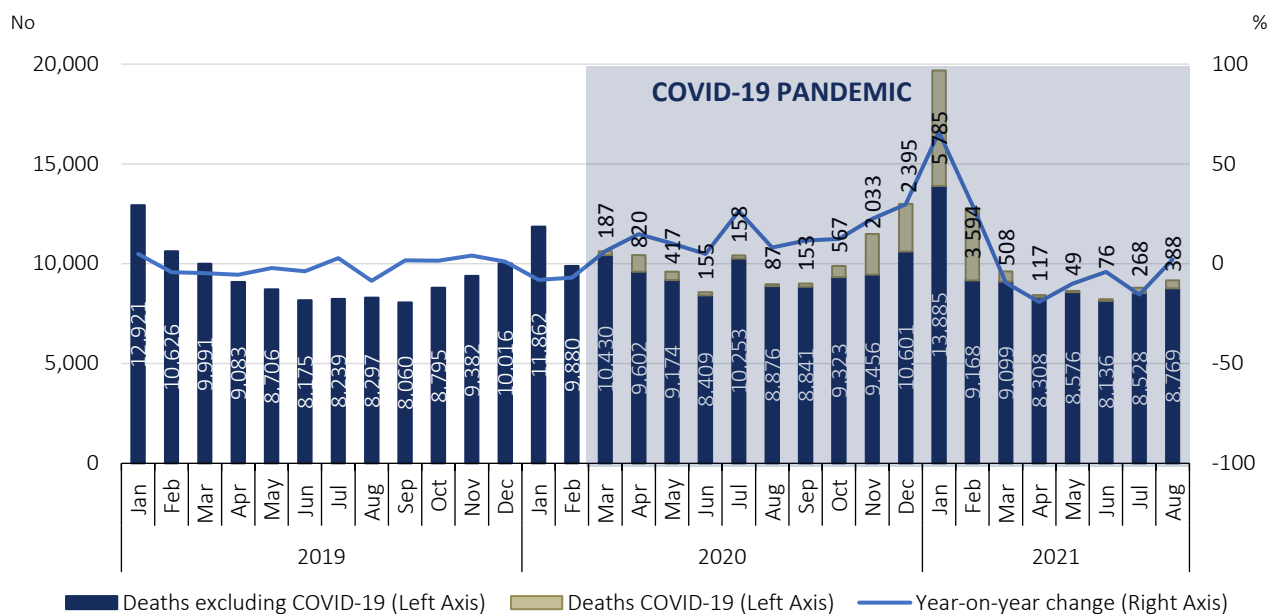
Between March and July 2021, the number of deaths continued to decrease compared to the values recorded in the same months of 2020. In these months there were 9,607, 8,425, 8,625, 8,212 and 8,796 deaths in Portugal, respectively, 9.5% (-1,010 deaths), 19.2% (-1,997 deaths), 10.1% (-966 deaths), 4.1% (-352 deaths) and 15.5% (-1,615 deaths) than in the same months of 2020.

The number of deaths due to COVID-19 continued the downward trend, started in February, between March and May, increasing slightly in June. In those months, there were 508, 117, 49 and 76 deaths due to COVID-19, representing, respectively, 5.3%, 1.4%, 0.6%, and 0.9% of the total number of deaths.

Comparing the monthly number of deaths due to COVID-19 in 2021 with the same months of 2020, mortality due to COVID-19 in March 2021 was higher than that recorded in 2020 (+321 deaths), remaining, between April and June, below that registered in the same months of 2020 (-730, -368 and -79 deaths by COVID-19, respectively). However, in July, the number of deaths from COVID-19 rose again to 268, corresponding to 3.0% of the total number of deaths and was higher than that recorded in June 2020 (+110 deaths from COVID-19 than in the month of 2020).

In August 2021, the number of deaths was 9,157, 361 more deaths than in the previous month. In this month there was a reversal of the downward trend in the number of deaths when compared with the same period of 2020, with 194 more deaths (2.2%) being registered than in August 2020. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 rose to 388 (+120 compared to July 2021), accounting for 4.2% of total deaths. Compared with August 2020, there was an increase of 301 deaths due to COVID-19.

Figure 1: Deaths and year-on-year change, January 2019 to August 2021

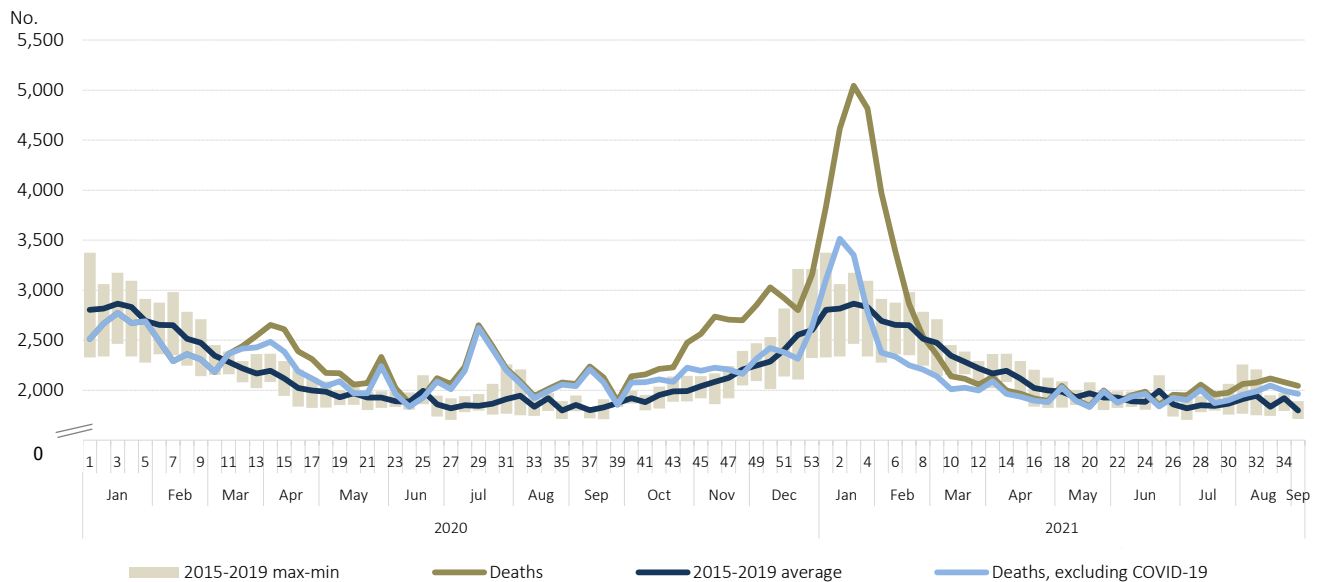


Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.

Analyzing weekly mortality from the last week of 2020 (December 28<sup>th</sup> to January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021), the number of deaths strongly increased up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of 2021 (January 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>), thus reaching the highest number of deaths observed since the beginning of the pandemic (5,044). However, it was in the 4<sup>th</sup> week (January 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>) that the highest number of deaths by COVID-19 (2,036) was reached, starting from this week onwards a decreasing trend.

Between August 2<sup>nd</sup> and September 5<sup>th</sup> (weeks 31 to 35), the number of deaths was slightly above the 2015-2019 average. In week 35, 2,042 deaths were registered, of which 80 were due to COVID-19, accounting for 3.9% of the total number of deaths.

Figure 2: Deaths 2020, 2021 and average 2015-2019, by week, weeks 1 of 2020 to 35 of 2021



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

Considering the indicator “excess mortality” calculated by Eurostat, which compares the number of deaths recorded in each month, in the European Union (EU-27) and EFTA countries, with the average number of monthly deaths in the period 2016-2019, Portugal was, in the month of January, one of the countries with the highest excess of mortality in a total of 31 European countries: 60.5% more deaths than the 2016-2019 average, ranking 2nd, only behind Slovakia (73.7% more). In February, excess mortality was reduced in Portugal and in most countries. In this month, Portugal presented a mortality excess of 24.6%, ranking 3rd, behind Slovakia (+68.2%) and Czechia (+40.5%).

In March and April 2021, mortality registered a new increase in most European countries. In Portugal, however, mortality continued to decline, reaching values below the 2016-2019 average, corresponding to negative excess mortality, respectively of -4.6% and -6.4%. In April, Portugal, together with Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, and Malta, were the only countries with negative excess mortality.

Portugal kept, in the months of May and June, negative excess mortality, of -0.8% and -0.3%, respectively. However, in July, there was again a positive excess mortality of 6.0%, ranking 15<sup>th</sup> among the countries with positive excess mortality.



Figure 3: Monthly excess mortality in UE 27 and EFTA countries, January 2020 to July 2021 (2016-2019 average = 100)

Countries	2021						
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
<b>EU 27</b>	<b>117.0</b>	<b>105.8</b>	<b>110.4</b>	<b>120.4</b>	<b>109.9</b>	<b>105.9</b>	<b>104.4</b>
Austria	109.2	97.1	100.2	111.7	109.0	112.2	105.7
Belgium	101.8	91.0	89.6	106.8	104.9	100.5	97.2
Bulgaria	99.8	105.1	153.1	176.2	125.5	107.5	106.7
Croatia	107.7	102.2	102.4	130.6	124.1	114.7	103.3
Cyprus	96.9	91.7	101.1	126.0	109.9	111.8	126.2
Czechia	153.8	140.5	161.4	130.4	106.7	100.6	97.9
Denmark	110.8	92.7	87.9	97.5	105.7	106.0	107.9
Estonia	112.3	109.3	130.3	126.3	114.1	118.4	113.8
Finland	98.2	98.3	96.3	99.2	105.6	105.5	108.9
France	110.1	108.9	107.1	116.9	109.1	102.2	101.7
Germany	123.0	98.0	90.6	106.5	107.6	107.7	102.3
Greece	92.0	97.2	116.0	124.8	121.3	113.1	125.0
Hungary	105.8	100.3	150.6	149.7	109.3	106.7	101.8
Ireland	120.1	116.6	94.0	99.5	105.0	98.7	107.0
Italy	107.6	103.4	116.8	119.8	104.4	102.6	102.9
Latvia	129.0	113.7	97.8	104.6	114.4	120.4	113.3
Lithuania	128.7	102.2	105.5	110.1	113.0	114.6	111.1
Luxembourg	108.5	96.4	109.5	108.1	101.1	106.3	100.8
Malta	103.6	115.7	132.6	99.9	113.0	101.7	117.7
Netherlands	118.5	103.5	97.3	110.5	107.7	107.0	105.2
Poland	126.0	111.0	138.3	165.3	127.0	113.6	107.3
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>124.6</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>99.2</b>	<b>99.7</b>	<b>106.0</b>
Romania	112.0	105.5	125.1	138.2	115.1	104.1	102.9
Slovakia	174.8	168.2	154.6	128.7	109.7	107.9	98.7
Slovenia	127.7	99.2	103.4	110.6	110.5	114.6	101.5
Spain	118.4	110.4	100.0	104.2	104.6	104.3	109.7
Sweden	117.1	95.1	92.5	95.6	100.7	98.0	97.5
Iceland	104.5	102.0	95.4	102.9	101.4	101.4	111.0
Liechtenstein	109.5	117.5	65.0	129.7	118.0	55.5	108.5
Norway	94.5	89.5	91.7	96.4	98.2	98.5	100.5
Switzerland	123.2	94.5	93.9	102.4	102.2	100.8	100.1

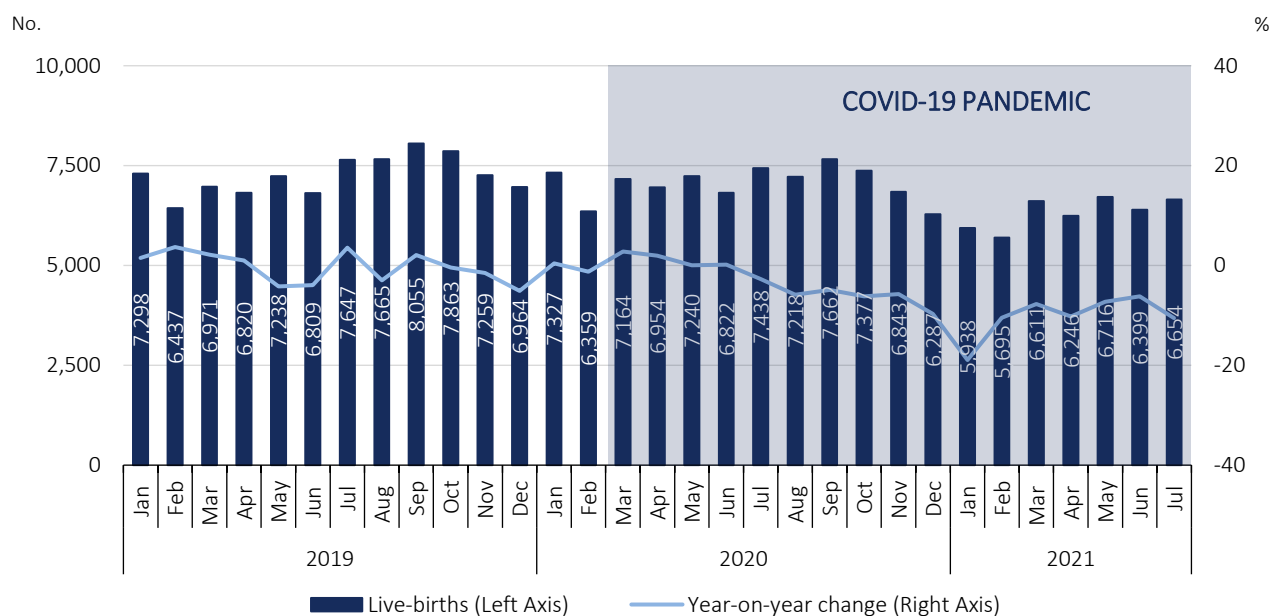
Source: Eurostat, [Excess mortality – monthly data](#) (extracted on 15/09/2021).

### Live births maintain downward trend registered since July 2020

In June and July 2021, 6,399 and 6,654 children, respectively, were born alive, corresponding to reductions of 6.2% (-423) and 10.5% (-784), when compared to the same months of 2020, thus maintaining the downward trend registered in births since July 2020.

Despite some recovery in births from March 2021, the number of live births was always lower than between the months of January to July 2020, representing a total of 5,045 less live births.

Figure 4: Live births and year-on-year change, January 2019 to July 2021



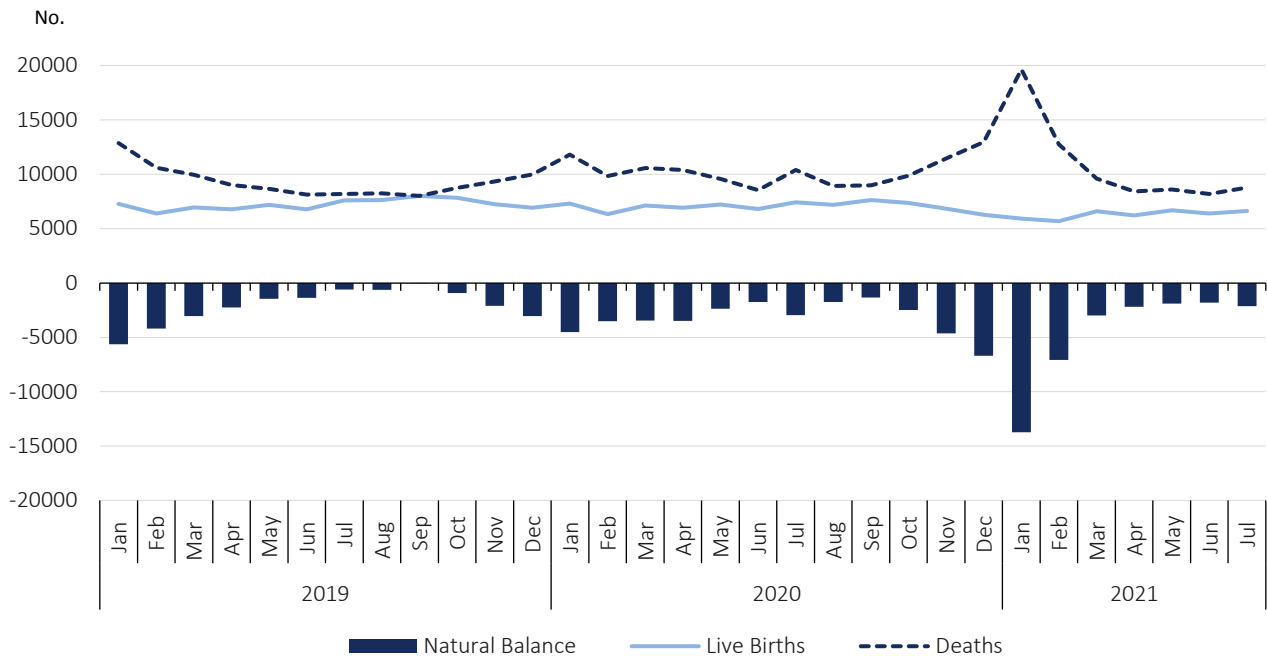
Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

### Natural balance worsened to -2,136 in July

The increase in the number of deaths, to which mortality due to COVID-19 contributed, as well as the decrease in the number of live births, resulted in a strong reduction of the natural balance in 2020 and in the first two months of 2021. As of March 2021, the natural balance became less negative.

In June and July 2021, the natural balance registered, respectively, values of -1,807 and -2,136. Despite the worsening registered in July, the natural balance was less negative when compared to the same month of 2020 (when it recorded the value of -2,966).

Figure 5: Live births, deaths and natural balance<sup>1</sup>, January 2019 to July 2021



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

### Marriages celebrations maintain growth trend in July

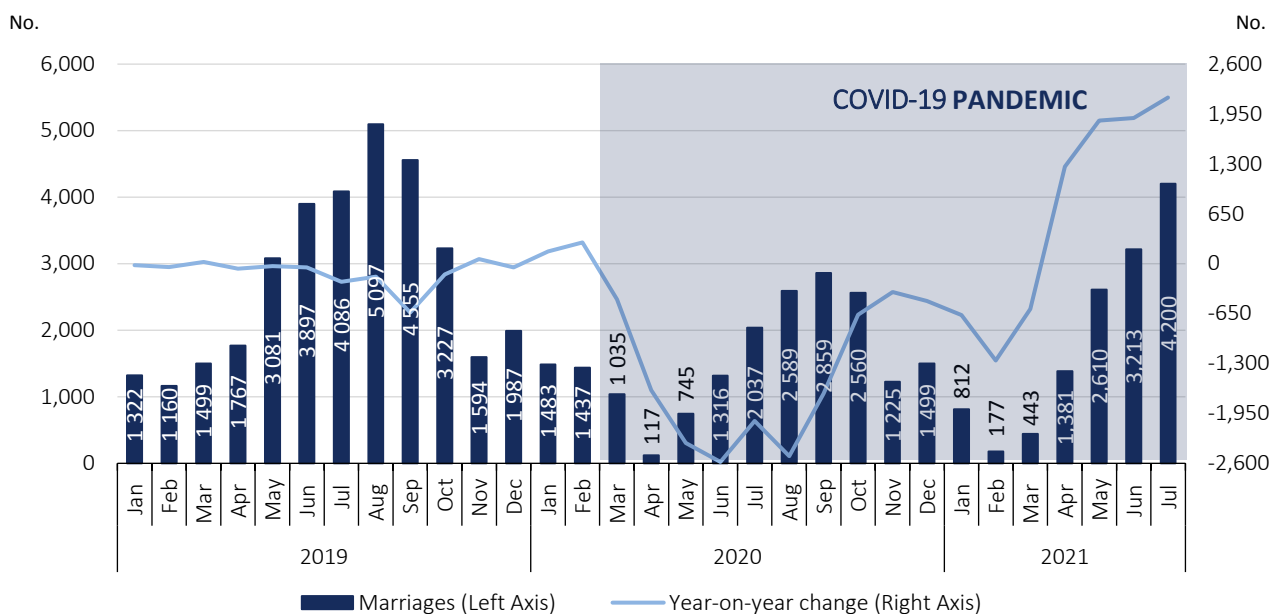
The measures resulting from the containment of the pandemic had an impact on the lives of citizens, including mobility and social contact. As such the statistical data on marriages celebrated from March 2020 onwards should be read in this context.

In June and July 2021, respectively, 3,213 and 4,200 marriages were celebrated, corresponding to 2.4 and 2.1 times the number of marriages celebrated in June and July 2020 (+1,897 and +2,163 marriages).

From January to July 2021, 4,666 more marriages were celebrated than in the same period of 2020 and 3,976 less than in the same period of 2019.

<sup>1</sup> The natural balance is calculated based on the number of live births of mothers residing in Portugal and the number of deaths of residents in Portugal.

Figure 6: Marriages and year-on-year change, January 2019 to July 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages.





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## TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases the preliminary weekly deaths, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021. On the Statistics Portugal Website the monthly preliminary values of live births and marriages, from January to June 2021, with geographical breakdowns up to NUTS 3 are also made available. In this Press Release the total preliminary figures of live births and marriages are disclosed for the month of July 2021.

Data are obtained from statistical operations of direct and exhaustive collection on live births, deaths and marriages 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).

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.

## DEFINITIONS

**Marriage:** Contract signed by two persons that intend to start a family in full partnership and cohabitation according to legislation. Note: marriage can be held between persons from different or same sex.

**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 the umbilical cord has been severed and whether 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.

**Year-on-year change:** The year-on-year change compares the level of a variable between the reference month and the same month of the previous year.

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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 Births and natality rates and subtheme Mortality and life expectancy.