



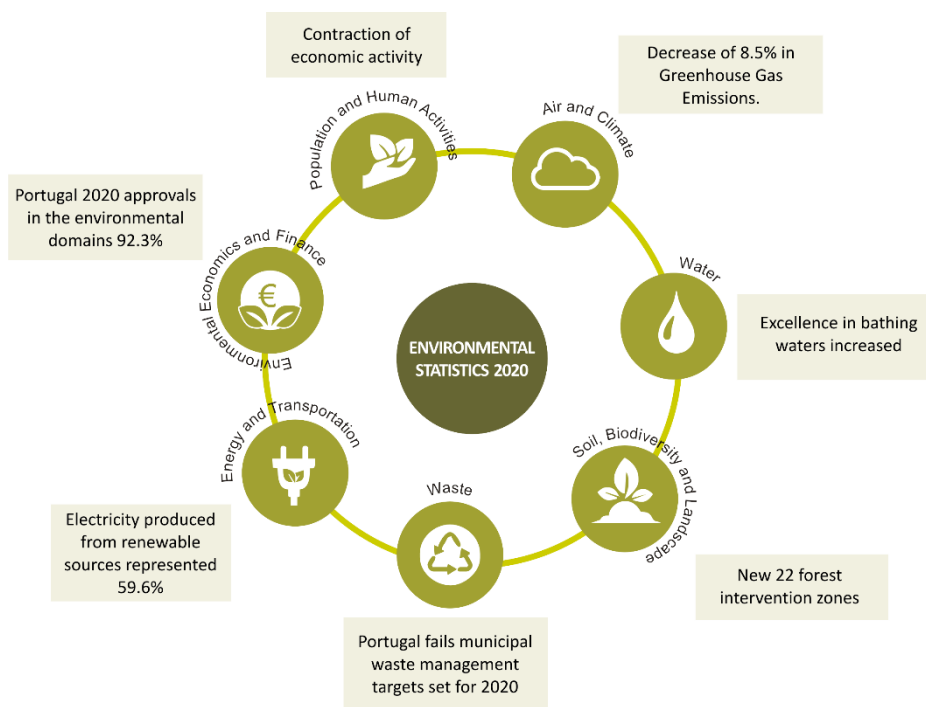
22 December 2021
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS
2020

THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2020

In 2020, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which there was a strong contraction in economic activity and restrictions on the mobility of people, GHG emissions were reduced by 8.5% compared to 2019, the final energy consumption decreased by 7.2% and air quality improved, with 33.8% of days with “very good” air quality (+2.7 p.p. than in 2019). Energy produced from renewable sources represented 59.6% of the total (+5.4 p.p. compared to 2019).

Not all environmental indicators had a positive evolution, in fact, it was found:

- The worsening ratio performance of “municipal waste per unit of GDP” (108.5 after 99.4 in 2019), resulting from the decrease of 8.4% in GDP, given that the waste volume decreased by 0.06%;
- The divergence from municipal waste management targets set for 2020: the indicator for reuse and recycling had a decrease of 3 p.p., standing on 38% and moving away of the 50% goal; deposition of biodegradable municipal waste in landfills rose 8 p.p., to 53%, diverging from the 35% goal;
- The decline of companies that adopt environmental management and protection activities (16.3%, less 1.8 p.p. compared with 2019).





THE COMPARISON OF THE RESULTS OF 2020 WITH 2019, HIGHLIGHTS THE FOLLOWING MAIN ASPECTS:

Population and Human Activities

Population variation wasn't significant, because the natural balance remained with a downward trend since 2009, which worsened due to the COVID-19 pandemic (123 358 deaths versus 84 426 births).

The pandemic effects influenced the economic activity, with Domestic demand decreasing by 5.6%, reflecting mainly a drop in private consumption (-7.3%), highlighting the downward of Household spending with non-food current goods and services (-10.4%) and with durable goods (-7.7%).

The Industrial Production Index decreased by 7.0% in 2020, stressing the last year decrease in 2.3%.

The Direct Material Input entering the economy for later use in production or consumption totalled 208 million tonnes, reflecting a drop of 2.3% vis-à-vis 2019, reduction that was lower than -8.4% presented by GDP.

Air and Climate

In Mainland Portugal, 2020 was classified as a very hot and dry year. The decade 2011-2020 was the warmest since 1931 (anomaly of + 0.51 °C) and the second driest, corresponding to 76% of precipitation normal value.

Greenhouse gas emissions reflected an 8.5% decrease, vis-à-vis 2019. The decrease of the energy sector emissions (-18.8%) was due to the increased use of renewable energy sources and the decrease of coal consumption; the variation of transport emissions (-15.9%) was result of the pandemic confinement measures.

The Air Quality Index revealed that, on average, more than 1/3 of the days (33.8%) had a "very good" air quality, 31.1% higher than in 2019.

Water

In 2020 were monitored 620 bathing waters (614 in 2019). The water quality in the vast majority is still classified as "Excellent" (94.3% for Coastal and Transitional Bathing Waters and 75.5% for Inland Bathing Waters).

In 2021, 372 beaches were awarded the Blue Flag, a new maximum corresponding to 12 more beaches, compared to 2020.

Soil, Biodiversity and Landscape

In 2020, there were 245 forest intervention zones, more 22 new zones, covering an area of 1,697 thousand hectares.

There were 9,678 rural fires in Portugal, with an area of 68.6 thousand hectares, which corresponds to 1,208 less occurrences but an increase of 26.4 thousand hectares vis-à-vis 2019.



Agri-environmental measures benefited 53,638 farmers (59,448 in 2019), who received support in a total of EUR 158 million (EUR 165 million in 2019).

Waste

The prevalence of municipal waste generated in a scenario of strong economic contraction, aggravated the ratio between municipal waste and GDP, index 100 (2015=100), by 8.5% compared to 2015.

In the management of municipal waste increased the distance to targets related to preparation for reuse and recycling (-12 p.p. from the target and -3 p.p. from 2019) and disposal of biodegradable municipal waste in landfills (18 p.p. from the target and 8 p.p. compared to 2019).

Sectoral waste generated by manufacturing and other industries businesses totalled 11.3 million tonnes (-0.9% compared to 2019), with construction and agriculture standing out as the only economic sectors to generate more waste than previous year, which it also reflects the heterogeneous impact of the pandemic on the different branches of economic activity.

Energy and Transportation

Final energy consumption in Portugal decreased by 7.2%. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was felt in the structure of consumption by sector of activity, with the domestic sector, construction and public works and agriculture and fisheries increasing their weights in relative terms, and transport and services losing importance.

Electricity produced from renewable sources represented 59.6% of the total electricity produced in Portugal (54.2% in 2019).

The sale of new vehicles and fuel consumption in road transport were severely affected by the pandemic, having decreased by 35.0% and 15.2% respectively.

The average age of passenger cars increased from 13.1 to 13.5 years (64.4% were over 10 years old in 2020, compared to 62.0% in 2019).

For every vehicle powered by LPG or other engines, there were 25.2 diesel vehicles, which compares with 31.7 diesel vehicles in 2019.

Environmental Economics and Finance

General government expenditure on environmental protection activities continues to increase in 2020, amounting to EUR 1 585 million (EUR 1 388 million in 2019).

Current transfers carried out by the Environmental Fund increased by around 48% and reached EUR 562 million (EUR 380 million in 2019).



16.3% of industrial companies were involved in environmental management and protection activities (-1.8 p.p. compared to the previous year).

Entities producing environmental goods and services had a turnover of EUR 8.5 billion (EUR 8.1 billion in 2019), of which EUR 3.7 billion resulted from environmental activities within the scope of environmental protection, which represents a decrease of 10.8% compared to 2019.

The number of subscribers to the ENGOS, 221 283 members, decreased by 8.0% and the activities carried out by them declined by 18.9%, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Highlight for the reductions in activities related to nature walks (-41.2%), conferences, seminars, and training activities (-37.7%) and meetings with the media (-30.2%).

The number of firefighters in command and active staff decreased by 3.0%, standing at 26,125 individuals (26,939 in 2019). Voluntary participation remained predominant (61.3% of the total compared to 63.1% in 2019).

The value of environmentally relevance taxes dropped by 12%, reflecting the particularly significant effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on revenue from taxes associated with the acquisition and use of motor vehicles.

Portugal 2020 approvals in the field of environment, compared to the programmed allocation, rose to 92.3% (EUR 3,655 million), and 46.2% (EUR 1,687 million) of approvals have already been completed.