24 March 2022
THE IBERIAN PENINSULA IN FIGURES
2022 EDITION

PORTUGAL AND SPAIN: THE IBERIAN REALITY AND COMPARISONS WITHIN THE EUROPEAN CONTEXT

In 2020, Portugal, Spain and the European Union as a whole exceeded the goals they had set themselves regarding the contribution of renewable energy to final consumption in their territory. It should be noted, however, that the target set by Portugal was much more ambitious (PT: 31%; ES and EU: 20% in both).

Birth rates followed a downward trend in both countries throughout the decade 2011-2020, with lower values in Portugal until 2016. However, in Spain, the birth rate decreased much faster and became lower than in Portugal from 2018 onwards.

In 2020, the price level in Portugal was only not higher than in Spain in the aggregates (national accounts) *Household accessories, Communications* and *Restaurants and hotels,* with a much greater difference in the third case. Both countries had *Communications* prices significantly higher than the average registered in the European Union.

In the period 2017-2021, the minimum monthly wage¹ increased by 19.4% in Portugal and 33.1% in Spain. In Luxembourg, which has the highest minimum wage in the EU, the change was 4.4%, while in Bulgaria, the country with the lowest wage, there was a 29.8% increase.

These and other issues are addressed in the publication "The Iberian Peninsula in Figures - 2021".

Statistics Portugal and the National Statistical Institute of Spain are jointly publishing the 18th edition of "The Iberian Peninsula in Figures - 2021", corresponding to 2021, in trilingual edition (Portuguese, Spanish, and English).

A relevant set of official statistical indicators grouped into 14 themes allows the comparison between these two neighbouring countries and their position within the European Union. In many cases, the information is presented in detail at a regional level.



 $^{^{1}}$ In Standard Purchasing Power Parities (EU 27 = 100) and considering the annual wages divided by 12.

In 2020, the percentage of protected areas for biodiversity in Portugal (21%) and Spain (27%) was higher than that recorded for the European Union as a whole (19%). There are major differences between EU countries concerning this matter, with the highest and lowest values recorded in Slovenia (38%) and Denmark (8%) respectively.

- Áreas terrestres protegidas para a biodiversidade Áreas terrestres protegidas para la biodiversidad Protected terrestrial areas for biodiversity

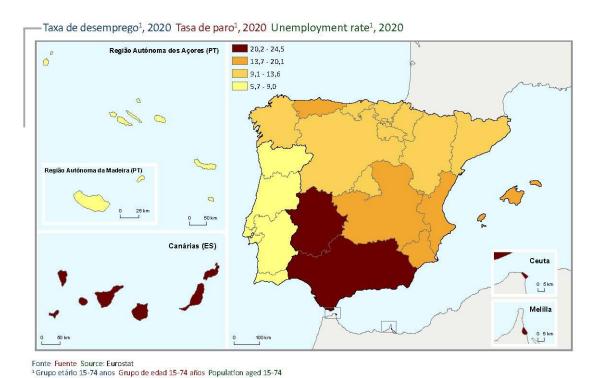
2020					%
⊌UE/EU 27	19	HU	21	IE	13
SI	38	▶PT	21	FR	13
HR	37	PL	20	BE	13
BG	35	IT	19	LT	13
SK	30	EE	18	FI	13
CY	29	AT	15	SE	12
EL	27	DE	15	LV	12
⊳ES	27	NL	15	DK	8
LU	27	CZ	14		
RO	23	MT	13		

Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

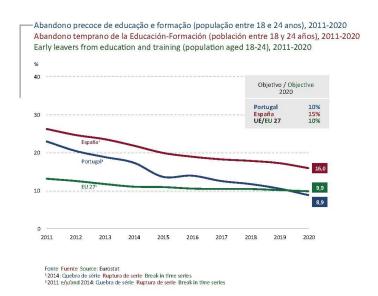
¹% da área total do país del área total del país of the total area of the country

In 2020, Spain recorded the second highest unemployment rate in the European Union (15.5%), only surpassed by that of Greece (16.3%). Portugal, with 6.9%, was 0.2 percentage points (p.p.) below the figure for the EU as a whole, where the Czech Republic was the country with the lowest rate (2.6%).

At the level of NUTS II regions, the highest figure in Portugal (Algarve: 8.4%) was lower than the lowest recorded in Spain (País Vasco: 9.5%).

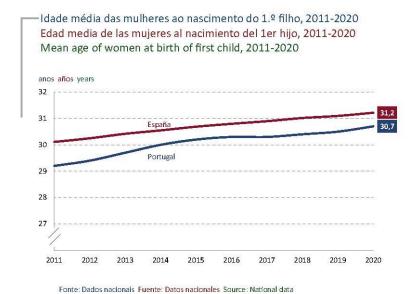


In the decade 2011-2020, early school leaving in Portugal decreased sharply (-14.1 p.p.) and reached a lower level than that of the European Union at the end of this period. Spain also recorded a reduction, albeit of a smaller magnitude (-10.3 p.p.), thus remaining well above (+6.0 p.p.) the value recorded for the EU.

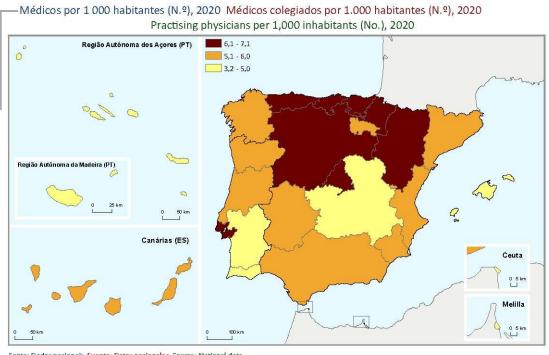


The proportion of employees with higher education is clearly higher in Spain than in Portugal and in the EU as a whole. In 2020, the differences were +15.0 p.p. compared to Portugal and +10.6 p.p. compared to the EU.

In the period 2011-2020, the average age of women when they become mothers for the first time increased continuously in both countries, always higher in Spain than in Portugal. However, this gap has been reduced from 0.9 years at the beginning of the series to 0.5 years in 2020.

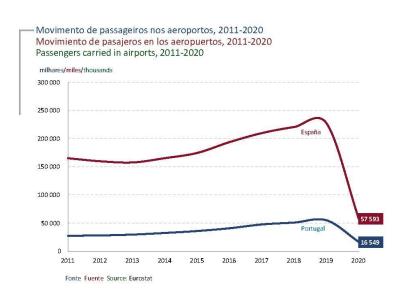


In 2020, only three of Portugal's seven regions had more than 5 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants: Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (6.8), Norte (5.6), and Centro (5.3). In Spain, this outcome occurred in fourteen of its nineteen regions, all in Norte-Centro, with values ranging from 5.1 (Andalucía) and 7.0 (Aragón and Comunidad de Madrid). The regions with the least number of medical doctors (less than 4 doctors per 1,000 inhabitants) were, in Portugal, Alentejo (3.2) and Região Autónoma dos Açores (3.7), and in Spain, Ciudad Autónoma de Melilla (3.9).



Fonte: Dados nacionais Fuente: Datos nacionales Source: National data

In the decade 2011-2020, passenger movements at airports increased in both countries, with continuous growth in Portugal and reductions in Spain in the years 2012 (-3.3%) and 2013 (-1.3%). In the last year of the decade considered, the decreases were abrupt, with greater relative expression in Spain (-74.6%) than in Portugal (-69.9%).



In the 2013-2020 period, the average annual rate of change concerning the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices followed a downward trend in both countries, in relatively identical ways, except for the years in which they recorded their maximum values: 2017 in the case of the overall index (PT: 1.6; ES: 2.0) and 2013 for the index for food and non-alcoholic beverages (PT: 1.9; ES: 2.8).

For the European Union as a whole, throughout this decade there was only one negative value in the rate of change of the HICP for food and nonÍndice Harmonizado de Preços no Consumidor, 2013-2020 (%) Índice de Precios de Consumo Armonizado, 2013-2020 (%) Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices, 2013-2020 (%)

> Variação média anual - Índice geral Variación de la media anual - Índice general Annual average rate of change - All-items

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Portugal	0,4	-0,2	0,5	0,6	1,6	1,2	0,3	-0,1
España	1,5	-0,2	-0,6	-0,3	2,0	1,7	0,8	-0,3
UE/EU 27	1,3	0,4	0,1	0,2	1,6	1,8	1,4	0,7

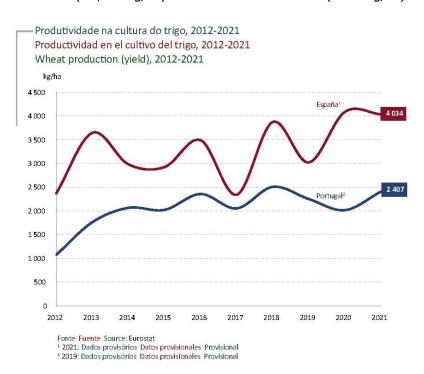
Variação média anual - Alimentos e bebidas não alcoólicas Variación de la media anual - alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas Annual average rate of change - Food and non-alcoholic beverages

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Portugal	1,9	-1,3	1,0	0,5	1,5	0,7	0,3	2,1
España	2,8	-0,4	1,2	1,4	1,2	1,6	1,0	2,4
UE/EU 27	2,5	-0,2	0,3	0,5	2,1	1,9	2,1	2,5

Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

alcoholic beverages, in the same year (2014) in which Portugal and Spain also recorded their lowest values regarding this indicator.

Spain had higher productivity from wheat crops than Portugal throughout the decade 2012-2021. The maximum difference was recorded in 2020 (+2,068 kg/ha) and the minimum in 2017 (+288 kg/ha).



The information presented here are brief examples of the broad portrait made available in this publication, which had Eurostat as its main source of information to ensure a greater harmonisation of the data disclosed.

The Spanish Statistics Institute and Statistics Portugal hope that The Iberian Peninsula in figures will also encourage users to access the vast official statistical information available free of charge on the websites of both institutions (Portugal: www.ine.pt; Spain: www.ine.es) and Eurostat (http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/).