



10 January 2023

THE IBERIAN PENINSULA IN FIGURES

2023 EDITION

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

In 2021, Spain recorded the highest unemployment rate in the European Union (14.8 %), followed very closely (-0.1 p.p.) by Greece. Portugal, at 6.6%, was 0.4 p.p. below the figure for the EU, whereas Czechia was the country with the lowest rate (2.8%).

In the period 2012-2021, the average age at which women have their first child increased continuously in both countries, always higher in Spain than in Portugal. The largest difference (0.9 years) occurred in the first year of the series, and the smallest (0.5 years) in 2015, 2016 and 2020.

In almost the entire decade 2011- -2020, Portugal imported less electricity than Spain, with differences ranging from -17.7% (2011) to -373.2% (2016).). In 2012 alone, the situation was reversed, with Portugal's imports registering 27.7% more than those made by Spain.

GDP *per capita* in Portugal in the period 2012-2021 was always lower than in Spain, with differences ranging from 15 PPS to 12 PPS<sup>1</sup> until 2019. Since then, both countries have recorded falls in this indicator, which were more pronounced in Spain, so that the differences in the last two years of the series were -8 PPS and -10 PPS, respectively.

These and other issues are covered in the publication "Iberian Peninsula in Figures - 2022"

Statistics Portugal and the National Statistical Institute of Spain are jointly publishing the 19th edition of " The Iberian Peninsula in Figures", corresponding to 2022, 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.



<sup>1</sup> In Standard Purchasing Power Parities (EU 27 = 100) and considering the annual wages divided by 12



**População em risco de pobreza ou exclusão social<sup>1</sup>**  
**Población en riesgo de pobreza o exclusión social<sup>1</sup>**  
**People at risk of poverty or social exclusion<sup>1</sup>**

2021				%	
UE/EU 27	21,7 (e)	LU	21,1	DK	17,3
RO	34,4	HR	20,9	SE	17,2
BG	31,7	DE	20,7	PL	16,8 (p)
EL	28,3	MT	20,3	NL	16,6
ES	27,8	IE	20,0	SK	15,6
LV	26,1	HU	19,4	FI	14,2
IT	25,2 (p)	BE	19,3	SI	13,2
LT	23,4	FR	19,3	CZ	10,7
PT	22,4	AT	17,3		
EE	22,2	CY	17,3		

Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

<sup>1</sup> Após transferências sociais Después de transferencias sociales After social transfers

(e) Dado estimado Dato estimado Estimated

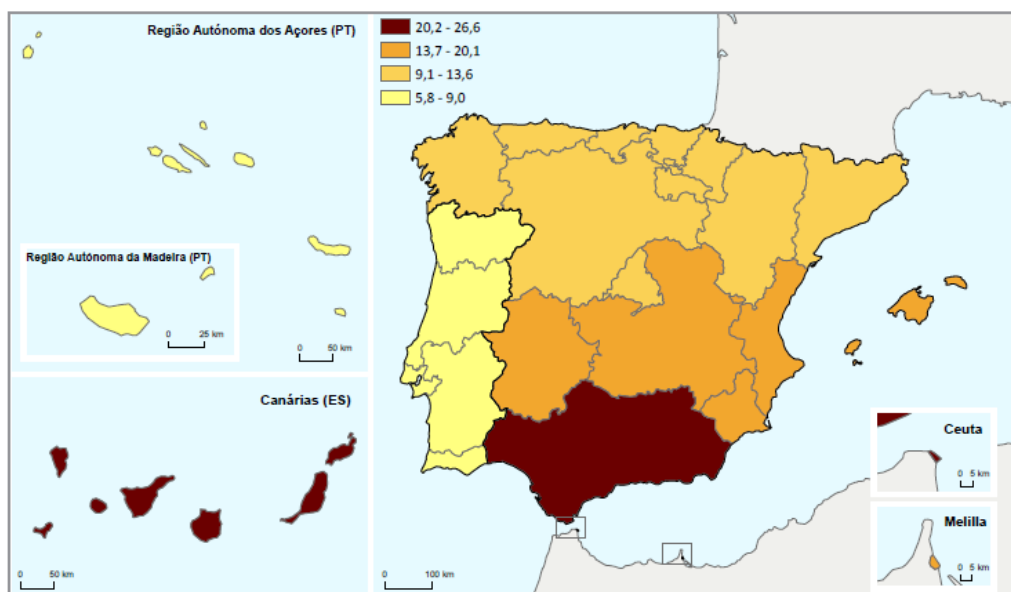
(p) Dado provisório Dato provisional Provisional

In 2021, the risk of poverty or social exclusion in Spain was clearly higher (27.8%) than in Portugal (22.4%), both above the estimated value for the European Union as a whole (21.7%). The Romanian population was the most exposed to this risk (34.4%) and the Czech population the least exposed (10.7%).

In what concerns the young population (15-29 years old), the relative positions were different, being the risk in Portugal (22.2%) lower, and in Spain (31.3%) higher, than for the EU (25.3%).

In Portugal, the NUTS II region with the highest unemployment rate in 2021 was the Algarve (8.3%), still lower than the lowest rate found in Spain (9.8%, in the País Vasco), which recorded its highest value (26.6%) in the Ciudad Autónoma de Ceuta.

**Taxa de desemprego (15-74 anos), 2021**  
**Tasa de paro (15-74 años), 2021**  
**Unemployment rate (population aged 15-74), 2021**

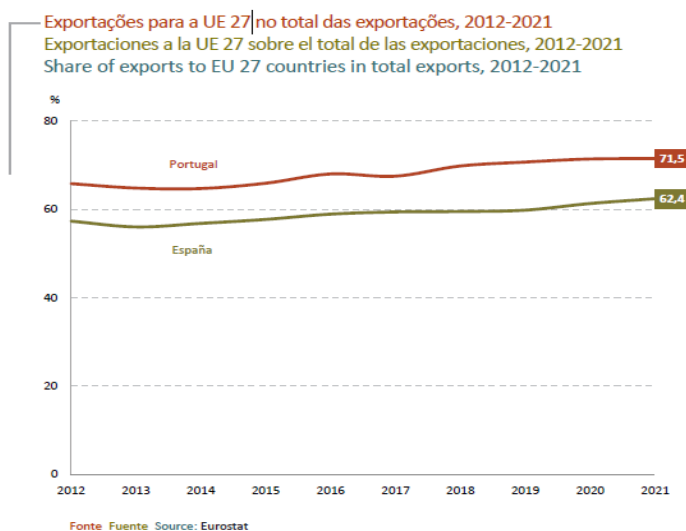


Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

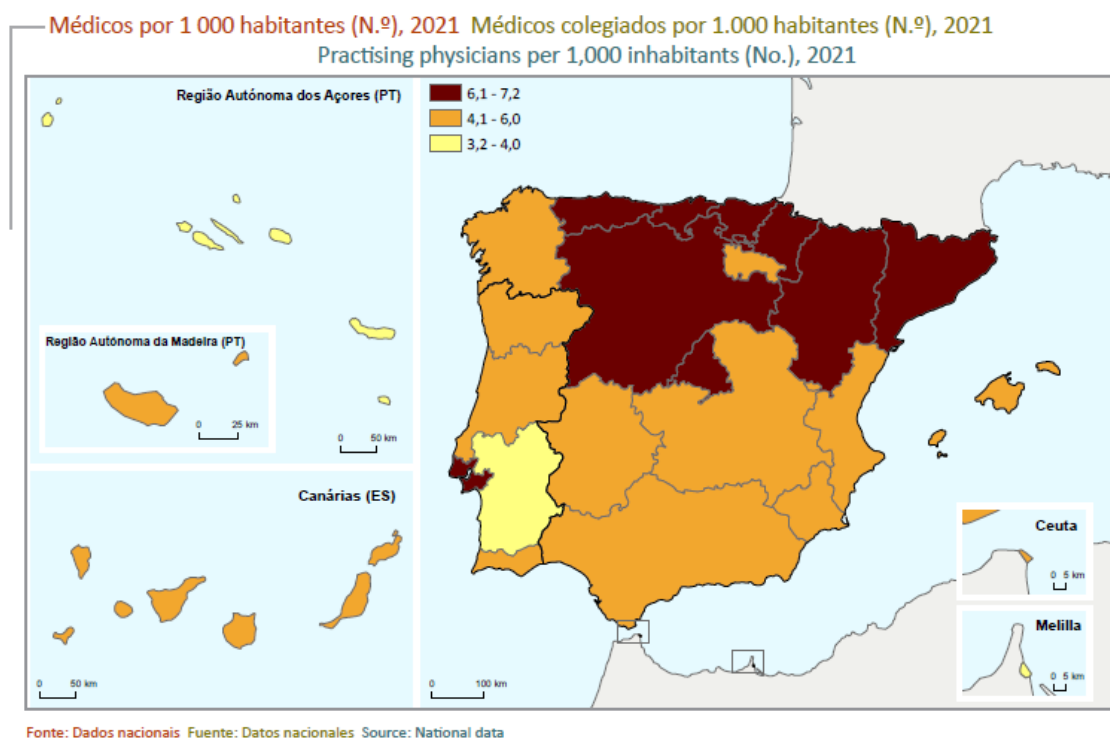


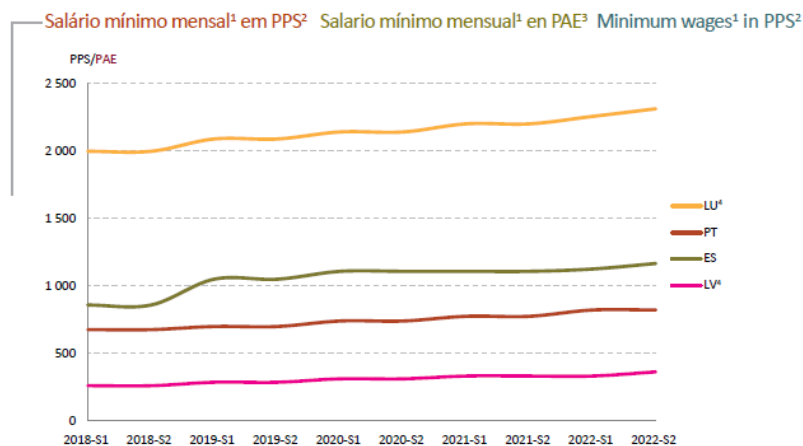
Throughout the period 2012-2021, the two Iberian countries had mainly other Member States the European Union as the destination for their exports, with annual percentages following similar trajectories and ranging between 64.7% (2014) and 71.5% (2021) for Portugal, and between 56.0% (2013) and 62.4% (2021) in the case of Spain.

Both recorded their highest value in the last year of the series.



In 2021, in Spain, only the Ciudad de Melilla region had fewer than four doctors per thousand inhabitants (3.9) and, of the remaining 18 regions, eight had more than six: Cataluña (6.1), Castilla y León (6.6), Cantabria (6.6), Comunidad Foral de Navarra (6.9), País Vasco (6.9), Principado de Asturias (7.0), Comunidad de Madrid (7.1), and Aragón (7.2). The situation was very different in Portugal: only Área Metropolitana de Lisboa had more than six doctors per thousand inhabitants (6.8) and two of its remaining six regions had fewer than four: Região Autónoma dos Açores (3.9) and Alentejo (3.2).





Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

<sup>1</sup> Remuneração anual dividida por 12 Remuneración anual dividida entre 12 Annual wages divided by 12

<sup>2</sup> Paridades de Poder de Compra Padrão (UE 27 = 100) Purchasing Power Standards (EU 27 = 100)

<sup>3</sup> Poder Adquisitivo Estándar (UE 27 = 100)

<sup>4</sup> Luxemburgo e Letónia tiveram os valores mais elevado e mais baixo da UE neste período.

Luxemburgo y Letonia tuvieron los valores más elevados y más bajo de la UE en este período.

Luxemburg and Latvia had the highest and the lowest value of EU 27 in this period.

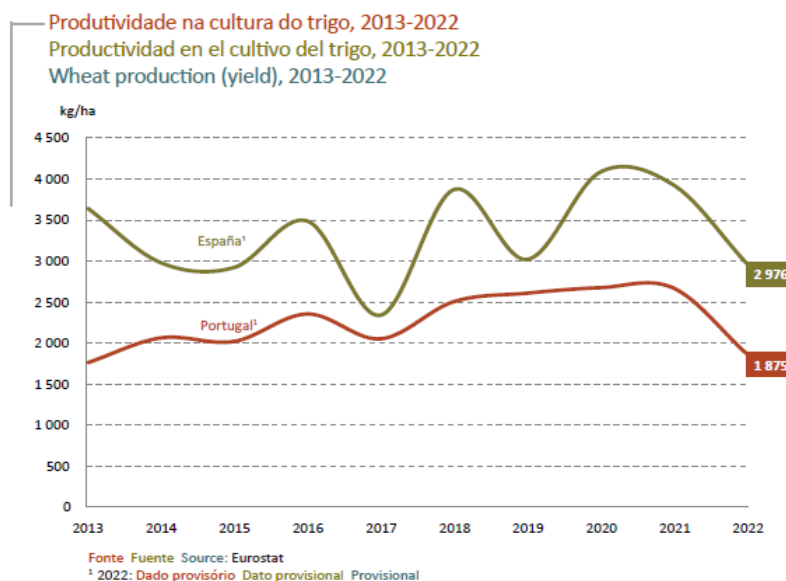
Over the period 2018-2022, the monthly minimum wage<sup>2</sup> increased by 21.6% in Portugal and 35.9% in Spain. In Luxembourg, which has the highest minimum wage in the EU, the rate of change was 15.8%, while in Latvia, which has the lowest wage, there was an increase of 39.2%.

It should also be noted that the minimum wage in Luxembourg is around 6.4 times higher than in Latvia.

In 2021, the turnover resulting from e-commerce, as a proportion of the total turnover of companies, reached a figure in Spain (19%) close to that for the European Union as a whole (20%). Portugal was slightly lower, at 17%. Among the EU countries, Ireland recorded the highest value (38%) and Cyprus the lowest (4%).

Throughout the decade 2013-2022 wheat crop productivity was always higher in Spain than in Portugal, although with larger oscillations in Spain.

The most significant difference between the two countries was recorded in 2021 (+1 518 kg/ha) and the minimum in 2017 (+288 kg/ha).



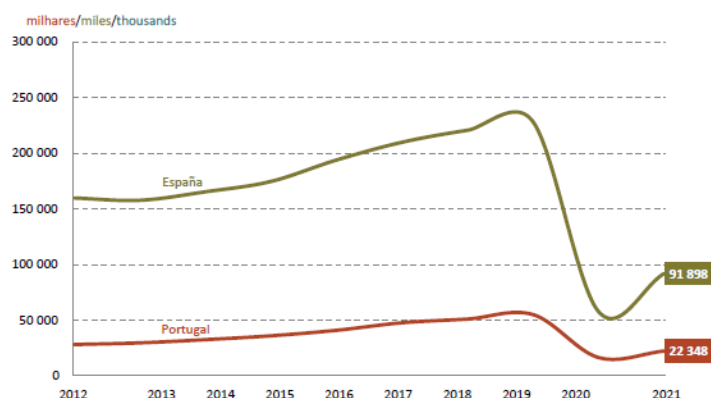
Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

<sup>1</sup> 2022: Dado provisório Dato provisional Provisional

<sup>2</sup> In Standard Purchasing Power Parities (EU 27 = 100) and considering the annual wages divided by 12.



Movimento de passageiros nos aeroportos, 2012-2021  
Movimiento de pasajeros en aeropuertos, 2012-2021  
Passengers carried in airports, 2012-2021



Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

In the period 2012-2019, passenger movements at airports increased continuously in both countries. In 2020, similarly to what happened worldwide, there were sharp falls (PT: 69.9%; ES: 74.7%), partially recovered the following year, but still far from the 2019 figures: -59.4% in Portugal and -59.7% in Spain.

In 2021, tourists from the United Kingdom and Spain were the ones that stayed the most in Portugal: 18.2% and 14.2% of total non-resident tourists, respectively.

In the case of Spain, tourists residing in Germany occupied the first position (22.2%) and those from the United Kingdom the second (15.8%), with Portugal ranking 8th (2.7%).

Principais nacionalidades dos turistas não residentes<sup>1</sup>, 2021  
Principales nacionalidades de procedencia de turistas no residentes<sup>1</sup>, 2021  
Main nationalities of non-resident tourists<sup>1</sup>, 2021

Portugal			Espanha		
		%			%
1º	Reino Unido United Kingdom	18,2	1º	Alemanha Alemanha Germany	22,2
2º	Espanha España Spain	14,2	2º	Reino Unido United Kingdom	15,8
3º	França Francia France	11,5	3º	França Francia France	13,1
4º	Alemanha Alemanha Germany	11,3	4º	Países Baixos Países Bajos Netherlands	6,3
5º	Países Baixos Países Bajos Netherlands	5,8	5º	Itália Italia Italy	4,5
6º	EUA EEUU USA	4,3	6º	Bélgica Belgium	4,2
7º	Polónia Polonia Poland	3,4	7º	Polónia Polonia Poland	3,0
8º	Irlanda Ireland	3,4	8º	Portugal	2,7
9º	Itália Italia Italy	3,3	9º	EUA EEUU USA	2,6
10º	Bélgica Belgium	3,0	10º	Suiça Suíza Switzerland	2,6

Fonte Fuente Source: Eurostat

<sup>1</sup> Por n.º de dormidas de não residentes em estabelecimentos hoteleiros  
Por nº de pernoctaciones de no residentes alojados en establecimientos hoteleros  
According to number of nights spent by non-residents in hotels and similar accommodation





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press release

# DIÍSTAQUE

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](http://www.ine.pt); Spain: [www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)) and Eurostat (<http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu>).