



16 December 2021

2021 Census

CENSUS 2021 — PROVISIONAL RESULTS

Statistics Portugal releases the Provisional Results of the XVI General Population Census and VI General Housing Census— Census 2021 —, eight months after the census day (19th April), thus bringing forward the announced date in the 2021 Census Action Programme — February 2022. The anticipation of the date of the Provisional Results was possible due to the high response of the population to the Internet mode data collection and the effectiveness of the data processing and validation systems.

The Provisional Results constitute an intermediate stage of the data processing and validation systems. They are the second moment of dissemination of the 2021 Census and allow for a set of statistical results of high interest for population and housing stock knowledge.

According to the Provisional Results of the 2021 Census, 10,344,802 people were living in Portugal.

Over the last decade, the country's population declined 2.1 % and the distribution of the population across the territory has registered a significant disparity, with a concentration of the population on the coastline and closer to the capital. Population ageing has also worsened, with a significant increase in the elderly and a decline in the youngest population: in 2021, there are 182 older adults per 100 young people.

The foreign population grew by 40 % compared to 2011, registering 555,299 people.

The population's level of education has increased significantly over the last ten years, with the higher education and secondary and post-secondary education population increasing in number.

The number of people living alone also increased compared to 2011 and the average size of private households decreased.

Regarding the housing stock, Portugal registered a slight growth in the number of buildings and dwellings, although at a much slower rate than in previous decades.

The weighing of main residences increased slightly, compared to secondary ones.

In 2021, 70% of the dwellings are owner-occupied, although this percentage has been decreasing in recent decades while rented dwellings registered an increase of 16% compared to 2011.

The Provisional Results of the 2021 Census provide 17 statistical indicators at the level of the parish geographical area. They are available on the Statistics Portugal portal and on the 2021 Census Dissemination Platform, [Census.ine.pt](https://census.ine.pt)

2021 CENSUS — Provisional Results



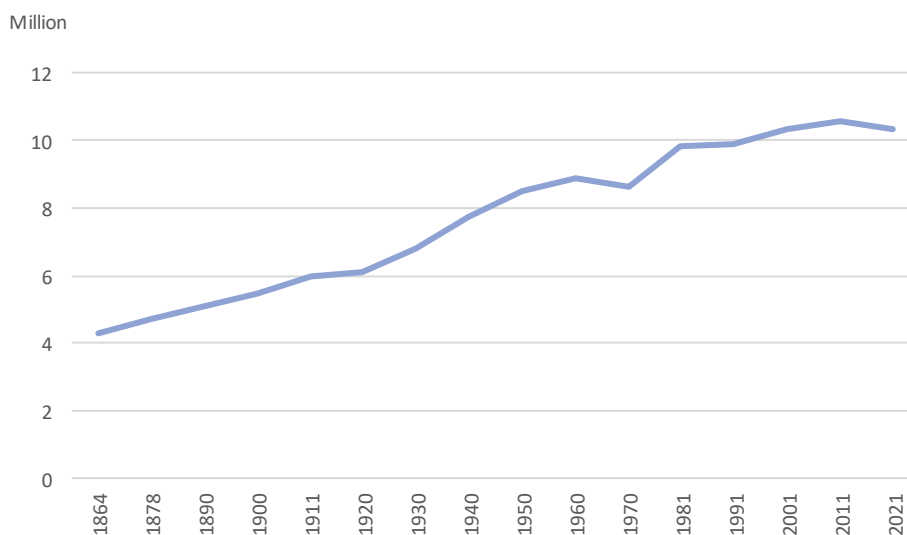
Portugal has registered a population decline of 2.1 % in the last decade.

According to the Provisional Results of the 2021 Census, 10,344,802 people lived in Portugal, of which 4,921,170 were men and 5,423,632 women.

In the last ten years, the population living in Portugal has decreased by 217,376 people, representing a population decrease of 2.1 %. This reduction resulted from the negative natural balance observed in the decade (-250,066 people¹). The net migration, although slightly positive, was not sufficient to reverse the population decline.

According to census data, only in the 1970 Census a decline was registered in the country's population, due to the significant emigration in the 1960s.

Figure 1. Resident population in Portugal, 1864-2021



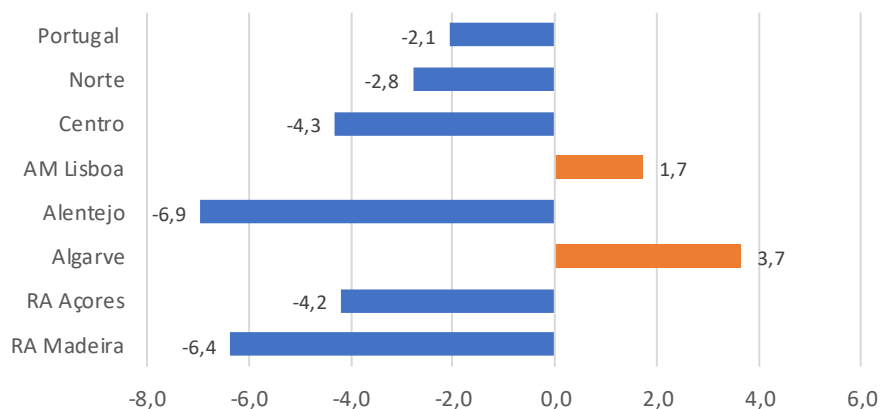
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

On a NUTS II regional level, only Algarve (3.7%) and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (1.7%) regions registered a population growth between 2011 and 2021. The remaining regions registered a population decline, with Alentejo and Região Autónoma da Madeira registering the most significant values, -6.9 % and -6.4 %, respectively.

¹ Natural balance — provisional figures



Figure 2. Variation in resident population, 2011-2021, NUTS II (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

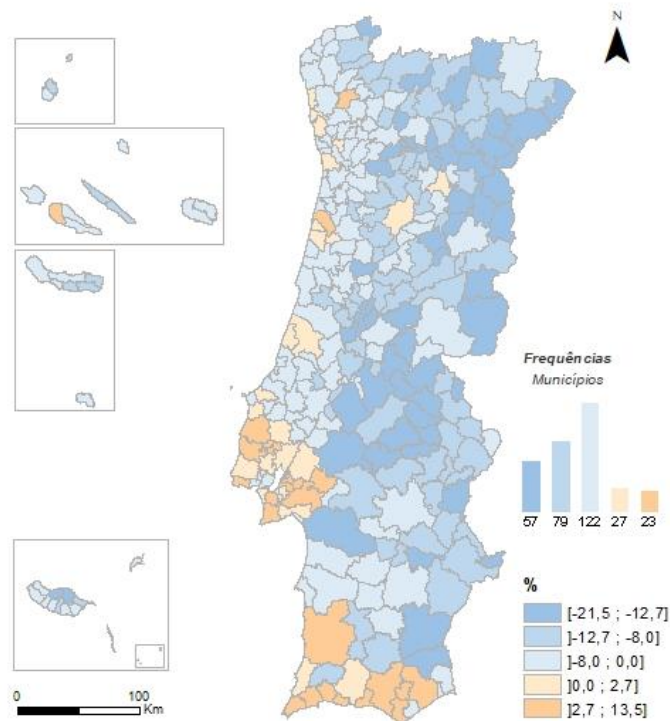
Inequalities in the distribution of the population across the territory have been accentuated over the last decade.

The demographic change in the last decade at the municipality level shows that the territories located in the interior of the country lose population and municipalities with population growth are located predominantly on the coastline, with a concentration around Lisboa and Algarve. This pattern of population movement has been accentuated in recent decades.

Around 50 % of the population in Portugal is concentrated in only 31 municipalities, mostly located in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Área Metropolitana do Porto.



Figure 3. Variation in resident population, 2011-2021, Municipality (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

In relative terms, the municipalities with the most significant population increases in the last decade were Odemira (13.5 %) and Mafra (12.8 %), followed by Palmela, Alcochete, Vila do Bispo, and Montijo with values between 9.6 % and 8.7 %.

On the opposite, Barrancos, Tabuaço, Torre do Moncorvo, and Nisa were the municipalities that observed the most significant population decreases, with values above 20%.

The population variation in municipalities with the largest population shows that Lisboa, Porto, Matosinhos, and Oeiras lose population, while the others register small increases with the municipality of Braga registering the most significant value (6.5 %).



Figure 4. The 10 Most Populous Municipalities, 2011-2021

Municipality	Resident population		Change 2011-2021	
	2011	2021	NO.	%
Lisbon	552 700	545 923	-6 777	-1,2
Sintra	377 835	385 654	7 819	2,1
Vila Nova de Gaia	302 298	303 854	1 556	0,5
Porto	237 591	231 828	-5 763	-2,4
Cascais	206 479	214 158	7 679	3,7
Loures	199 494	201 632	2 138	1,1
Braga	181 494	193 349	11 855	6,5
Almada	174 030	177 268	3 238	1,9
Matosinhos	175 478	172 586	-2 892	-1,6
Oeiras	172 120	171 767	-353	-0,2

Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The difference between male and female population size has increased

In 2021, male population in Portugal is 4,921,170 and female population is 5,423,632. There are 90.7 men per 100 women, reflecting a greater difference between population values of both sexes compared to 2011 when the sex ratio was 91.5 men per 100 women.

The number of men is higher than women in the age groups of 0-14 and 15-24 years. In the age group “65 years or More” the number of men is significantly lower than women, resulting from the higher mortality levels of the male population.



Figure 5. Resident population by age group and sex, 2011-2021

Age group	Number					
	2021			2011		
	MF	M	F	MF	M	F
Total	10 344 802	4 921 170	5 423 632	10 562 178	5 046 600	5 515 578
0-14 years	1 331 396	682 370	649 026	1 572 329	803 999	768 330
15-24 years	1 088 333	556 311	532 022	1 147 315	581 548	565 767
25-64 years	5 500 951	2 645 445	2 855 506	5 832 470	2 818 729	3 013 741
65 years or more	2 424 122	1 037 044	1 387 078	2 010 064	842 324	1 167 740

Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

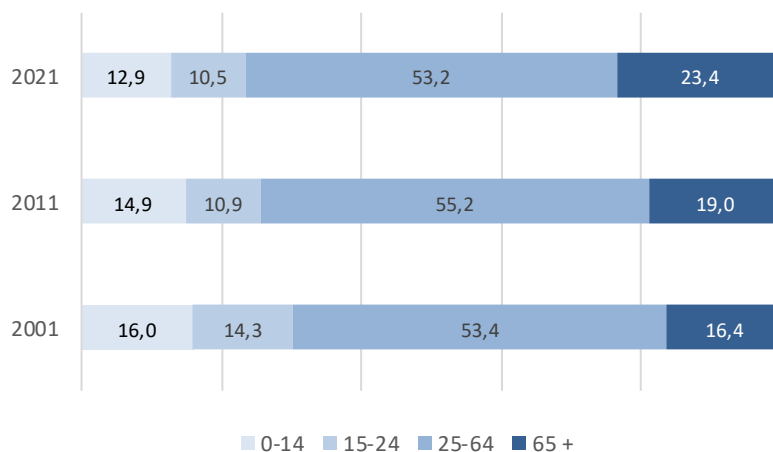
In the last ten years, population’s age structure emphasizes a worsening of the demographic ageing in Portugal: the young and working-age population has decreased, and the elderly population has increased

Between 2011 and 2021, there was a decline in all age groups except for the elderly population group (65 and over), which grew by 20.6 %. The group of the young people (0-14 years) had the most significant reduction (-15.3 %). The decrease of the population aged 15-24 years was -5.1 % and -5.7 % for population aged 25-64 years.

The “double ageing” process, characterised by an increase in elderly population and a reduction in young population, has worsened. In 2021, the elderly population represents 23.4 % and young people (0-14 years old) 12.9 %.



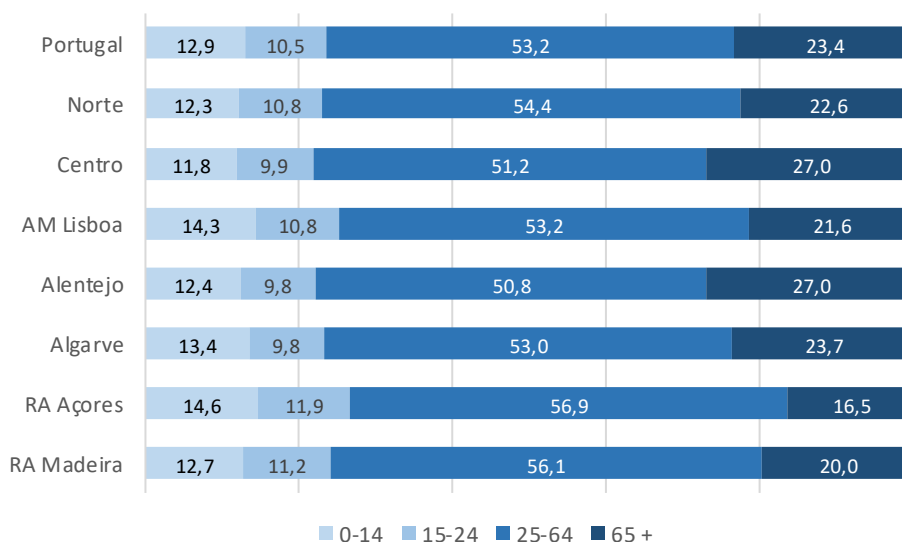
Figure 6. Resident population by age group, 2001-2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Região Autónoma dos Açores has the highest percentages of young people (0-14 years) and population aged 15-24 years (14.6 % and 11.9 % respectively); and the lowest value of the elderly population (16.5 %). On the contrary, Centro registered the lowest value for young people (0-14 years) (11.8 %) and, along with Alentejo, the most significant value of the elderly population (27.0 %).

Figure 7. Resident population by age group, 2021, NUTS II (%)



Source: INE, Population and Housing Census

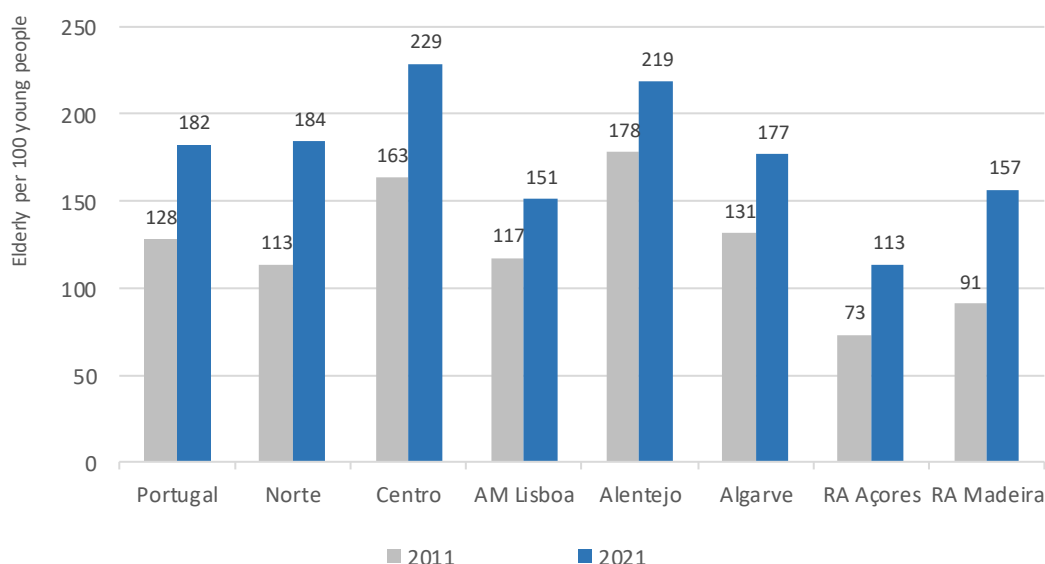


In 2021 there are 182 elderly people per 100 young people

Demographic ageing in Portugal continued to increase, emphasizing the evident imbalances in the previous decades. According to the 2021 Census, Provisional Results, the population ageing ratio, which compares the population aged 65 and over with the population aged 0-14, is 182, i.e., 182 elderly people per 100 young people. This ratio was 128 in 2011 and 102 in 2001.

The increase in the ageing ratio is common to all NUTS II regions. In 2021, Centro and Alentejo regions register the highest values with 229 and 219 elderly per 100 young people, respectively. Região Autónoma dos Açores, Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Região Autónoma da Madeira regions have the lowest ratios with 113, 151 and 157, respectively.

Figure 8. Ageing Ratio, 2011-2021, NUTS II

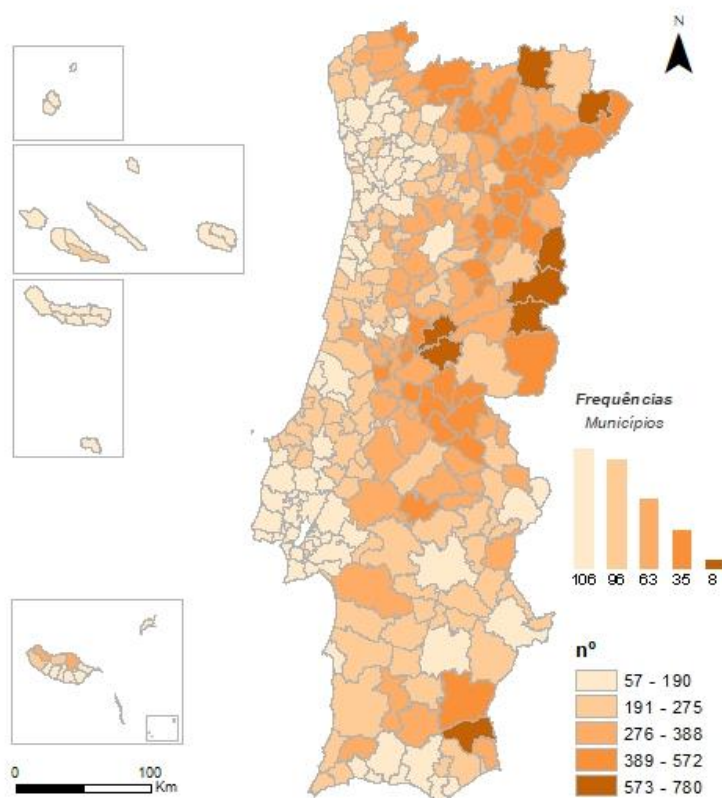


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



The analysis of the ageing ratio at municipality level shows a widespread dichotomy between the coastline and the interior of the country, and the central and northern regions concentrate the most elderly territories.

Figure 9. Ageing ratio, 2021, Municipality



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Oleiros, Alcoutim, and Almeida are the most aged municipalities in the country, with an ageing ratio of 780, 759 and 722 elderly people per 100 young people, respectively. Ribeira Grande (57), Lagoa (RAA) (78) and Santa Cruz (98) have the lowest ageing ratios and are the only three municipalities in the country where the figures for the young people are higher than those of the elderly population.

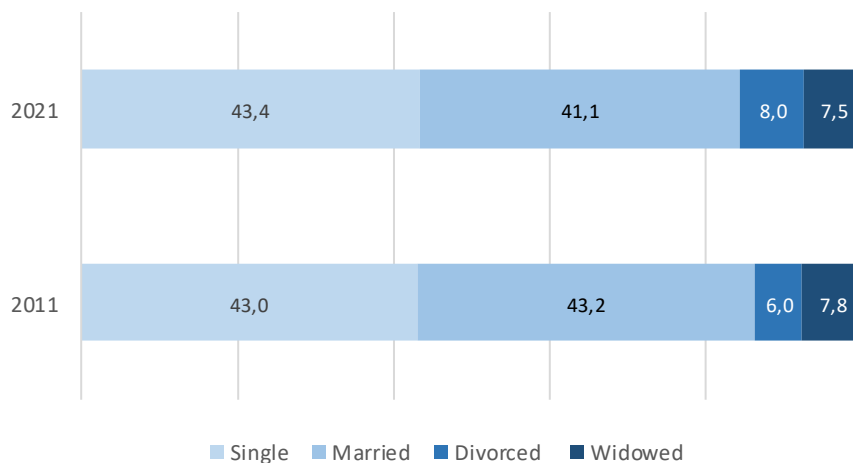


In the last ten years, divorced population has increased

Provisional Results from the 2021 Census show that 43.4 % of the resident population in Portugal is single. The population with married marital status represents 41.1 % and the remaining categories of marital status, divorced and widowed, registered 8.0 % and 7.5 %, respectively.

Compared to 2011, the most significant changes are the decrease of the married population (by 2.1 percentage points (p.p.)), along with the increase of the divorced population (2.0 p.p.). For the first time, the population with divorced marital status becomes higher than the population with widowed marital status.

Figure 10. Resident population by marital status, 2011-2021 (%)

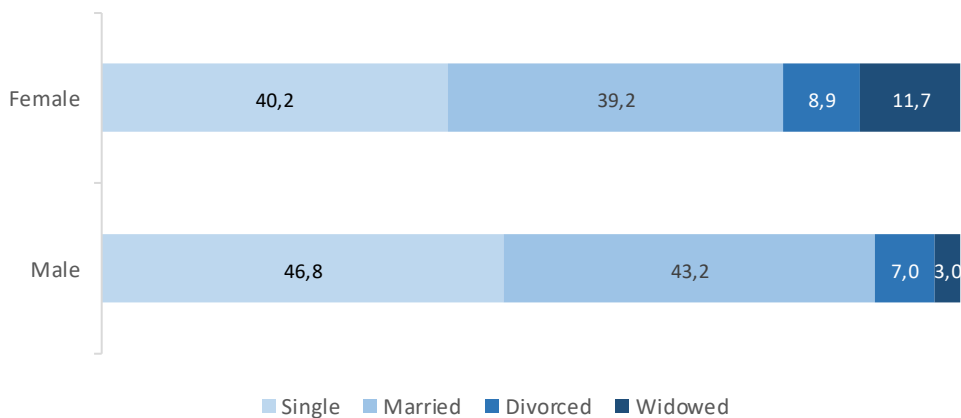


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Marital status by sex shows some differences between men and women. Men are more representative in single marital status and women are more significant in widowed marital status. The proportion of single men is 46.8 % compared to 40.2 % of single women. Widowed women represent 11.7 % while widowed men are 3.0 %.



Figure 11. Resident population by marital status and sex, 2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

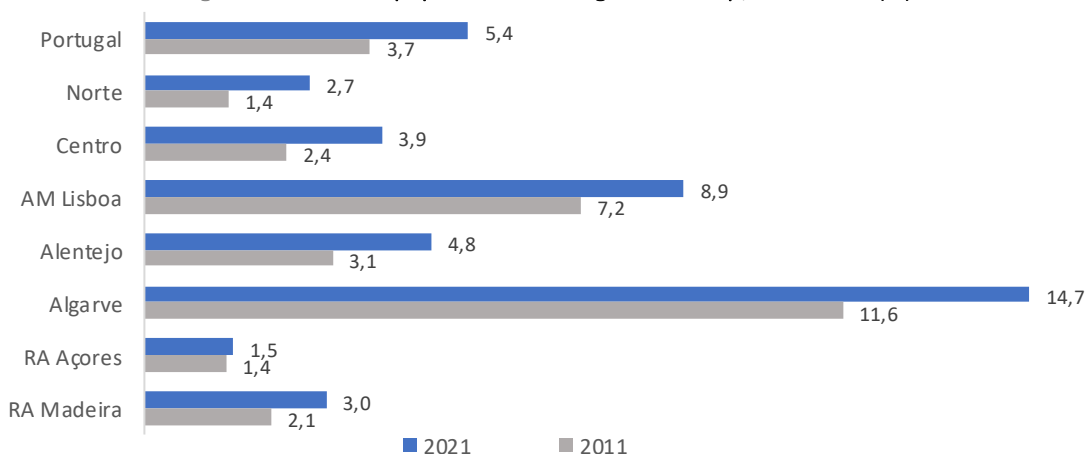
Population of foreign citizenship has increased by 40 % in the last decade

At the time of the 2021 Census, 555,299 people of foreign citizenship lived in Portugal, representing 5.4 % of the total population. In 2011, this population group represented 3.7 %.

Most of the foreign population (81.4 %) is from a non-European Union country (452,231 people).

Foreign population grew by 40.6 % in the last decade and increased in relative terms in all NUTS II regions.

Figure 12. Resident population of foreign citizenship, 2011-2021 (%)



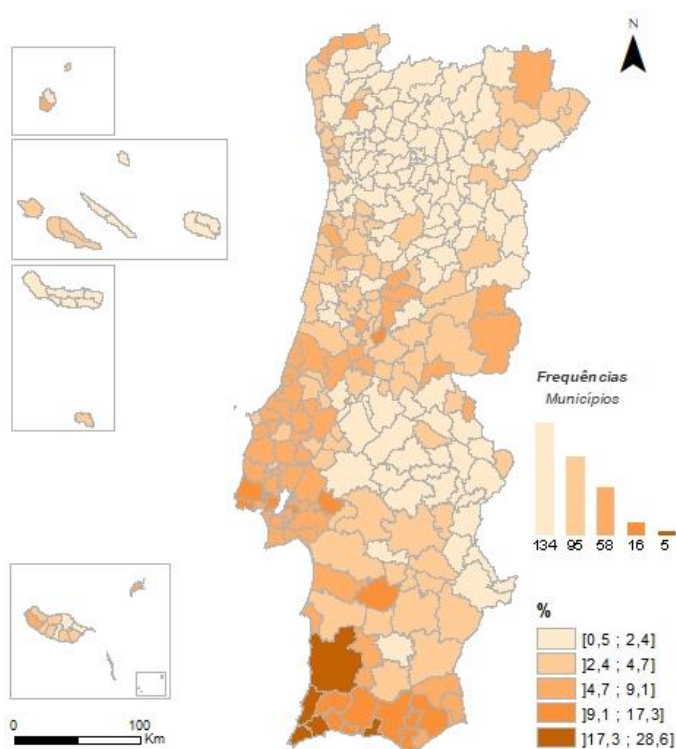
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



On a regional level, the foreign population is more representative in Algarve and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa, with 14.7 % and 8.9 %, respectively. On the contrary, only 1.5 % of the inhabitants in Região Autónoma dos Açores are foreign.

The geographical distribution of the population with foreign nationality at municipality level shows a north-south division. Municipalities with the highest proportions of foreign population are in Algarve and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa. Odemira (28.6 %), Aljezur (26.3 %), Vila do Bispo (26.1 %), Lagos (23.4 %) and Albufeira (20.4 %) are the municipalities where the foreign population is most representative. By contrast, there are 13 municipalities where the foreign population is less than 1 % of the resident population. The municipalities of Barrancos and Mesão Frio (both 0.5 %), and Gavião (0.6 %) have the lowest figures.

Figure 13. Resident population of foreign citizenship, 2021, Municipality (%)



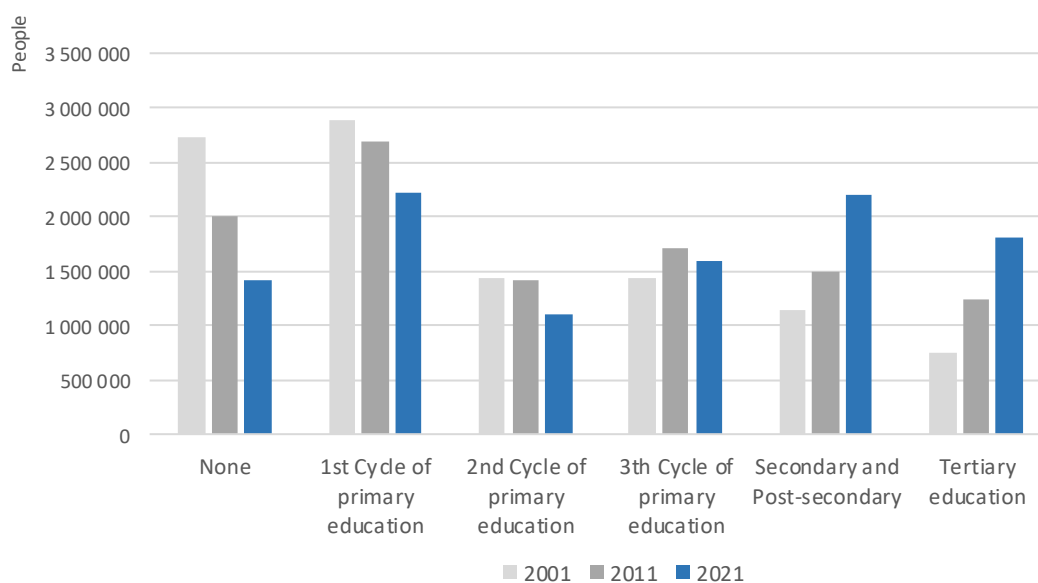
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



In the last decade, there has been an increase in the level of education

The 2021 Census — Provisional Results — show that the population with tertiary education is 1,800,101 individuals, representing 17.4 % of the total population. This figure was 11.8 % in 2011 and 7.2 % in 2001. The population with secondary and post-secondary education also increased significantly, from 14.2 % in 2011 to 21.3 % in 2021.

Figure 14. Resident population by level of education, 2001-2021

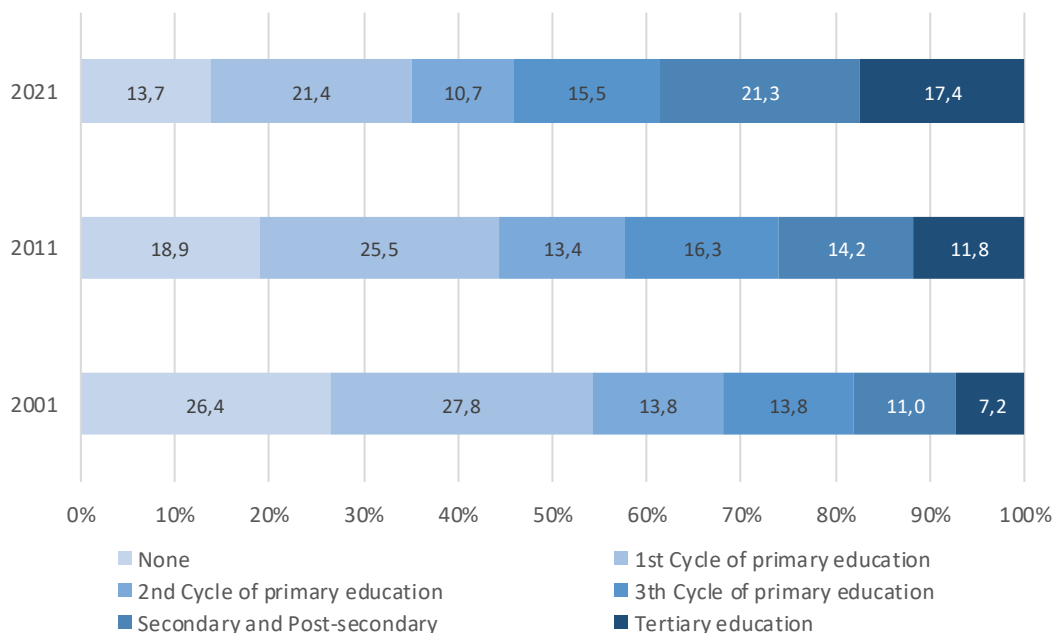


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The percentage of the population without any level of education is 13.7 %. The level of education corresponding to the first cycle of primary education covers 21.4 % of the population, while the second and third cycles of primary education account for 10.7 % and 15.5 %, respectively.



Figure 15. Resident population by completed level of education, 2001-2021 (%)

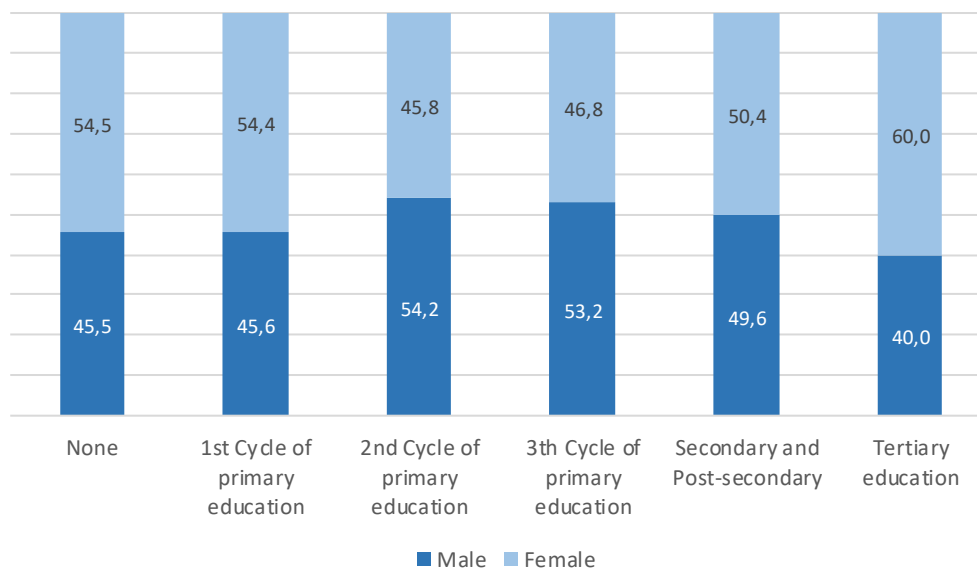


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The level of education by sex shows some differences between men and women: 60 % of the population with completed tertiary education are women. This predominance of women also occurs in the category of those without any level of education (54.5 %) and in the first cycle of primary education (54.4 %).



Figure 16. Resident population by level of complete education and sex, 2021 (%)



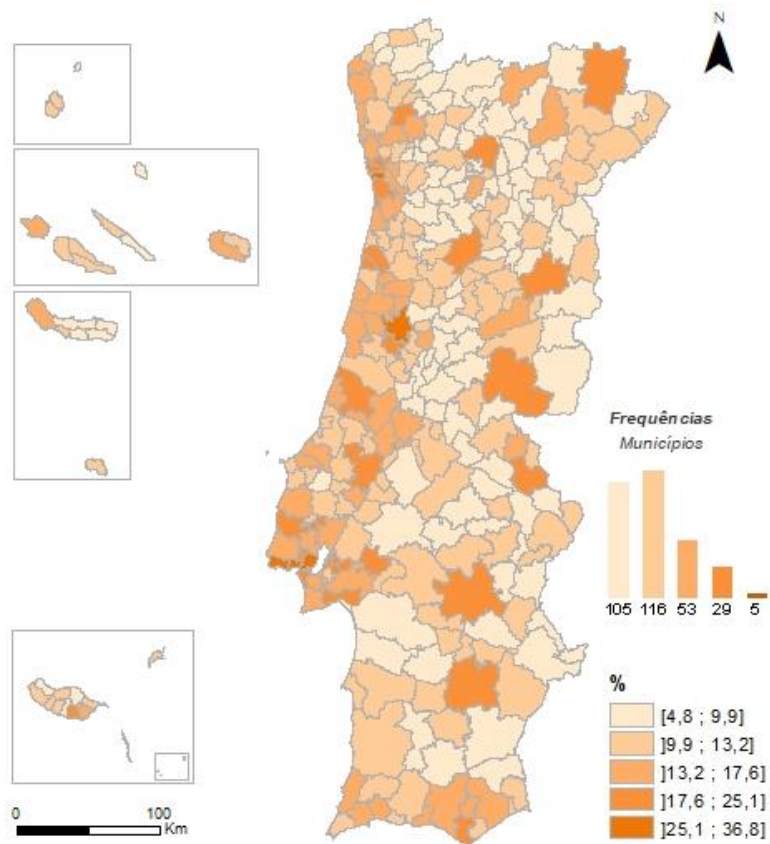
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The analysis of the population with complete tertiary education, by municipality, shows a slight contrast between the coastline and the interior of the country, with emphasis in some territories in the Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Área Metropolitana do Porto, as well as in some district councils.

Lisboa (36.8 %), Oeiras (33.1 %), Porto (32.1 %), Coimbra (30.7 %), Cascais (28.2 %) and Aveiro (25.1 %) are the municipalities with the highest proportion of the population with tertiary education. On the contrary, the municipalities with the lowest percentages of the population with tertiary education are Pampilhosa da Serra (4.8 %), Cinfães (5.8 %) and Freixo de Espada à Cinta (6.4 %).



Figure 17. Resident population with completed tertiary education, 2021, Municipality (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



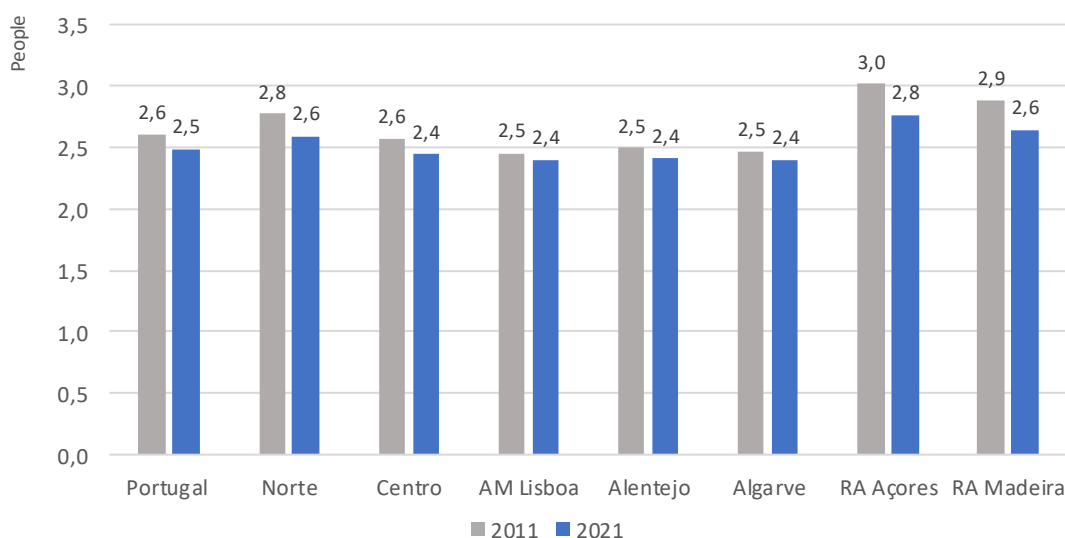
The average size of households has decreased in the last decade

In 2021, there are 4,149,668 private households² and 5,476 institutional households³ in Portugal. Compared to 2011, the number of private households and institutional households increased by 2.6 % and 13.3 %, respectively.

The number of private households increased in all NUTS II regions, except for the Alentejo region, with a decrease of 3.7 %.

The average size of private households is 2.5 people in 2021, which fell by 0.1 compared to 2011. Região Autónoma dos Açores and Região Autónoma da Madeira are the NUTS II regions with the highest average size of private households, with 2.8 and 2.6 persons per household, respectively.

Figure 18. Average size of private households, 2011-2021, NUTS II



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

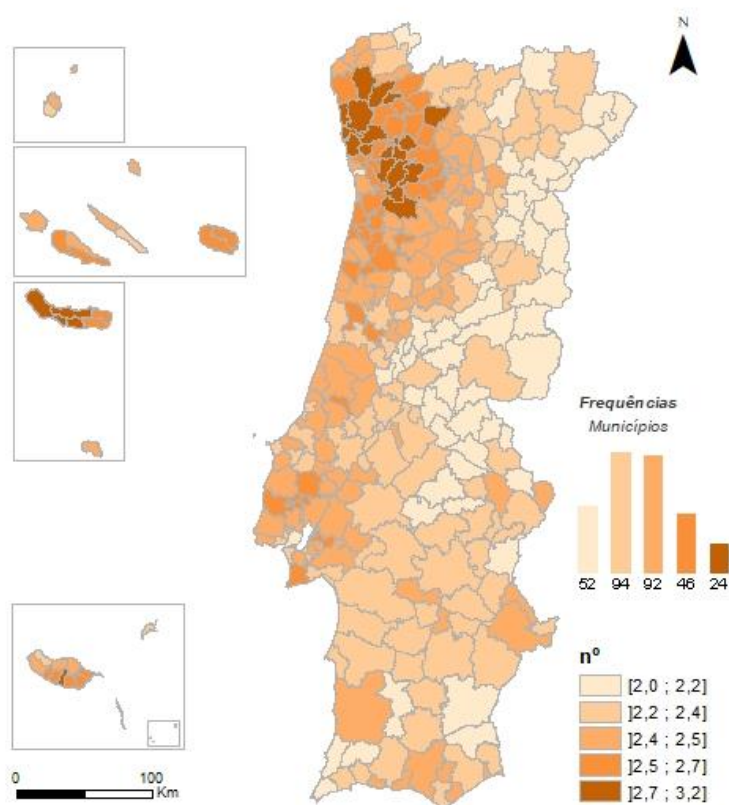
² Private household means all persons who have their usual residence in the family accommodation or the self-employed person who occupies a household. The 2011 Census used the concept of classical family and not the concept of private household. In 2011, a dwelling could house more than one family, although these were very few.

³ Concept equivalent to the Institutional Family in the 2011 Census and which corresponds to the group of persons living in a collective housing that, regardless of the relationship of kinship between them, observes a common discipline, is beneficiary of the objectives of an institution and is governed by an entity inside or outside the group.



The analysis by municipality shows that the average size of private households is higher in some municipalities in Região Autónoma dos Açores and on the northern coastline of the mainland. The municipalities of Ribeira Grande, Lagoa (RAA), and Vila Franca do Campo stand out for the largest average size of private households, with values above 3 persons per household. The northern and central interior of the country municipalities hold the lowest figures.

Figure 19. Average size of private households, 2021, Municipality (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

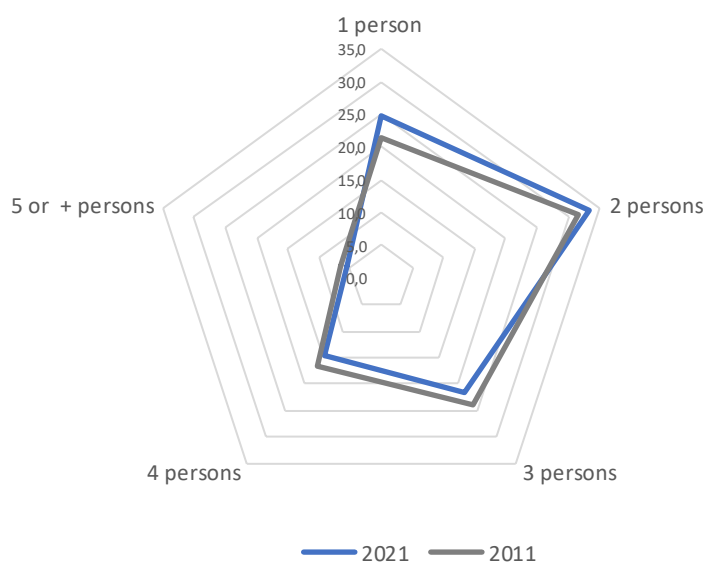
In the last decade, the number of people living alone has increased

In 2021, most private households comprise 2 persons (33.3 %). Single-person households account for 24.8 % and their number have increased in the last decade by 18.6 %.



By contrast, larger households lost expression. Private households with 4 persons account for 14.7 % and households with 5 persons represent 5.6 %, whereas in 2011 they accounted for 16.6 % and 6.5 %, respectively. These changes in family size structures result from trends in fertility, marriage, and divorce patterns, which contribute to smaller households.

Figure 20. Private households by size, 2011-2021, (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Área Metropolitana de Lisboa is the region where households with one person are most representative (28.2 %), in contrast to Região Autónoma dos Açores with 20.3 %.



Figure 21. Private households by size, 2021, NUTS II (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

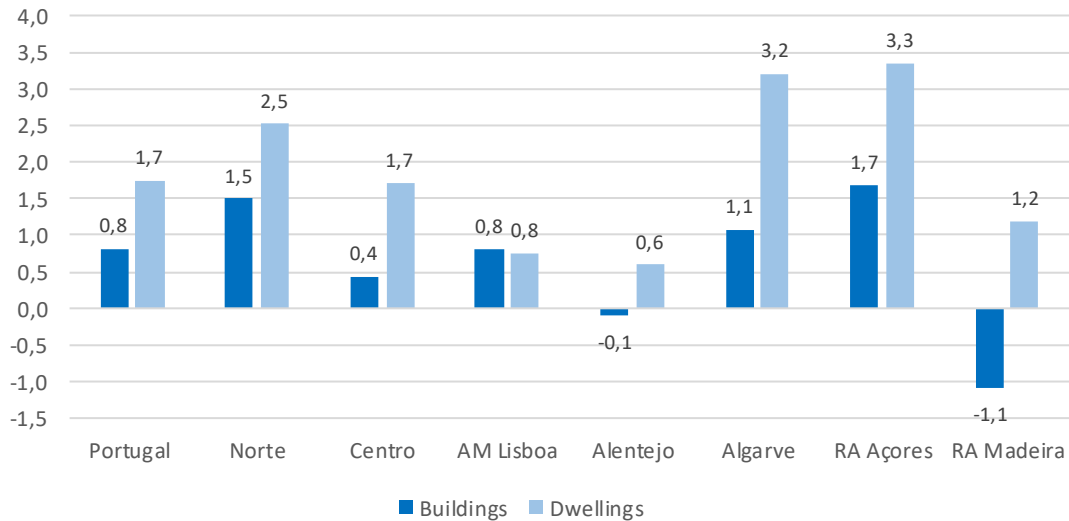
The number of buildings and dwellings increased in Portugal, although at a much lower rate than in previous decades.

According to the Provisional Results from 2021 Census, the number of residential buildings is 3,573,416 and of dwellings is 5,981,485, which, compared to 2011, represents an increase of 0.8 % and 1.7 %, respectively.

The growth of housing stock between 2011 and 2021 is significantly lower than in the previous decade, when the figures were about 12 % for buildings and 16 % for dwellings.



Figure 22. Variation concerning the number of buildings and dwellings, 2011-2021, NUTS II (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Região Autónoma dos Açores and Algarve are the regions with the most significant increases in housing stock, with the number of residential buildings increasing by 1.7% and 1.1% and dwellings by 3.3% and 3.2%, respectively. It should be noted that, in the previous decade, Algarve was also the region with the highest growth in housing stock.

The number of dwellings increases in most Portuguese municipalities

Over the past ten years, the number of dwellings has increased in 72% of the Portuguese municipalities (221 municipalities).

The municipalities of Madalena (R.A. Açores), Vizela, Campo Maior, and Lousada recorded the highest increases in dwellings, with values between 14.4% and 7.4%. In contrast, Tarouca, Penela, and Coruche were the municipalities where the most significant decreases occurred, with the number of dwellings ranging from -10.0% to -4.6%.



DIÍSTAQUE



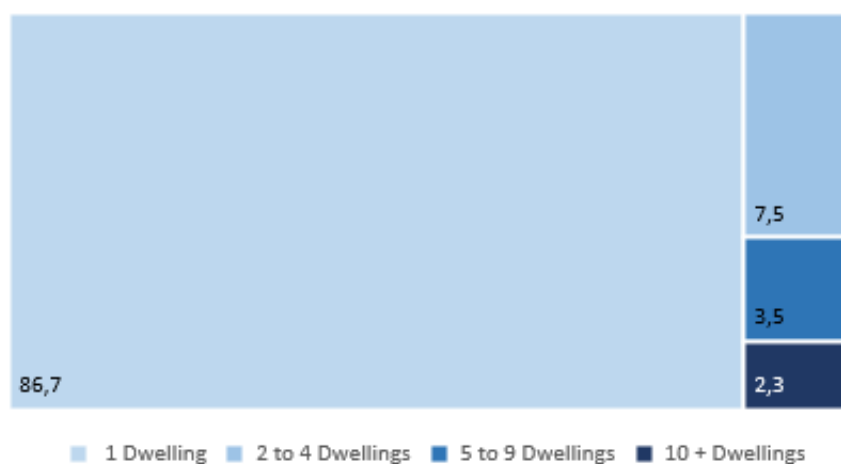
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STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release

Buildings with only one dwelling represent 87 % of the housing stock

In 2021, buildings with only one dwelling (86.7 %) comprise most of the housing stock. Buildings with 2 to 4 dwellings account for 7.5 %, while the largest buildings, with 10 or more dwellings, represent 2.3 % of the buildings for housing purposes.

Figure 23. Buildings by number of dwellings, 2021, (%)

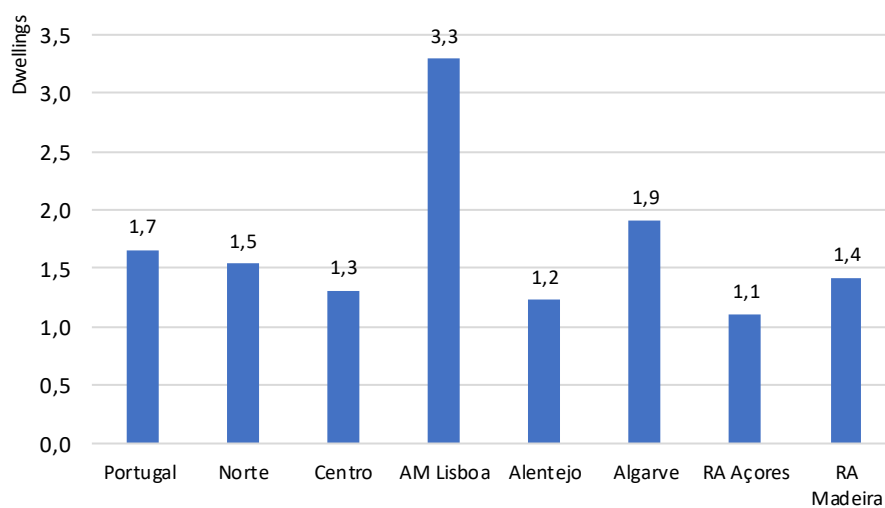


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

In 2021, the average number of dwellings per building in Portugal is 1.7, which has been maintained since 2011. Área Metropolitana de Lisboa is the region with the highest value, 3.3 dwellings per building, while Região Autónoma dos Açores and Alentejo registered the lowest values (1.1 and 1.2 respectively).



Figure 24. Average number of dwellings per building, 2021, NUTS II

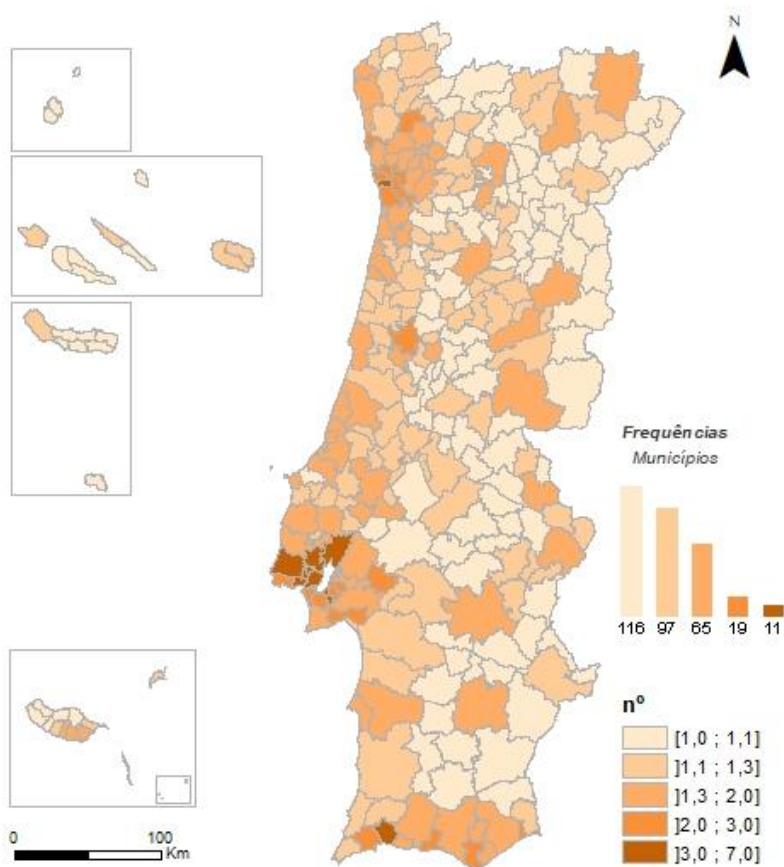


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The analysis by municipality shows a contrast between the coastline and the interior of the country. The highest average number of dwellings per building is registered in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Área Metropolitana do Porto as well as in most of the respective district councils.



Figure 25. Average number of dwellings per building, 2021, Municipality



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

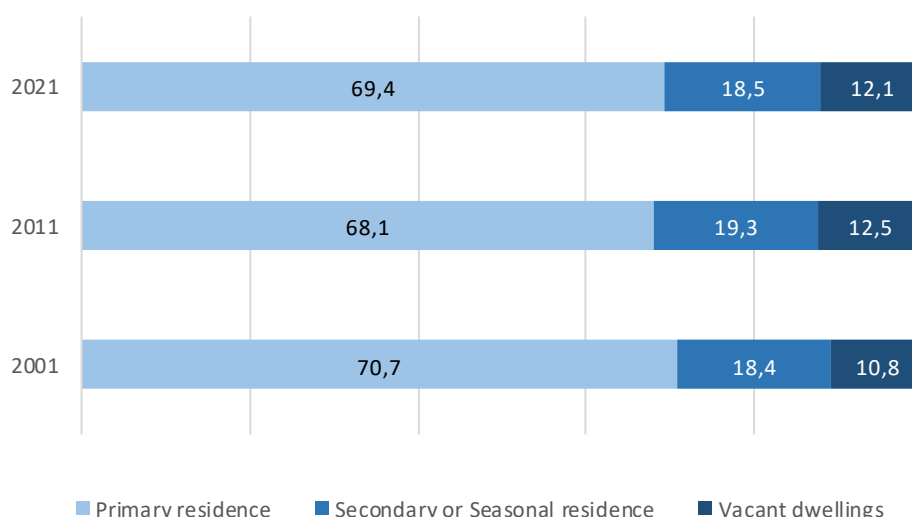
Amadora, Lisboa, Oeiras, and Odivelas are the municipalities with the highest values in the average size of buildings, between 7 and 4.2 dwellings per building. At the opposite end, with the lowest figures, the municipalities of Nordeste (RA Açores), Mora and Vimioso stand out.



In the last decade, the weight of the main residence has been slightly strengthened in opposition to secondary residences.

In 2021, traditional dwellings are distributed as follows: 4,143,043 usual residences, 1,104,398 secondary or seasonal residences and 723,214 vacant dwellings.

Figure 26. Dwellings by occupancy status, 2001-2021, Portugal (%)

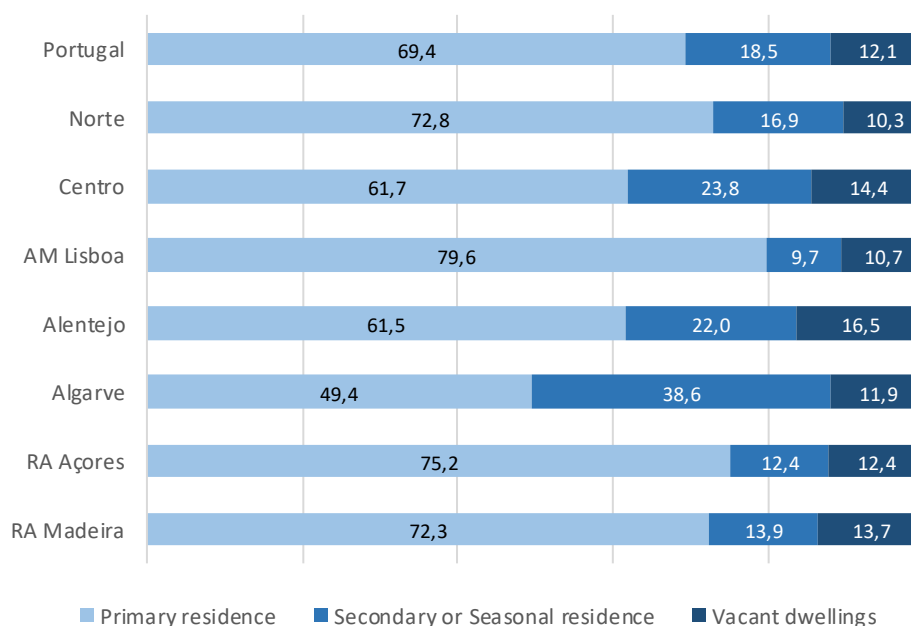


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

In the last decade, the way in which dwellings are occupied has changed slightly. In 2021, 69.4 % of dwellings is for primary residence purposes, increasing 1.3 percentage points (p.p.) compared to 2011. Secondary residences lost importance by 0.8 p.p. and the proportion of vacant dwellings decreased by 0.4 p.p.



Figure 27. Dwellings by occupancy status, NUTS II, 2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Área Metropolitana de Lisboa is the region with the highest percentage of dwellings for primary residence purposes (79.6 %) and the lowest percentage of secondary residences (9.7 %). The Algarve region, with 38.6 %, stands out as the region with the highest proportion of secondary residences, followed by Centro and Alentejo with 23.8 % and 22.0 %, respectively.

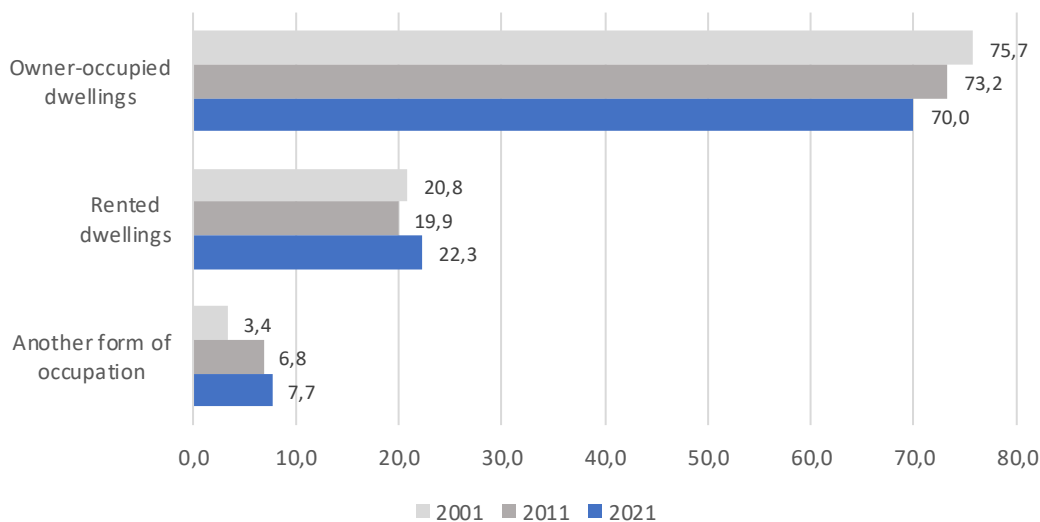
Regarding vacant dwellings, Alentejo has the highest percentage (16.5 %) as opposed to Norte, which has the lowest proportion (10.3 %).

70 % of the dwellings are occupied by the owner, although their relative importance has decreased. By contrast, the number of rented dwellings has increased by 16 % in the last ten years.

In 2021, most dwellings are occupied by the owner (70 %), although this share has decreased over the past decades. The relative importance of owners decreased by 3.2 p.p. compared to 2011 and 5.7 p.p. compared to 2001.



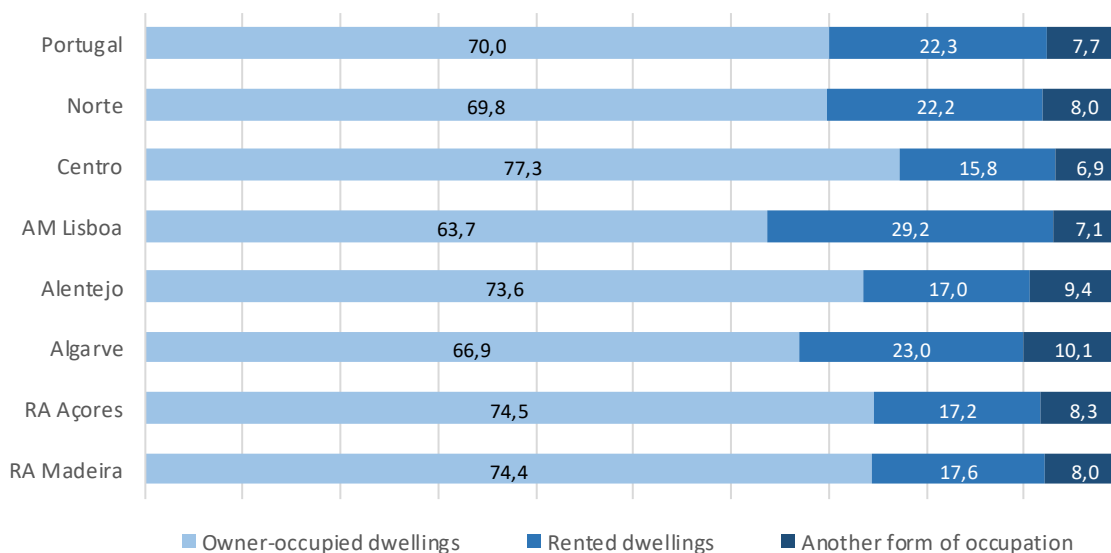
Figure 28. Dwellings by tenure status, 2001-2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

Rented dwellings account for 22.3 % of the total and have increased their importance by 2.4 p.p. compared to 2011. Dwellings with another form of occupation, including, for example, lending dwellings, corresponds, in 2021, to 7.7 % of the usual residence dwellings.

Figure 29. Dwellings by tenure status, NUTS II, 2021 (%)





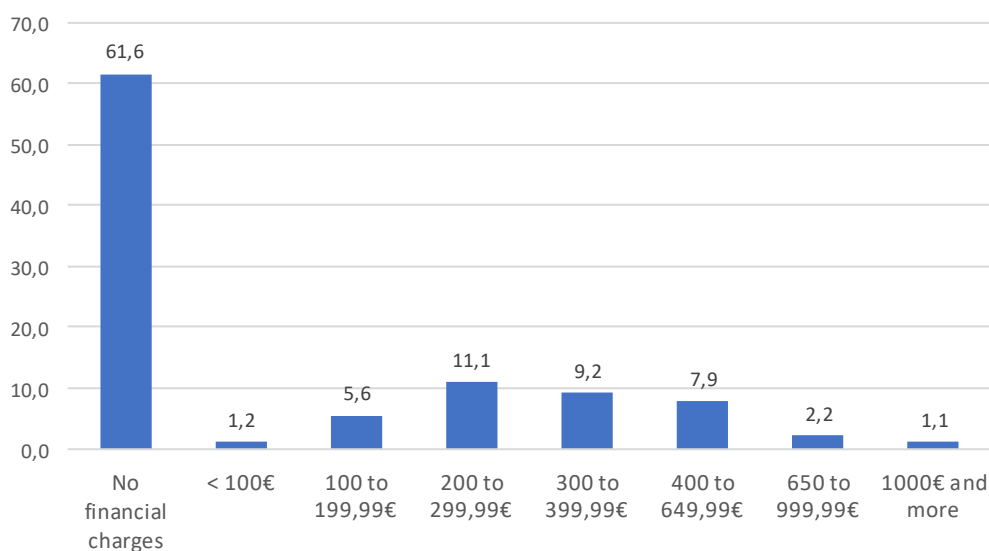
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

By NUTS II regions, Centro has the highest percentage of owner-occupied dwellings (77.3 %), along with the lowest share of rented dwellings (15.8 %). Área Metropolitana de Lisboa is the territory where the rental regime has the highest expression, with 29.2 % of the dwellings occupied by tenants. Algarve follows with 23 % of rented dwellings and Norte with 22.2 %.

Most owners do not have monthly financial expenses related to house purchase

Provisional Results from 2021 Census show that 61.6 % of owner-occupied dwellings have no financial burden from house purchase; 11.1 % of owner-occupied dwellings have a monthly charge between 200 and 299.99 Euros and for 9.2 % the monthly charge is between 300 and 399.99 Euros. The lowest monthly charge “Less than 100 Euros” and the highest “1000 Euros or more” represent 1.2 % and 1.1 %, respectively.

Figure 30. Owner-occupied dwellings, by value of monthly charges, 2021, (%)



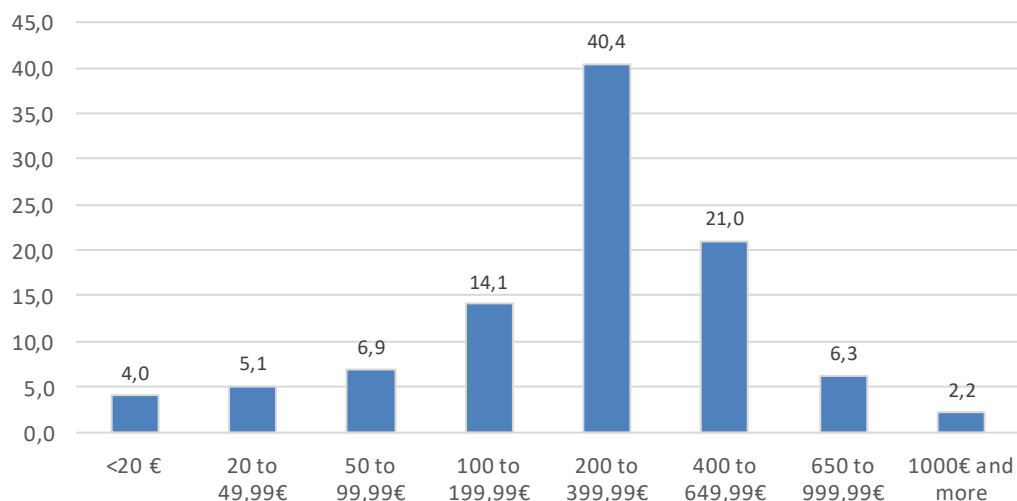
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



In 2,2 % of rented dwellings the rent exceeds 1000 Euros

Regarding rental dwellings, 40.4 % of the dwellings occupied by tenants pay a monthly rent between 200 to 399.99 Euros. Rented dwellings with a monthly rent of 1000 Euros or more represent 2.2%; the percentage of dwellings with the lowest monthly rent - Less than 20 Euros - is 4.0%.

Figure 31. Rented dwellings, by monthly rent, 2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

The 2021 Census continue the longest and most consistent national statistical series on population and housing and were conducted through a comprehensive survey to the entire population, using a predominantly digital data collection mode.

The Provisional Results outcomes from an intermediate phase of treatment and validation process and are the second moment of the 2021 Census dissemination.

The Provisional Results of the Census 2021 provide 17 statistical indicators at the geographical level of parish, available on the Statistics Portugal portal and on the 2021 Census Dissemination Platform — Provisional Results at [Census.ine.pt](https://census.ine.pt)

Provisional Census Results 2021 — Indicators available

- Resident population (No) by Place of Residence, Sex and Age group
- Resident population (No) by Place of Residence, Sex and Marital status
- Resident population (No) by Place of Residence, Sex and Educational Levels
- Resident population (No.) by Place of residence, Sex and Birthplace;
- Resident population (No) by Place of Residence, Sex and Nationality
- Private and institutional households (No.) by Place of residence and Size of the private household
- Buildings (No) by Geographic location and Building period of construction
- Buildings (No.) by Geographic location and Types of conventional building
- Buildings (No.) by Geographic location and Size class dimension of living quarter
- Living quarters (No.) by Geographic location and Type (living quarter)
- Conventional dwellings (No.) by Geographic location and Occupancy status
- Conventional dwellings of usual residence (No.) by Geographic location and Tenure status;
- Conventional dwellings of usual residence occupied by the owner (No.) by Geographic location and Monthly charge size class
- Conventional dwellings rented of usual residence (No.) by Geographic location and Monthly housing rent size class;
- Conventional dwellings of usual residence (No.) by Geographic location and Size class of useful area
- Conventional dwellings of usual residence (No.) by Geographic location and Existence of garage or parking place
- Conventional dwellings of usual residence (No.) by Geographic location and Air conditioning existence

Detailed methodological information is available at [Integrated Metadata System \(ine.pt\)](https://ine.pt)