



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ESTATÍSTICA
STATISTICS PORTUGAL

press release

DIÍSTAQUE

November, 15th 2024

Transport and Communications Statistics

2023

TRANSPORT OF PASSENGERS GREW, IN 2023, IN ALL MODES OF TRANSPORT FIBER OPTICS KEPT GROWING AT A NOTABLE PACE

In 2023, the number of passengers transported registered increases compared with 2022 in all modes of transport: +10.1% by road (+30.9% in 2022), +16.7% by rail (+42,2% in 2022), +20.7% by metro (+58.6% in 2022), +18.9% by air (+121.7% in 2022) and +21.5% by inland waterways (+44,6% in 2022). Goods transported by road and sea registered a drop of 8.8% (-2.3% in 2022) and 3.4% (+2.3% in 2022), respectively. Conversely, goods transported by rail and air registered increases of 2.2% (-8.0% in 2022) and 0.1% (+16.9% in 2022), respectively.

In 2023, in the Communications sector, the number of internet accesses continued to increase (+2.9%; +3.7% in 2022) with fiber optics growing at a notable pace (+7.1%; +10.1% in 2022). The number of telephone accesses in the fixed service (+1.2%; +2.2% in 2022) and the number of subscribers to the pay TV service (+2.1%; +3.1% in 2022) continued to grow.

Only the number of active mobile access and effective use decreased (-1.2%; +3.6% in 2022) and voice traffic originating from the mobile network (-1.3% in the number of calls and -4.4% in the number of minutes), as well as postal traffic (-4.9%; -4.2% in 2022).

With this press release, Statistics Portugal disseminates the publication "Statistics on Transport and Communications 2023", which provides a wide range of indicators on the several modes of transport, telecommunications and postal services.



ESTATÍSTICAS
DOS TRANSPORTES
E COMUNICAÇÕES
2023



Transport and communications – 2023



A. TRANSPORT

Railway network without changes and railway stock with increase in traction and passenger transport vehicles

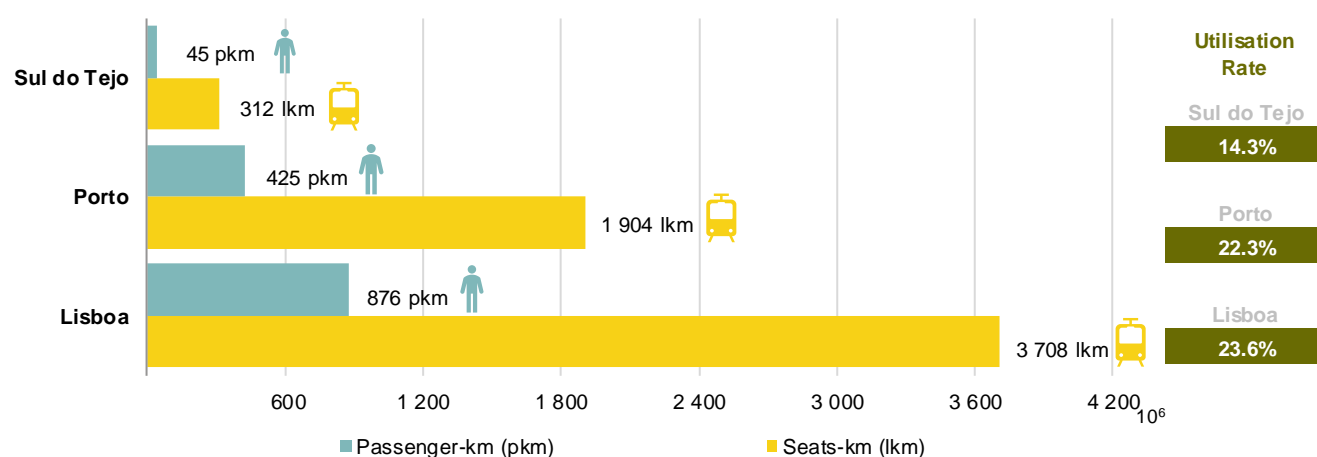
In 2023, the national railway network, composed by operated and unoperated lines and extensions, had a total length of 3,621.6 km (as in 2022). The explored network represented 69.8% of the total network and was 2,527.1 km length.

The railway stock was comprised of 381 traction vehicles, 2,050 wagons and 1,022 vehicles for the transport of passengers.

Passenger transport by train and by metro continued to increase

In 2023, 200.3 million passengers were transported by train, a figure that represented an increase of 16.7% (after +42.2% in 2022). In volume, there were 4.8 billion passenger-kilometres, which corresponded to an increase of 8.9% (+51.8% in 2022). Passenger transport by metro increased by 20.7% compared with 2022 (after +58.6% in 2022), for a total of 263.2 million passengers. The Lisbon Metro reached 165.9 million passengers, which meant an increase of 21.3% compared with the previous year (+63.3% in 2022). Passenger transport on the Porto Metro totalled 79.2 million, with a growth of 21.4% (+56.2% in 2022). Metro Sul do Tejo recorded a growth of 11.9% (+34.3% in 2022), having transported 18.1 million passengers.

Figure 1. Supply and demand by subway system, 2023



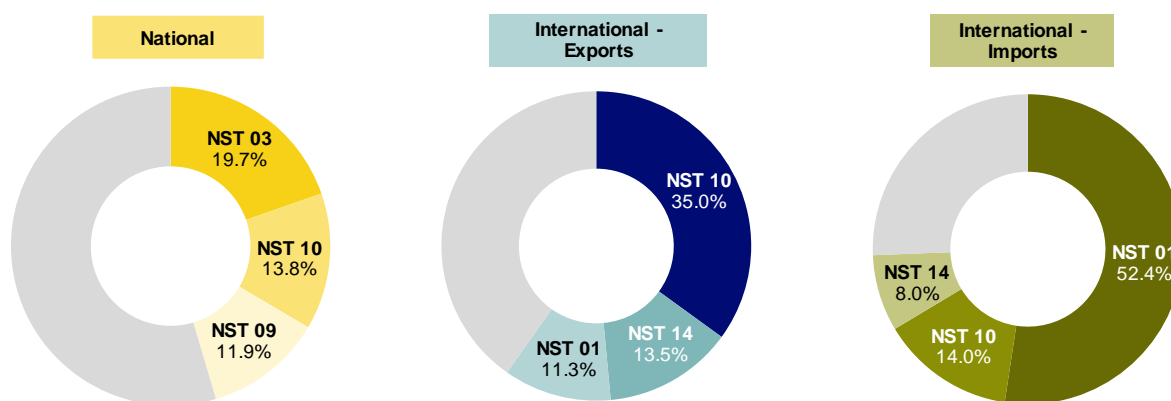
Source: Statistics Portugal, Subway Transport Survey



Rail freight increased in both domestic and international traffic

The amount of goods transported by rail¹ in 2023 was 8.6 million tonnes, equivalent to 2.2% more (-8.0% in 2022). In volume, the movement of goods stood at 2.3 billion tkm (+3.2%, after -6.1% in 2022), resulting in an average route of each tonne of 264.5 km (+1.0% compared with 2022). In domestic traffic, 6.7 million tonnes of goods were handled (+1.5%, after -9.8% in 2022), equivalent to 78.8% of total traffic (79.3% in 2022). International freight transport stood at 1.8 million tonnes, with a year-on-year increase of 5.0% (after -0.4% in 2022). As in previous years, international transport was carried out exclusively to/from Spain. The main group of goods transported by rail in 2023 was "Non-energy products from mining and quarrying industries; peat; uranium and thorium", (division 03²), with 1.3 million tonnes, equivalent to 15.5% of the total (13.1% in 2022).

Figure 2. Weight of main categories of goods carried by rail (NST 2007), by type of traffic, 2023



NST 2007:

- 01 - Products of agriculture, hunting, and forestry; fish and other fishing products
- 03 - Metal ores and other mining and quarrying prod.; peat; uranium and thorium
- 09 - Other non-metallic mineral products
- 10 - Basic metals; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment
- 14 - Secondary raw materials; municipal wastes and other wastes

Source: Statistics Portugal, Transport by Train Survey

National road network kept growing

The national road network kept growing slightly in 2023 to 14,339 km (+0.05%) with a new section with 7 km in the Braga region.

¹ In 2023, the total amount of goods transported no longer included goods in cabotage. The comparison with previous years was made based on the same criteria.

² NST2007 (see acronyms and abbreviations)



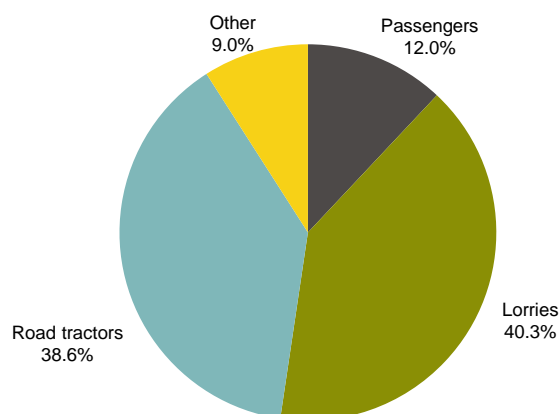
Revenue continues to grow above traffic on both bridges over the Tagus River

The daily crossing of road vehicles over Tagus River grew by 5.2% (+13.8% in 2022) and reached 217.5 thousand vehicles in 2023. As in the previous year, the revenue collected grew more sharply (+11.5%; +16.8% in 2022) amounting to 98.6 million euros.

Simultaneous decrease in diesel and gasoline light passenger vehicles in circulation

The number of vehicles presumably in circulation continued to increase, in 2023, to 7.3 million vehicles (+0.6%, +2.2% in 2022). For the first time, there was a simultaneous decrease in light passenger diesel and gasoline vehicles (-1.0% and -1.2%, respectively) while 100% electric vehicles recorded the biggest increase (+65.4%) and surpassed 100,000 units in circulation.

Figure 3. Distribution of heavy vehicles stock, by type, 2023



Source: Portuguese Road Agency (IMT) and Statistics Portugal

Registered vehicles grew and number of cancellations decreased

The number of registered vehicles kept growing sharply (+16.9%; +13.3% in 2022) and 424.5 thousand vehicles were registered. 127.7 thousand registrations were cancelled, reflecting a reduction of 5.5% compared with the previous year (-6.1% in 2022).

Sales of new light vehicles grew significantly in 2023

The sale of new light passenger vehicles grew 27.7% in 2023 (+6.6% in 2022) and 199.6 thousand vehicles were sold.

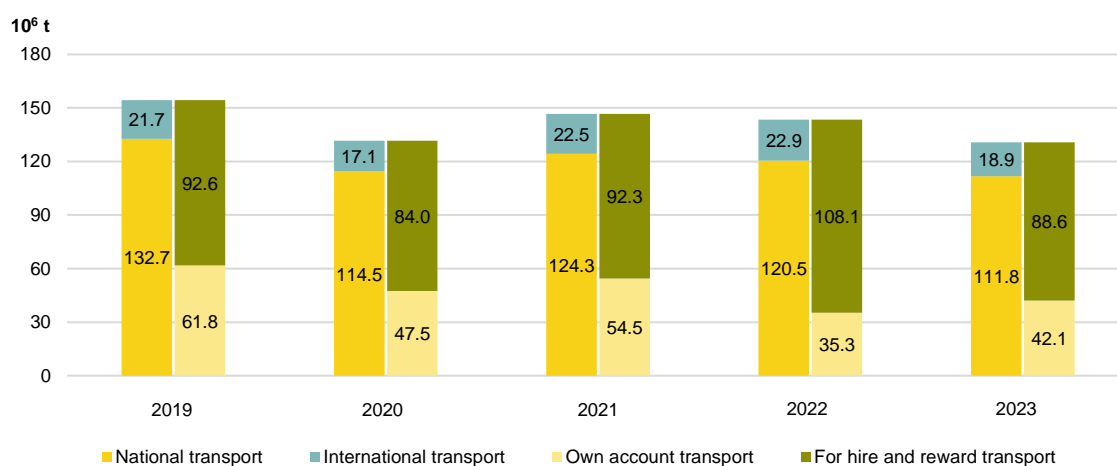


Transport of goods in national vehicles with reduction in weight and volume

National vehicles moved 130.7 million tonnes, which represented a decrease of 8.8% compared with the previous year. National transport contracted 7.2% to 111.8 million tonnes and represented 85.5% of transport (+1.5 p.p.). International transport decreased by 17.3% to 18.9 million tonnes.

In volume, transport in domestic vehicles decreased more sharply (-13.9% year on year) to 27.2 billion tkm.

Figure 4. Freight (tonnes) carried by type of traffic and transport, 2019-2023



Source: Statistics Portugal, Road Freight Transport Survey

Transport of goods in foreign vehicles gains representation despite the slight decrease in weight and volume

It is estimated that 17.0 million tonnes (-1.5%) and 12.0 billion tonnes-km (-5.4%) were carried in/to Portugal by foreign vehicles. Given the overall quantity of road freight transport, transport in foreign vehicles continued to increase its representation: 11.5% in tonnes (+0.8 p.p.) and 30.7% in tonnes-km (+2.0 p.p.).

Road passenger transport grew compared with 2022

The number of passengers transported increased 10.1%, compared with 2022, to 547.7 million passengers.

Fuel and energy consumption in road transport reaches historic highs

Fuel and energy consumption in the road sector reached historic highs since 2010 by increasing 5.9%, in 2023, to 5.9 million toe.



The number of accidents with victims and deaths grew at a slower rate in 2023

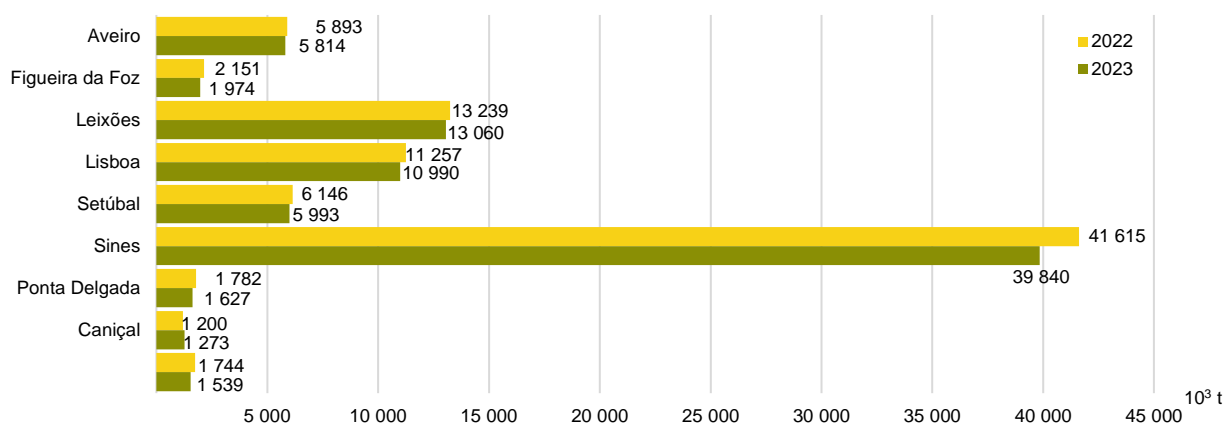
The number of accidents with victims grew again, in 2023, at a slower rate and there were 36.6 thousand accidents (+6.8%; +11.7% in 2022). There were again increases in all types of victims: the number of deaths increased by 3.9% to 642 victims (+10.2% in 2022); the number of serious injured increased by 8.6% to 2.5 thousand victims (+6.5% in 2022) and the number of slight injured increased by 6.9% to 42.9 thousand (+11.9% in 2022).

Domestic port activity decreases

The movement of goods in national seaports reached 82.1 million tonnes, decreasing 3.4% after the 2.3% increase recorded in 2022.

The port of Sines handled 39.8 million tonnes and recorded a reduction of 4.3% compared with 2022, reducing its weight in the total by 0.4 p.p., remaining, however, as the port with the greatest national representation (48.5%). The movement of goods at the port of Leixões (15.9% of the total; +0.3 p.p.) decreased by 1.3% (-2.0% in 2022), while at the port of Lisbon it decreased 2.4% (13.4% of the total; +0.1 p.p.; +27.2% in 2022).

Figure 5. Movement of freight (tonnes) in ports, 2022 and 2023



Source: Statistics Portugal, Maritime transport of passengers and goods survey

National ports registered 69.4 million tonnes in international traffic (-0.3%, after -0.1% in 2022), reaching 84.5% of the total.

30.8 million tonnes of goods were loaded at national ports (-5.4% compared with the previous year). Division 07 - "Coke and petroleum products", recorded a reduction of 6.6% compared with 2022, remained the most representative, reaching 23.7% of the total, followed by division 04 - "Food products, beverages and tobacco", which recorded a decrease of 4.0% compared with the previous year, and represented 12.6% of total goods loaded.



In 2023, 51.3 million tonnes of goods were unloaded in national ports (-2.2% compared with the previous year; +4.9% in 2022), remaining the most representative division 02 - “Coal and lignite; crude oil natural gas” (-8.3% compared with 2022) followed by 01 - “Products of agriculture, animal production, hunting and forestry; fish and other fishery products” (-4.9% compared with 2022) representing respectively 25.2% and 15.2% of the total.

Inland waterways passenger and vehicles transport increased

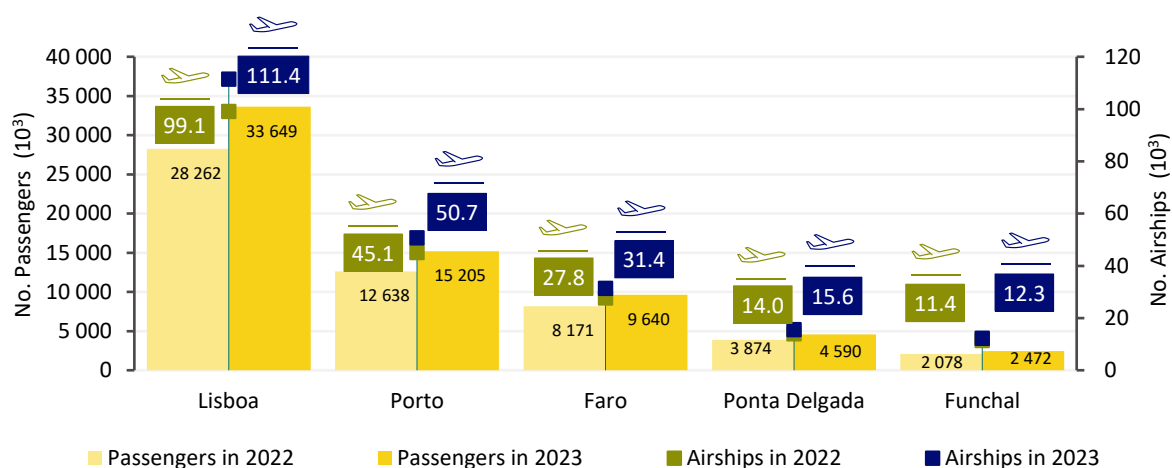
In inland waterways in Portugal, regular crossings (national and international) ensured the transport of 23.4 million passengers (+21.5%, +44.6% in 2022) and 342 thousand vehicles (+3.4%; +17.0% in the previous year).

Increase in passenger movement at the main national airports

The movement of passengers at national airports and aerodromes in 2023 amounted to 67.5 million (+18.9%; +121.7% in 2022).

At the main airports, passenger traffic registered the following increases: +19.1% in Lisboa, +20.3% in Porto, +18.0% in Faro, +18.5% in Funchal and +19.0% in Ponta Delgada.

Figure 6. Air traffic indicators at the main national airports, 2022 and 2023



Source: Statistics Portugal, Airports and airfields survey (ANAC/ANA)

At national airports, in 2023, in terms of the movement of goods, there was no change in the movement of freight (totalling 209.4 thousand tonnes) and there was an increase of 1.5% in the movement of mail



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(13.7 thousand tonnes). The movement of goods, as a whole, was similar to the previous year, reaching 223,0 thousand tonnes (+0.1%; +16.9% in 2022).

Transport by oil pipeline increased and transport by gas pipeline registered a sharper decrease compared with 2022

Gas transport in pipeline in 2023 decreased compared with 2022, having recorded 55.3 thousand GWh in inflow (-15.8%; -4.3% in 2022) and 55.3 thousand GWh in outflows (-15.6%; -7.5% in 2022).

The transport of goods by pipeline increased 8.1% in 2023 (+28.2% in 2022), reaching 3.1 million tonnes.

Goods with a decrease of 1,8% in imports and 3.8% in exports

In 2023, according to the definitive results of international trade statistics, imports of goods totalled 60.2 million tonnes, registering a decrease of 1.8% (+3.5% in 2022). Maritime transport concentrated 56.8% of the imported goods, with a total of 34.2 million tonnes (-5.1%). By road, 21.8 million tonnes of goods entered (+0.9%), corresponding to 36.3% of the total.

The volume of exports totalled 37.8 million tonnes of goods, recording a decrease of 3.8% (+2.0% in 2022). The road mode accounted for 45.5% of the total exported tonnage, the maritime 43.2%, and the air, 4.2%.



B. COMMUNICATIONS

Number of subscribers and accesses to fixed telephone service continued to increase

The fixed telephone service with direct access registered 4.5 million customers in 2023, increasing 1.2% over the previous year. The number of telephone accesses continued to grow, although at a slightly lower rate than the previous year (+1.2%; +2.2% in 2022), reaching 5.5 million accesses.

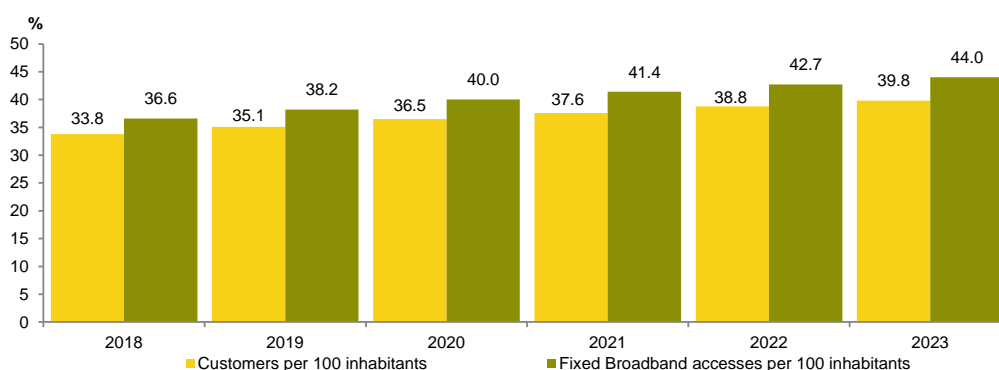
Voice traffic decreased in the mobile telephone service

The mobile outgoing traffic registered a decrease of 1.3% in the number of calls, to 11.3 billion and a decrease of 4.4% in the number of minutes, to 33.2 billion. The decrease in both domestic and international traffic contributed to this evolution. With regard to domestic traffic, there was a decrease in the number of calls and minutes in almost all destinations (with the exception of calls destined to the mobile network with a different provider, which grew by 0.2% in the number of calls, although decreasing 3.2% in number of minutes): -0.8% in calls and -4.1% in minutes for calls to the operator's own mobile network; -3.4% in calls and -8.1% in minutes for calls to the fixed network; and -17.5% in calls and -33.2% in minutes for calls to non-geographic numbers and short numbers. Regarding international traffic, there was a decrease of 1.3% in calls and 1.8% in minutes. Text message (SMS) traffic continued to decrease (-10.9%, -1.6% in the previous year) to 9.4 billion messages, as opposed to value-added messaging (SMS-SVA) traffic which accelerated its growth (+6.2%, +1.7% in the previous year).

Internet access traffic volume continued to grow

The number of internet accesses increased 2.9% (+3.7% in 2022) and reached 4.6 million. Fiber optics accesses continued to grow at a noteworthy rate (+7.1%), although slightly lower than in the previous year (+10.1% in 2022). Traffic volume associated with broadband internet access reached 16.7 billion GB, having grown by 19.0% (+9.9% in 2022).

Figure 7. Internet Fixed Access coverage, 2018-2023



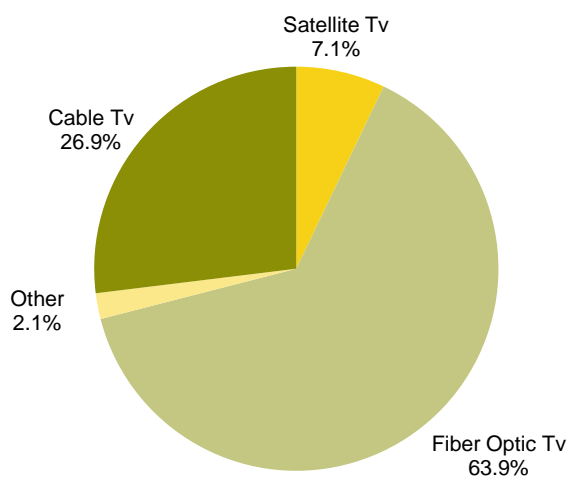
Source: ANACOM



Increase in the number of fiber optic television subscribers

The number of subscribers to the TV signal distribution service continued to grow in 2023 (+2.1%, +3.1% in 2022) and reached 4.6 million subscribers. Fiber optic service (FTTH), as in the previous year, was the only service to record an increase in the number of subscribers (+7.2%; +10.4% in 2022) and represented 63.9% of the total, reaching 2.9 million subscribers.

Figure 8. Distribution of subscribers TV by type of subscription, 2023



Source: ANACOM

Postal network with more access points and less traffic

In 2023, the national postal network grew 16.2%, after 9.2% growth in 2022 and is comprised of 19,086 access points. There were 569 post offices, maintaining the number from the previous year (-0.2% in 2022), while letter posts grew by 0.2% (+0.9% in 2022) to 1,806 letter posts. Postal traffic decreased by 4.9% in 2023 (-4.2% in 2022), with 535.1 million objects dispatched.



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EXPLANATORY NOTES

The results presented are developed in the publication "Statistics on Transport and Communications 2023".

The information disclosed was based on the following sources:

Rail transport

Inquiries to the passenger and freight rail transport companies and to the metro systems, "Infraestruturas de Portugal SA" and "Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes IP" (IMT).

Road transport

Surveys for Road Transport of Passengers and Goods; "Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes IP" IMT; "Autoridade Nacional de Segurança Rodoviária" (ANSR); "Direção Geral de Energia e Geologia" (DGEG); "Associação do Comércio Automóvel de Portugal" (ACAP).

Maritime and waterway transport

Surveys for maritime transport of passengers and freight and for river transport (port administrations, river transport companies, municipalities, IMT and "DocaPesca SA").

Air transport

ANAC – Autoridade Nacional de Aviação Civil e ANA – Aeroportos de Portugal SA.

Transport by pipeline

REN Gasodutos SA and CLC - Companhia Logística de Combustíveis SA.

Communications

Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) and the main communications companies.

These and other information on Statistics on Transport and Communications are available on the Official Statistics Portal at www.ine.pt.



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ACRONYMS AND DESIGNATIONS

ANA	Aeroportos de Portugal (Enterprise that manages the airports)
ANAC	Civil Aviation National Authority
ANACOM	Communications National Authority
ANSR	Road Safety National Authority
CAE	National Economic Activity Classification (similar to Nace Rev.2)
CLC	Companhia Logística de Combustíveis SA (Enterprise that manages the oil lines)
DGEG	Directorate General for Energy and Geology
DTH	Direct to Home (Satellite distribution service)
FTTH	Fiber to the Home (Optic Fiber distribution service)
IMT	Portuguese Road Agency (Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes)
INE	Statistics Portugal
ITRM	Road Freight Transport Survey
NST	Standard Goods Classification for transport statistics, 2007
REN	Rede Elétrica Nacional (Enterprise that manages the energy infrastructure)

UNITS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percentage
GB	Gigabyte
GWh	GigaWatt per hour
lkm	Seats kilometer
N.º	Number
p.p.	Percentual points
pkm	Passenger kilometer
toe	Tonnes of oil equivalent