



16 November 2020  
DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS  
2020

*The number of live births has been corrected; pages 1 and 4, the correct value is 84 426 (and not 86 426) (12:10 am)*

## DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS 2020

### **In the pandemic year, the natural balance worsened with the increase of deaths and the reduction of live births**

In 2020, 84,426 live births were born in Portugal, children of mothers residing in the national territory, corresponding to a decrease of 2.5% when compared to 2019.

The mean age of women at childbirth (regardless of the birth order) was 31.6 years (31.4 years in 2019), while the mean age at first childbirth increased to 30.2 years (29.9 years in 2019).

The number of deaths was 123,358, following an increase of 10.3% when compared to 2019 (111,793). The number of infant deaths was 205, less 41 deaths than in 2019. The infant mortality rate decreased to 2.4 deaths per thousand live births (2.8‰ in 2019).

In 2019, 18,902 marriages were celebrated in Portugal, corresponding to a decrease of 43.2% over the previous year (33,272). The mean age at first marriage was 34.9 years for men and 33.4 years for women (33.9 years and 32.4 years, respectively in 2019).

17,295 divorces were decreed, less 15.3% when compared to 2019 (20,421). The mean age at divorce was 47.9 years for men and 45.5 years for women.

In 2020, and for the fourth consecutive year, the number of permanent immigrants (67,160) surpassed the number of permanent emigrants (25,886), corresponding to a positive net migration of 41,274.

As a result of the positive net migration, which counterbalanced the negative natural increase, the resident population in Portugal increased, registering a crude net rate of increase of 0.02%.

In 2020, 59,817 foreigners acquired Portuguese citizenship, a number that almost doubled that observed in 2019 (30,469). Of the total citizenship acquisitions, 32,147 were attributed to foreigners residing in Portugal and 27,670 to residents abroad.

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Statistics Portugal releases today on its website - [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt) - the publication Demographic Statistics 2020, which presents an analysis of the demographic situation in 2020, the year in which the effects of the pandemic and the consequent measures adopted to safeguard public health, had significant impacts in demographic behavior, in particular the increase in mortality, the reduction of live births and marriages. The publication includes indicators on the resident population, births and fertility, mortality and life expectancy, family formation and dissolution (celebrated marriages and dissolved marriages by divorce or death), international migration, foreign population, acquisition, attribution and loss of Portuguese citizenship.

DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS – 2020

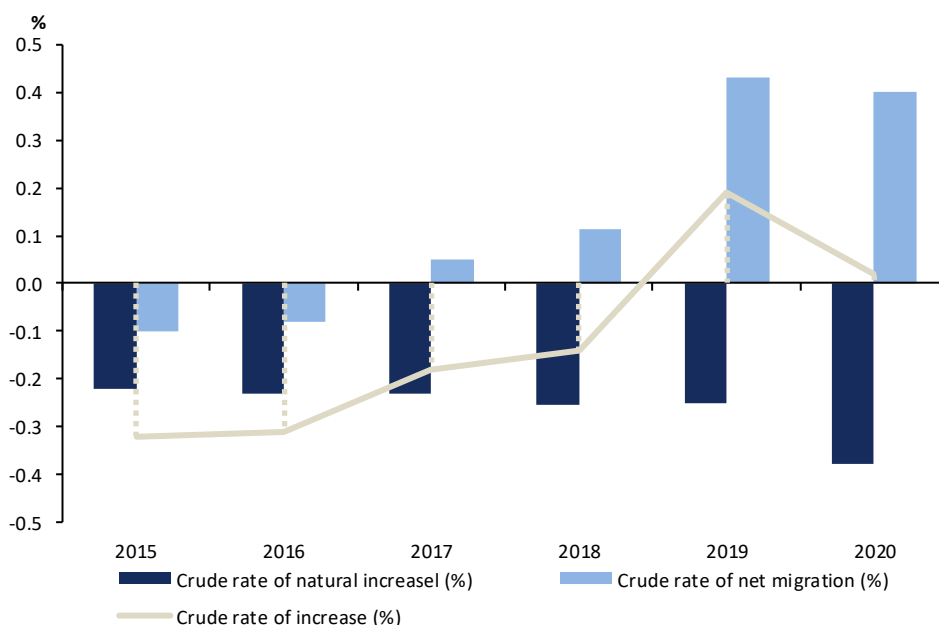


## 1. Resident population

### Resident population increased for the second consecutive year

In 2020, the resident population in Portugal increased for the second consecutive year. The crude rate of increase was 0.02% (0.19% in 2019). The population increase in 2020 (+2,343 people than in 2019) resulted from the positive net migration of 41,274, although lower than in 2019 (44,506), which managed to offset the negative natural increase of -38,931 (-25 214 in 2019). In 2020, there was thus a positive crude rate of net migration of 0.40% and a negative crude rate of natural increase of 0.38%.

Figure 1: Crude rates of total population increase, natural and net migration increase (%), Portugal, 2015-2020

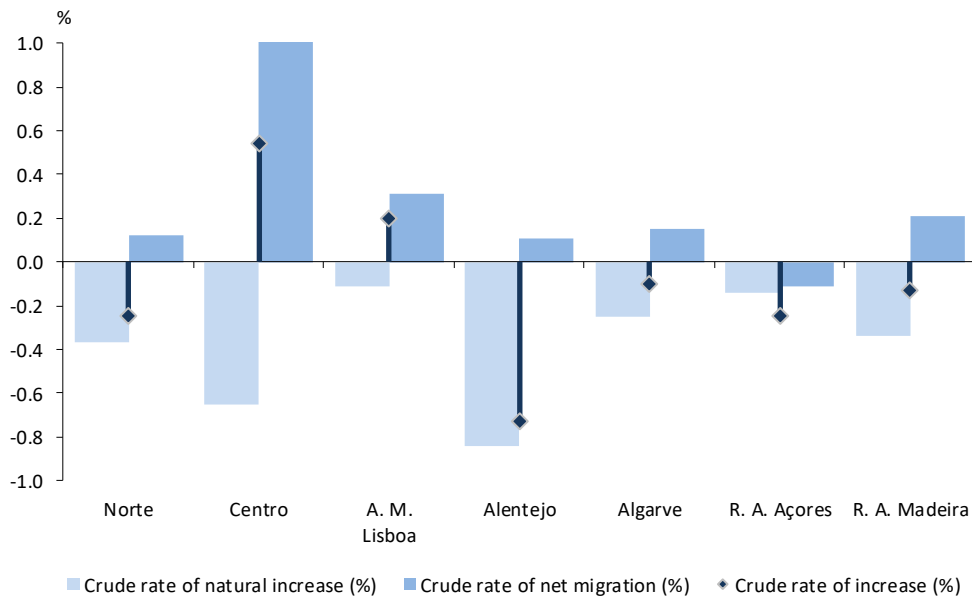


Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual resident population estimates and Demographic indicators.

In 2020, only the regions Centro and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa registered positive population changes, respectively with crude rates of increase of 0.54% and 0.20%.



Figure 2: Crude rates of total population increase, natural and net migration increase (%), NUTS 2, 2020

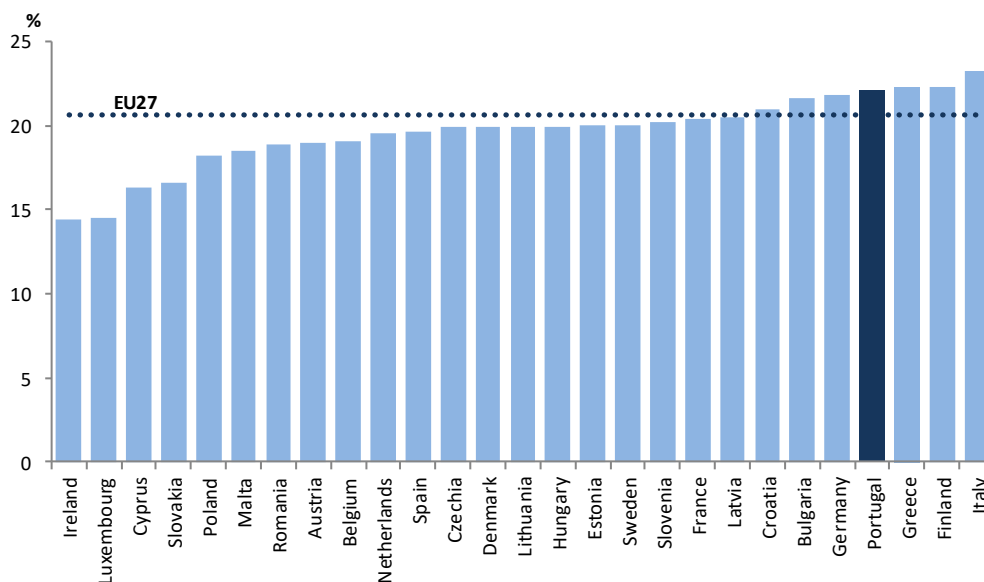


Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

### Portugal was the fourth country in the EU27 with the highest proportion of older people

In 2019, the most recent year for which comparable data are available from Eurostat, across the 27 countries of the European Union (EU27), there was an increase in the proportion of older persons (aged 65 or over) from 19.0% in 2018 to 20.6% in 2019. Italy had the highest proportion (23.2%) while Ireland recorded the lowest (14.4%). The percentage of older persons in Portugal was higher than in the EU27, being the 4<sup>th</sup> country with the highest share of persons aged 65 or older in the total population, only surpassed by Greece, Finland, and Italy.

Figure 3: Proportion of population aged 65 years and more (%), EU27, 2019



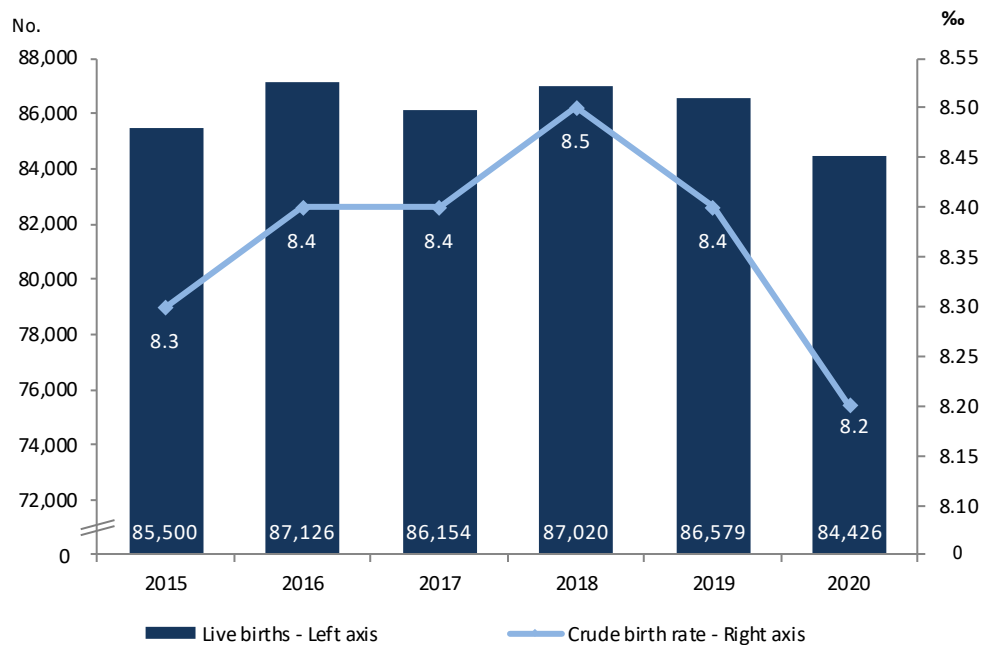
Source: EUROSTAT.

## 2. Births and fertility

The number of live births decreased 2.5%

In 2020, 84,426 live births were born in Portugal, children of mothers residing in the national territory, representing a decrease of 2.5% when compared to 2019. This reduction contributed to the decrease of the crude birth rate, from 8.4 live births per thousand inhabitants in 2019 to 8,2‰ in 2020.

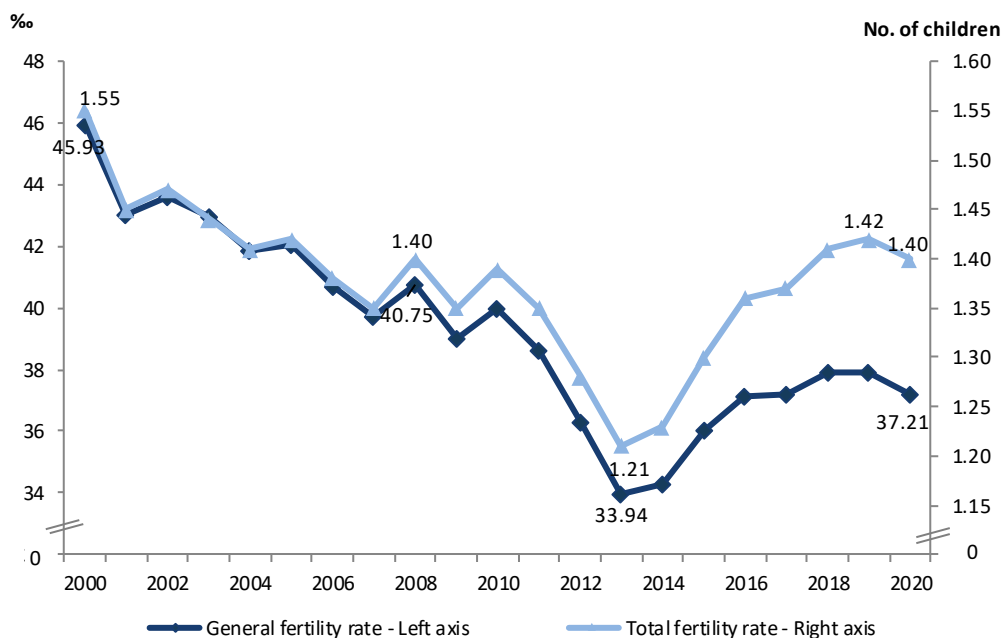
Figure 4: Live births (No.) and Crude birth rate (%), Portugal, 2015-2020



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

In 2000, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) was 1.55 children per woman (2.13 in 1981, the last year for which it was recorded a value above the replacement of generations threshold), showing a downward trend until 2013, when the lowest value was registered in the country (1.21 children per woman). From 2015 to 2019 there was a recovery in fertility with continuous increases in the TFR. In 2020, this indicator dropped to 1.40 children per woman. The general fertility rate followed the same trend as the TFR, recording the value of 33.94 live births per thousand women at childbearing age (15 to 49 years of age) in 2013. In 2020 it stood at 37.21 (against 37.94 in 2019).

Figure 5: General fertility rate (%o) and Total fertility rate (No.), Portugal, 2000-2020



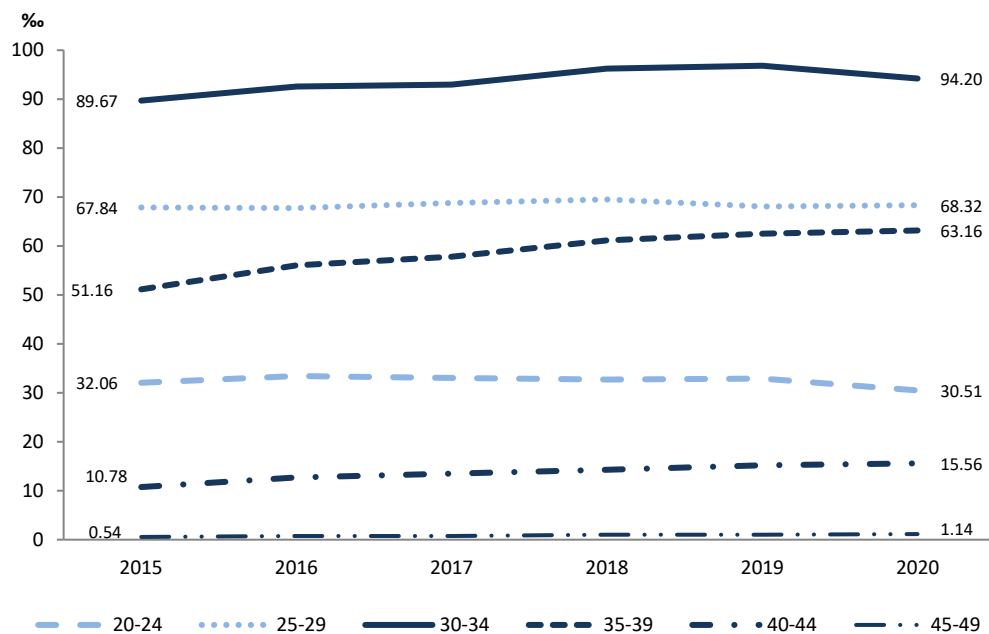
Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

The breakdown by women’s age allows us to conclude that, compared to 2019, the reductions were more accentuated in the age groups from 20 to 24 years old and from 30 to 34 years old and that the greatest increases were observed in the ages above 35 years old.

In 2020, almost all NUTS 2 regions recorded general fertility levels below those observed in the previous year. General fertility increased only in Alentejo (from 37.4 live births per thousand women at childbearing age to 37.5). Despite the decrease, Algarve and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa remained the regions with the highest rates in the country (44.9 and 44.4 live births per thousand women at childbearing age, respectively). These two regions, together with Alentejo, were the only ones where this indicator was above the national average (37.2 live births per thousand women at childbearing age).

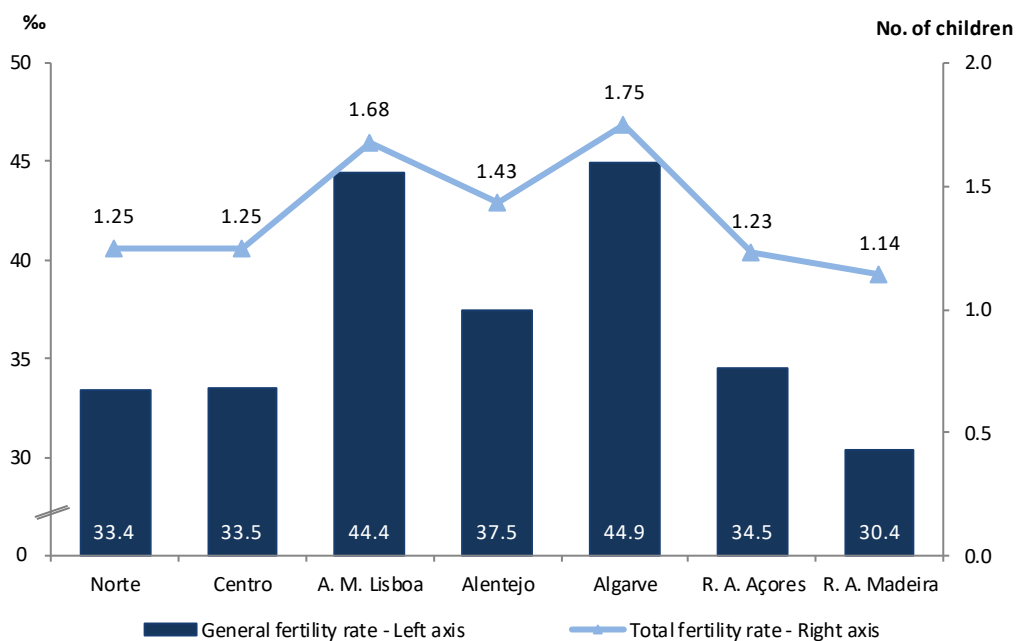
Regarding the TFR, and except for Norte and Alentejo, where the values remained the same as those observed in 2019, this indicator decreased in all NUTS 2 regions in 2020. The Área Metropolitana de Lisboa was the region that registered the largest reduction (from 1.74 to 1.68). As in previous years, the highest value was observed in the Algarve (1.75 live births per woman at childbearing age).

Figure 6: Specific fertility rates by age group (%), Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

Figure 7: General fertility rate (%o) and Total fertility rate (No.), NUTS 2, 2020

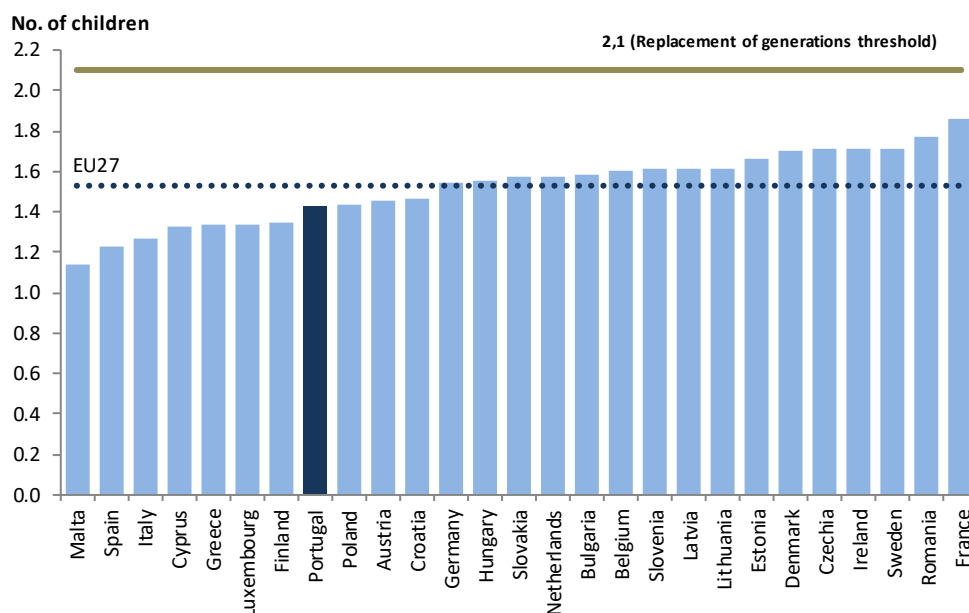


Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.



In 2019, the most recent year for which comparable data are made available from Eurostat, the TFR in the EU27 was 1.53 children per woman. The highest value of the TFR belonged to France (1.86 children per woman at childbearing age) and the lowest to Malta (1.14 children per woman at childbearing age). Portugal was the eighth country with the lowest TFR.

Figure 8: Total fertility rate (No.), EU27, 2019



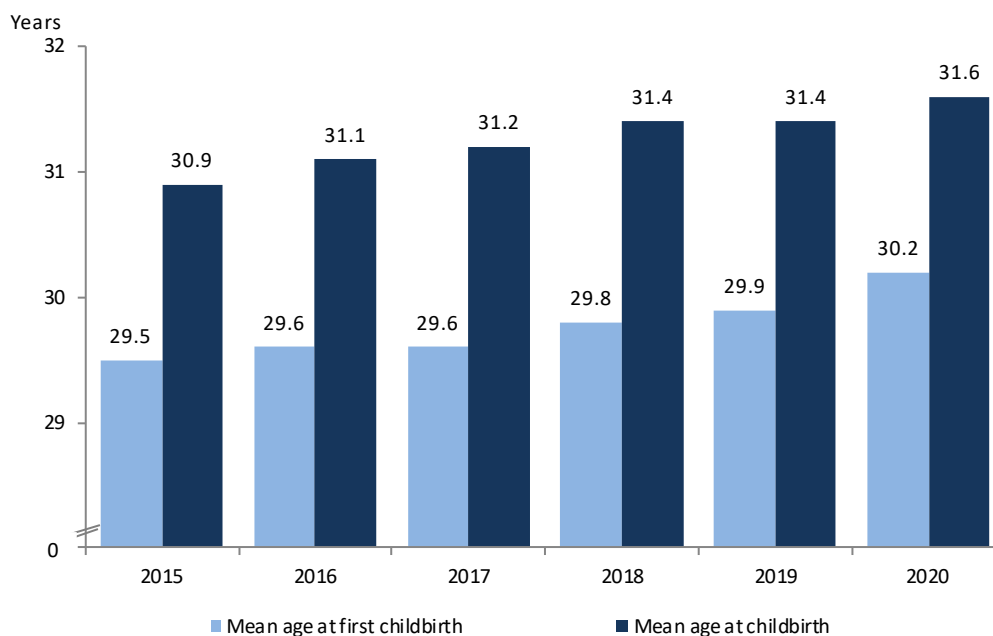
Source: EUROSTAT.

### Mean age of women at childbirth continues to increase

Between 2015 and 2020, there was an increase in the mean age of women at childbirth: the mean age at first childbirth rose from 29.5 to 30.2 years, and the mean age at childbirth (regardless of the birth order) went from 30.9 to 31.6 years.



Figure 9: Mean age of women at childbirth and at first childbirth (years), Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

### 3. Mortality and life expectancy

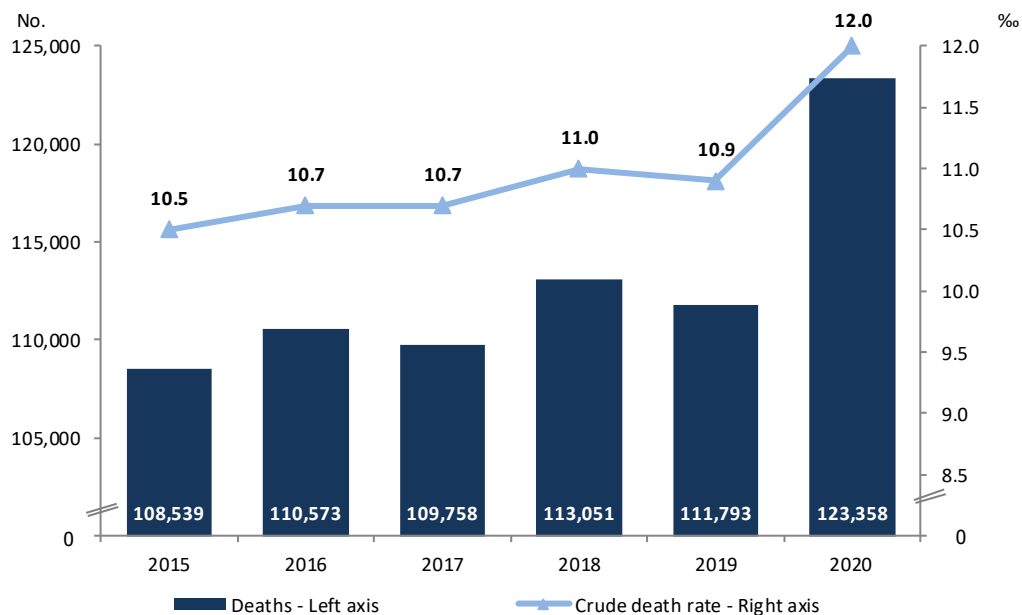
#### Number of deaths increased by 10.3%

In 2020, there were 123,358 deaths of residents in Portugal (50.3% male deaths and 49.7% female deaths), leading to an increase of 10.3% (11,565 more deaths) compared with 2019. The crude death rate was 12.9‰, higher than in 2019 (10.9‰).

In 2020, there were 205 infant deaths, corresponding to a decrease when compared with the previous year (minus 41 infant deaths). The infant mortality rate decreased to 2.4 deaths per thousand live births (2.8 ‰ in 2019).

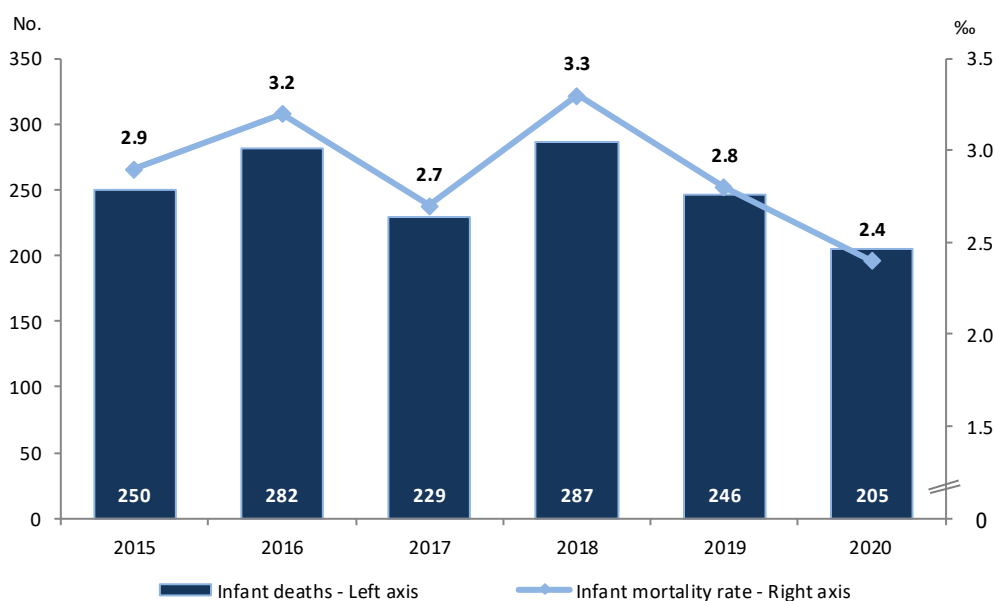
In 2020, of the total deaths of residents in Portugal, 43.1% (42.2% in 2019) occurred at ages of 85 years old and over. More than half (53.9%) of the female deaths occurred at ages of 85 years and over (53.1% in 2019) while most male deaths still occur at ages below 85 years (67.9% in 2020).

Figure 10: Deaths (No.) and Crude death rate (%), Portugal, 2015-2020



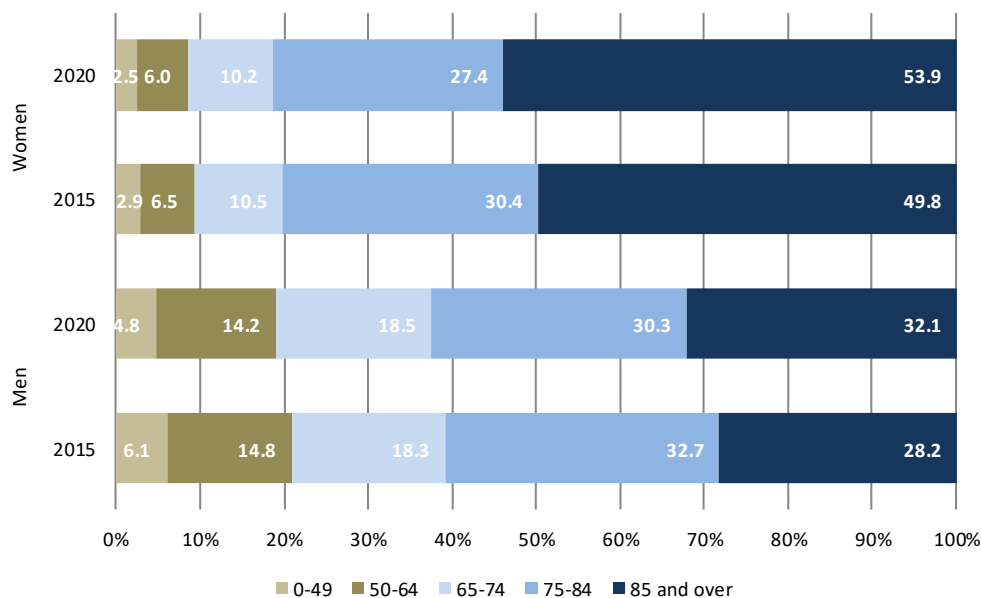
Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

Figure 11: Infant deaths (No.) and Infant mortality rate (%), Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

Figure 12: Distribution of deaths by sex and age groups (%), Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths.

### Women continued to have higher longevity

Life expectancy at birth for the total population was estimated at 81.06 years in the 2018-2020 triennium.

Although recent gains in expected life years were higher for the male population (0.71 years for men and 0.44 years for women, between 2013-2015 and 2018-2020), life expectancy at birth continues to be higher for women. In the period 2018-2020, women could expect to live 83.67 years and men 78.07 years.

The region Norte recorded the highest values of life expectancy at birth for total population and for men. The highest longevity at birth for women was recorded in region Centro. By contrast, Região Autónoma da Madeira and Região Autónoma dos Açores recorded the lowest values for life expectancy at birth, for total population and for men and women.

The greatest differences in longevity between men and women were recorded in Região Autónoma da Madeira and Região Autónoma dos Açores, where women could expect to live, on average, 6.89 and 6.82 years more than men respectively. The Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Norte showed the lowest differences in longevity between the two sexes (5.41 and 5.44 years respectively).

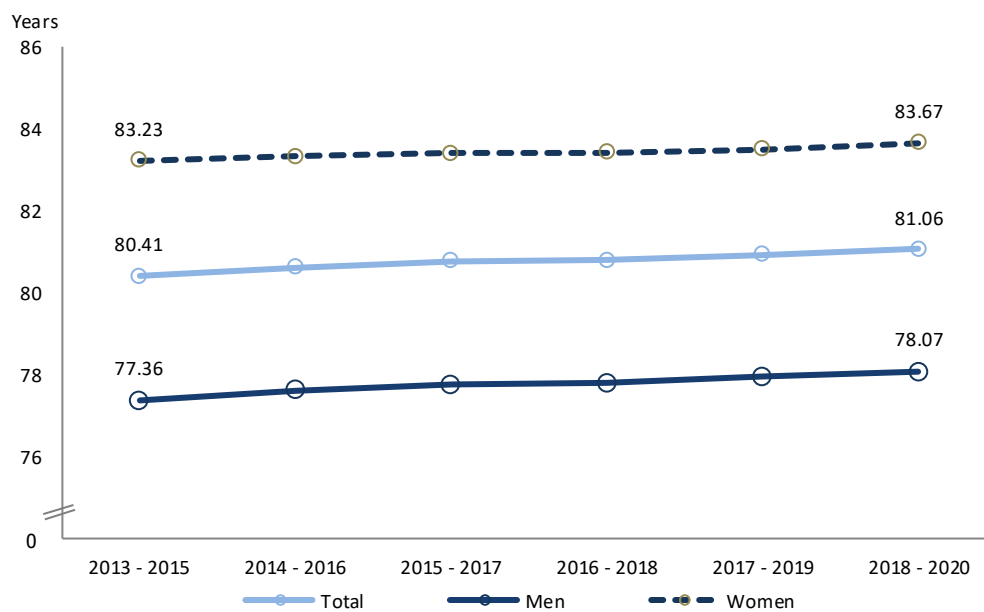
In 2019, the most recent year for which comparable data are available from Eurostat, life expectancy at birth in the European Union (EU27) was estimated at 81.3 years.

Portugal's position is more favorable for women, occupying the 7<sup>th</sup> position in the EU27 ranking, while for men the country occupies the 16<sup>th</sup> position. Spain is the country with the highest female life expectancy of 86.7 years, 1.9



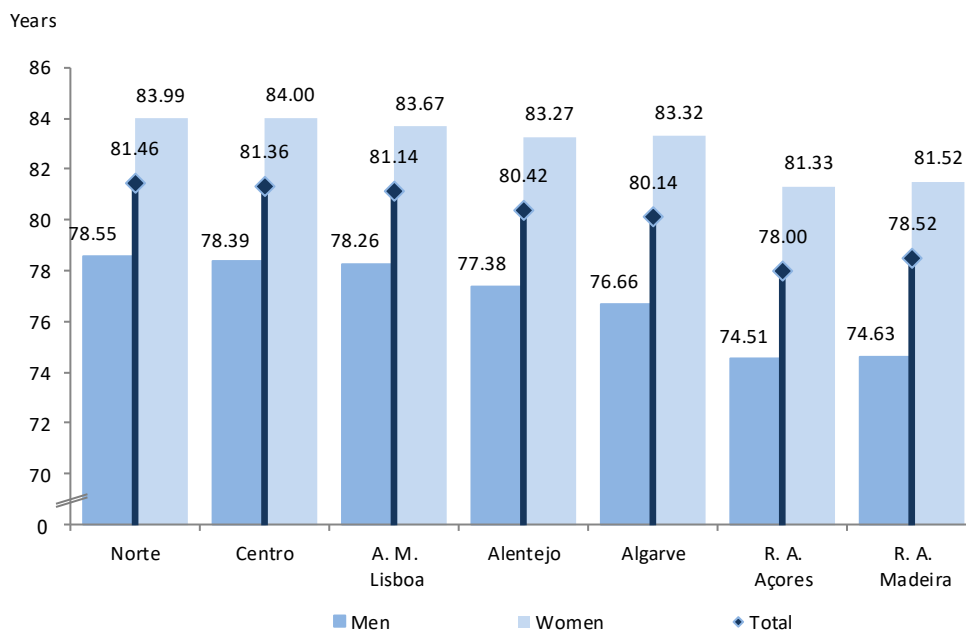
years more than in Portugal. In the case of men, in the 1<sup>st</sup> position is Sweden with 81.5 years old, 2.8 years more than in Portugal.

Figure 13: Life expectancy at birth (years), Portugal, 2013-2015 to 2018-2020



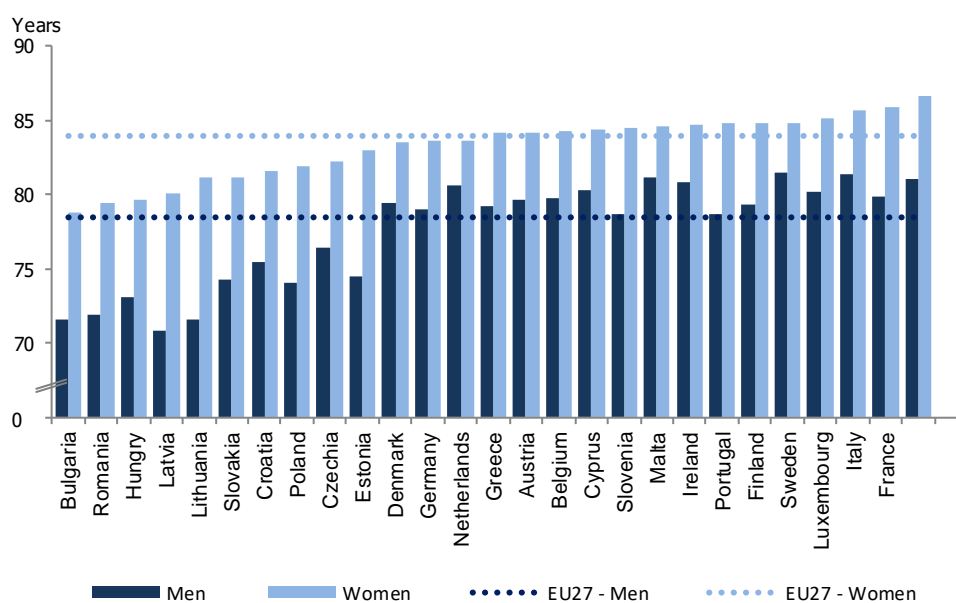
Source: Statistics Portugal, Complete life tables.

Figure 14: Life expectancy at birth (years), NUTS 2, 2018-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Complete life tables.

Figure 15: Life expectancy at birth (years), EU27, 2019



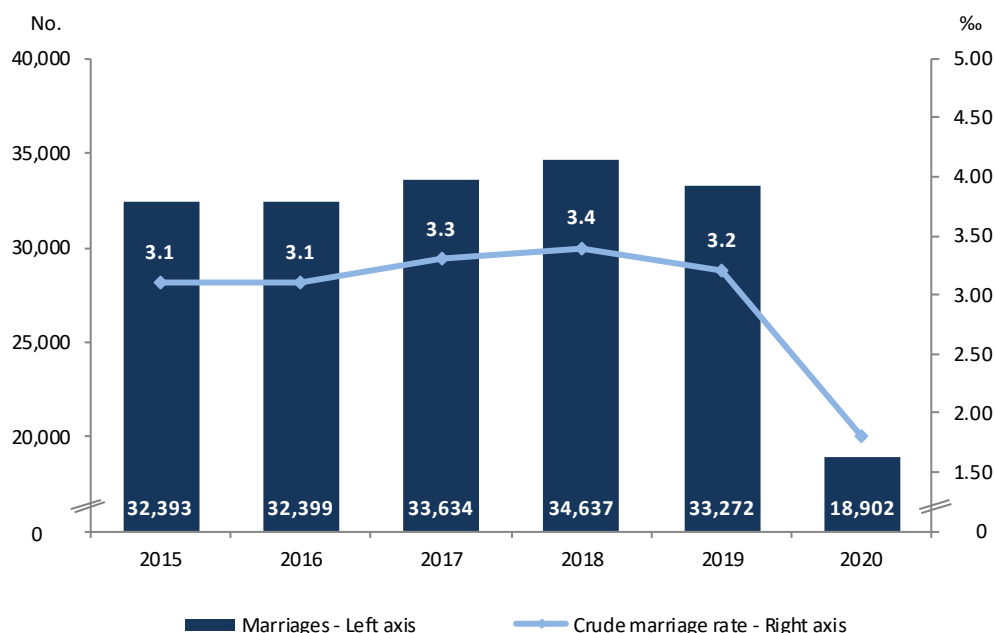
Source: EUROSTAT.

#### 4. Marriages and divorces

##### Number of marriages and divorces decreased in 2020

In 2019, 18,902 marriages were celebrated in Portugal. Of these, 445 were between same-sex couples (677 in 2019): 236 between men and 209 between women. The total number of marriages decreased by 43.2% (14,370 less) when compared to 2019 (33,272). The reduction in the number of marriages also resulted in a decrease of the crude marriage rate, which dropped from 3.2 to 1.8 marriages per thousand inhabitants, the lowest value in the period under analysis.

Figure 16: Marriages (No.) and Crude marriage rate (%), Portugal, 2015-2020

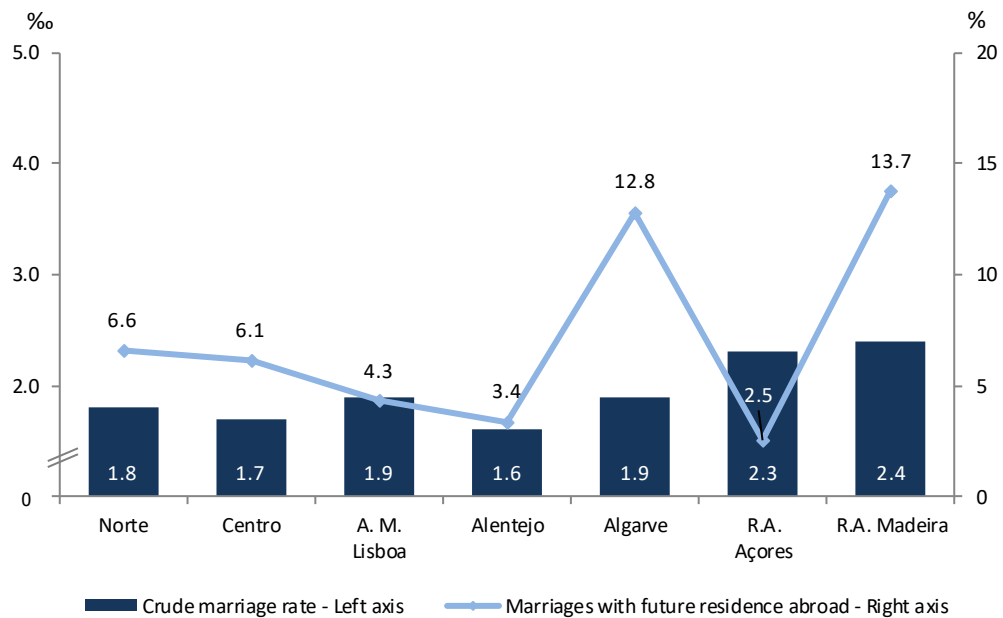


Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages and Demographic indicators.

In about 6% of the marriages celebrated in Portugal, spouses declared that their future residence would be abroad (9.4% in 2019). This proportion was lower than the national value in the Região Autónoma dos Açores (2.5%), in Alentejo (3.4%) and in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (4.3%).

Alentejo registered the lowest crude marriage rate (1.6%). In Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (1.9%), Algarve (1.9%), Região Autónoma dos Açores (2.3%) and Região Autónoma da Madeira (2.4%), the crude marriage rate was higher than the national figure (1.8%).

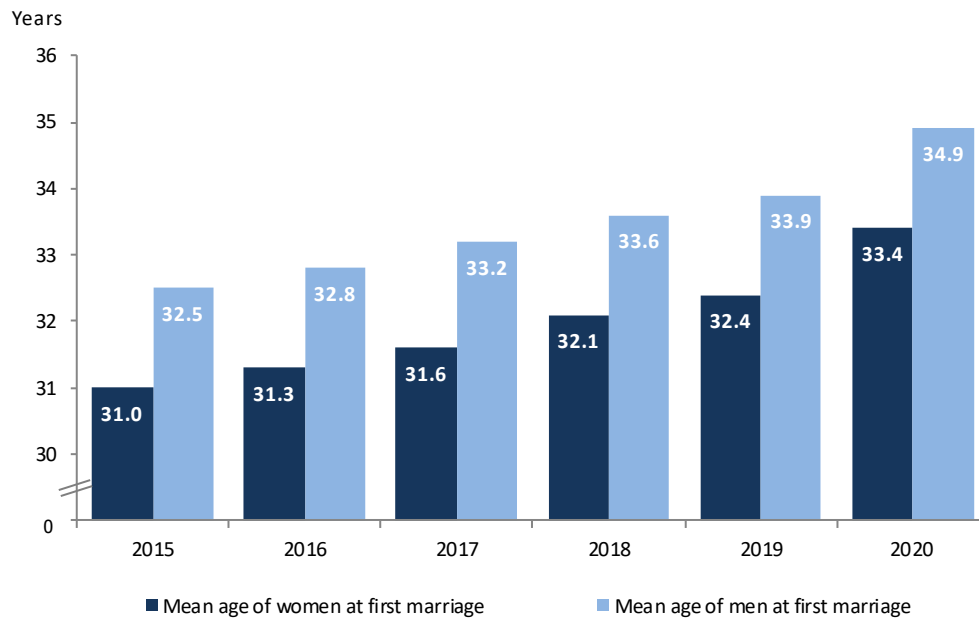
Figure 17: Crude marriage rate (‰) and Marriages with future residence abroad (%), NUTS 2, 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages and Demographic indicators.

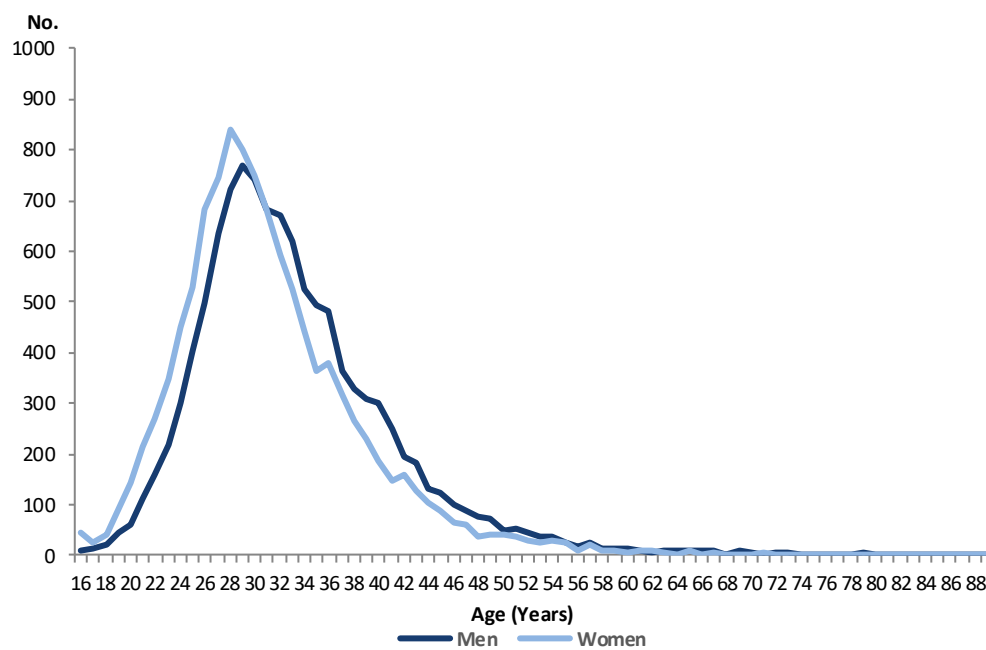
The postponement of marriage to older ages is a trend that has continued over the last decades for both sexes. In 2020, the mean age at first marriage was 34.9 years for men and 33.4 years for women, respectively one year more than in 2019.

Figure 18: Mean age at first marriage (years) by sex, Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

Figure 19: First marriages (No.) by age (years) and by sex, Portugal, 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

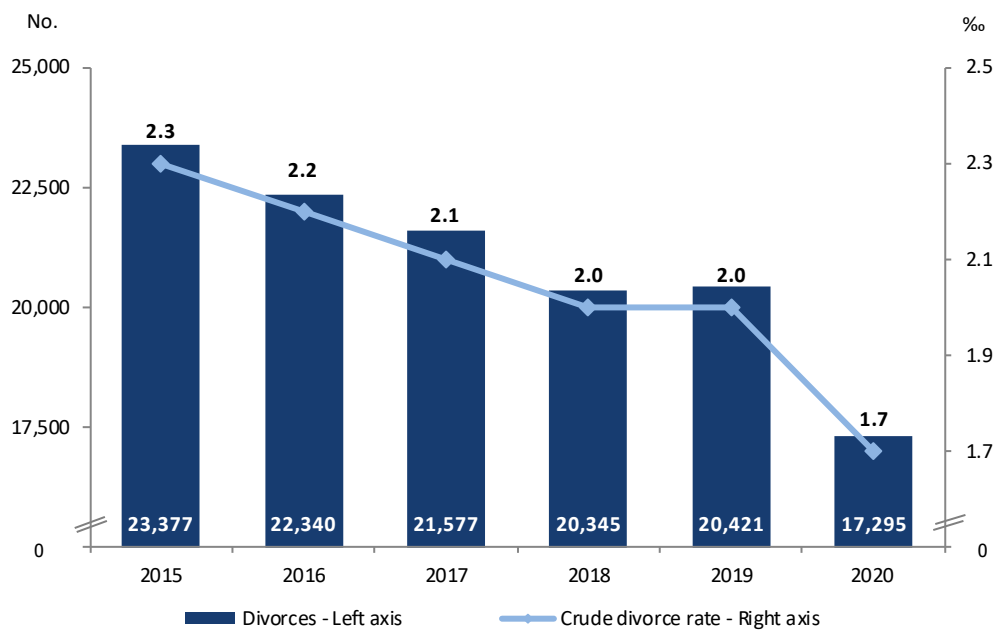




In 2020, 17,295 divorces were decreed for couples whose family home was in Portugal, 3,126 less than in 2019 (20,421), corresponding to a decrease of 15.3%. The crude divorce rate was 1.7 divorces per thousand inhabitants, a value below that observed in the previous year (2.0‰).

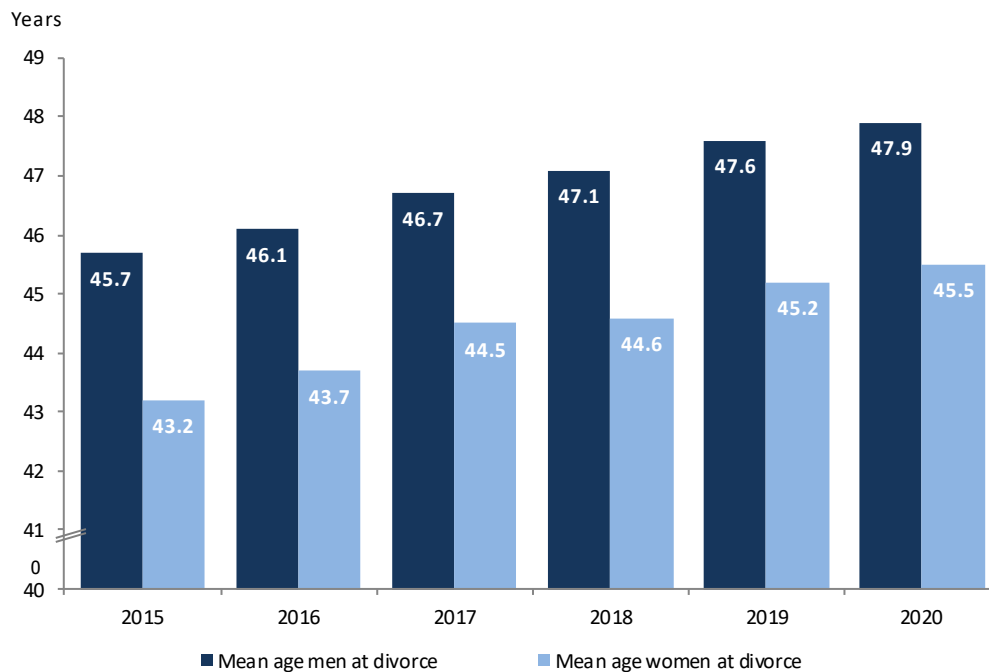
The mean age at divorce was 47.9 years for men and 45.5 years for women.

Figure 20: Divorces (No.) and Crude divorce rate (‰), Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Statistics on divorces and legal separations and Demographic indicators.

Figure 21: Mean age at divorce (years) by sex, Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Demographic indicators.

## 5. International migration

For the fourth consecutive year, the number of immigrants exceeded again the number of emigrants

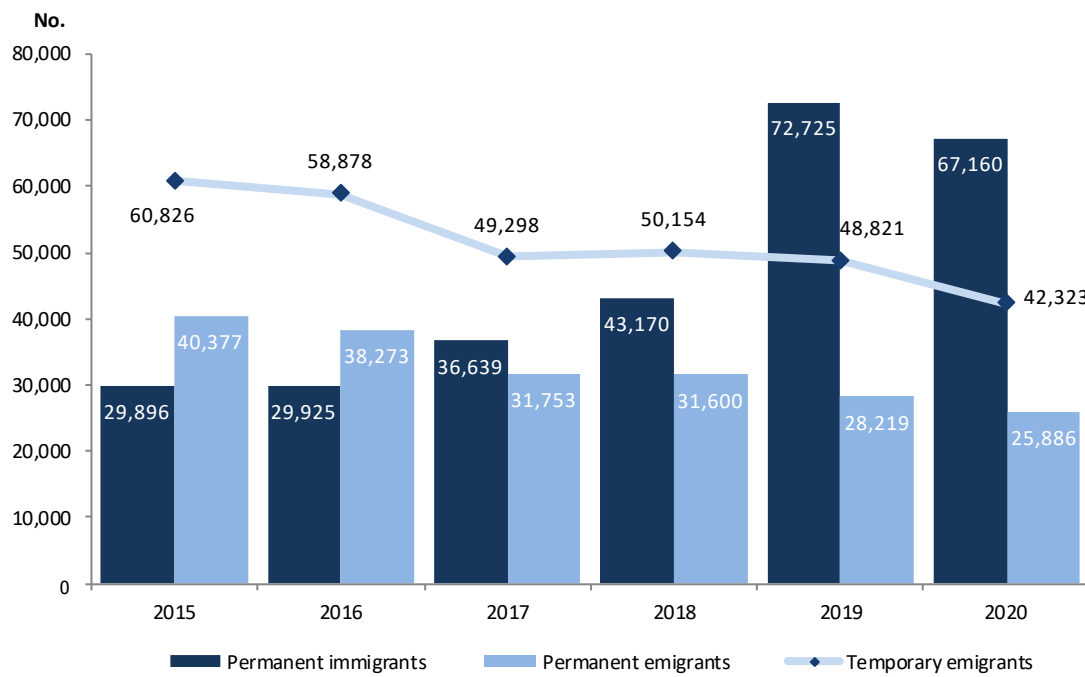
In 2020, the number of persons who entered Portugal to reside for a period of one year or more (permanent immigrants) was estimated at 67,160, a figure 7.7% lower than that estimated for 2019 (72,725). Of the total number of permanent immigrants: 52% were men; 36% had Portuguese citizenship; 21% were born in Portugal; 23% had previously resided in a European Union (EU27) country; and 82% were of working age (15-64 years).

On the other hand, in 2020, the number of persons who left Portugal to reside abroad for one year or more (permanent emigrants) was estimated at 25,886, 8.0% less than in 2019 (28,219). Of the total number of permanent emigrants: 69% were men; 92% had Portuguese citizenship; 54% had a EU27 country as destination; and 94% were of working age.

The estimated values of permanent emigrants and immigrants resulted in a positive net migration for the fourth consecutive year (41,274).

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 by 13% when compared with 2019, from 48,821 to 42,323 in 2020.

Figure 22: Temporary and permanent emigrants and Permanent immigrants (No.), Portugal, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Annual emigration and immigration estimates.

## 6. Portuguese citizenship acquisitions

Number of Portuguese citizenship acquisitions reached 59,817; 32,147 granted to foreigners residing in Portugal and 27,670 for those residing abroad

In 2020, 32,147 foreigner citizens residing in Portugal acquired Portuguese citizenship, 52,4% more than in 2019 (21,099). The main reason for the acquisition of Portuguese citizenship by foreigners residing in Portugal was naturalization (77.0%), followed by "marriage or de facto union with Portuguese citizen for more than three years" (15.4%) and by "minor or legally incapacitated child of a father or mother that has acquired Portuguese citizenship" (7.1%).

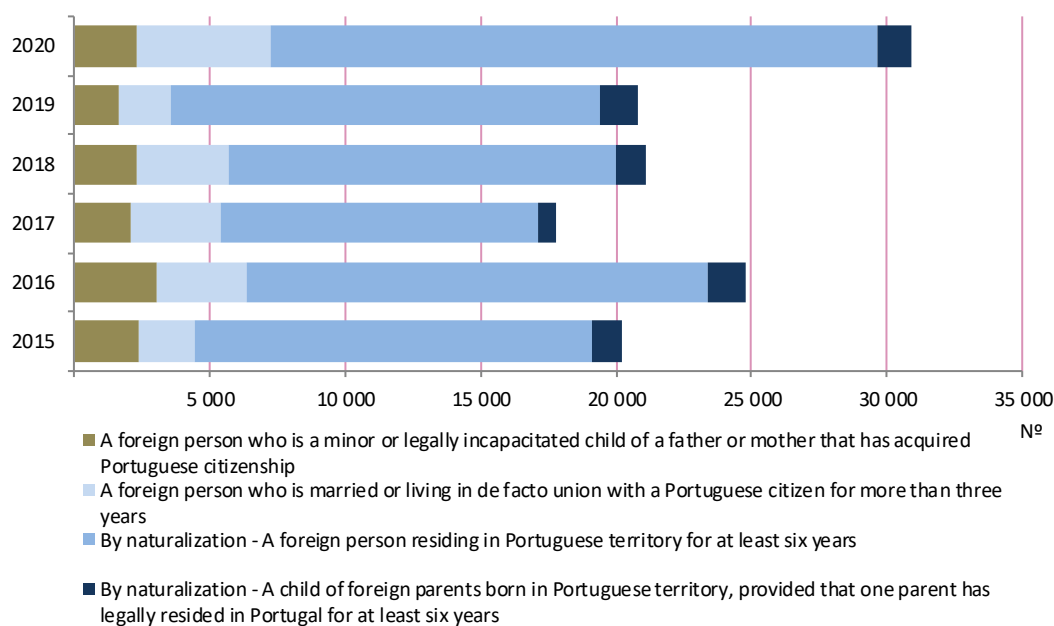
Regarding the Portuguese citizenship acquisitions by foreigner citizens residing abroad, the number in 2020 (27.670) almost tripled that of 2019 (9,379). This growth is in part a result of legislative changes that have enhanced the possibility of citizenship acquisition by foreign Portuguese descendants and, in particular, of Sephardic Jews of Portuguese origin.

As a matter of fact, in 2020, the main reason for acquiring Portuguese citizenship by non-resident foreigners was being "descendent of Portuguese Sephardic Jews", with 72.0% of the total (19,919 cases). Following, in descending order of importance, "marriage or de facto union with a Portuguese citizen for more than three years" with 19.0% of



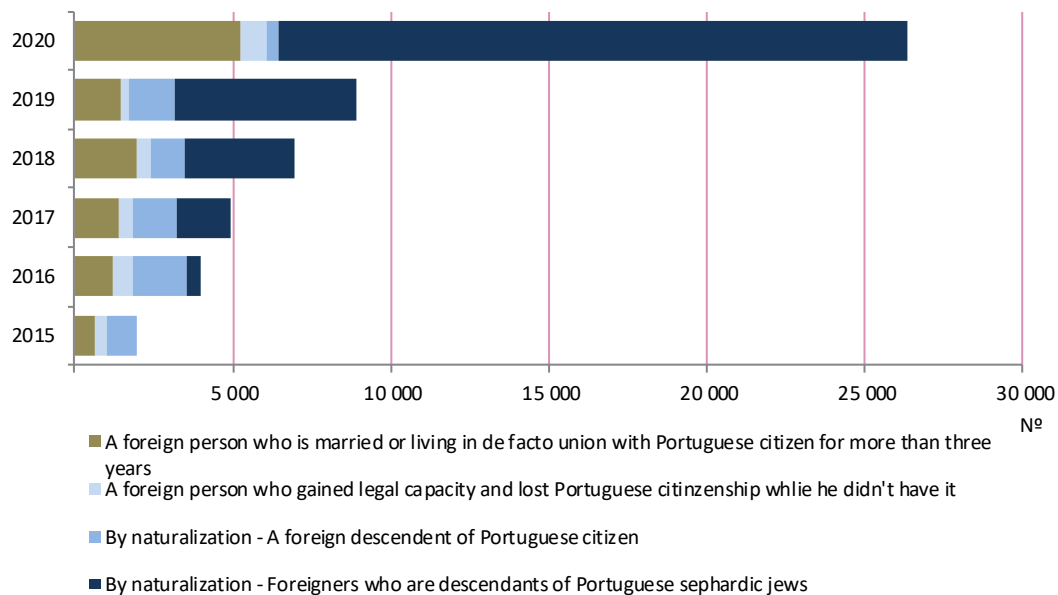
the total (5,262 cases) and the “a foreign person who gained legal capacity and lost Portuguese citizenship while he didn't have it” accounting for 2.9% of the total (789 cases).

Figure 23: Foreign population resident in Portugal that acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Acquisition and attribution of Portuguese citizenship.

Figure 24: Foreign population residing abroad who acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Acquisition and attribution of Portuguese citizenship.



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## TECHNICAL NOTE

The electronic publication Demographic Statistics is released annually and aims to analyze the various themes of demographic behavior 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. The information released on the resident population is part of the Provisional Annual Estimates of Resident Population 2011-2020 (2011 Census basis), is provisional and will be revised after the final results of the 2021 Censuses are made available.

This edition corresponds to the 80<sup>th</sup> 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 2014-2020. 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 2020.

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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.