

Introduction

The *Regional Statistical Yearbooks*, firstly launched in the early nineties, were the key publication regarding the dissemination of statistical data at regional and municipal levels. The 2023 edition continues the new format of dissemination by subchapter, started in the 2020 edition, in the area dedicated to municipalities of the Statistics Portugal Web Portal, allowing a more direct consultation of integrated data for the seven NUTS 2 regions of the country.

The contents are presented in [Thematic Folders - Municipalities - Regional Statistical Yearbooks](#) and are organised into four main chapters — *Territory, People, Economic Activity* and *State* — which are, in turn, analysed in 27 sections. Each section begins with a set of key indicators aiming at giving the user a glance at the position of the different territorial units. Tables are presented in Portuguese and English, and with the respective links to the Statistics Portugal's online Database (www.ine.pt), making it possible to access to the respective retrospective data series and corresponding metadata for approximately 90% of the information provided.

In this edition, in the *Territory* chapter, the section on **Territory**, the information on census localities by population size is updated, based on the definitive results of the Population and housing census 2021. In the *People* chapter, the **Population** section, it is worth highlighting the start of the release of the results of the median age of the resident population at municipality level. In the *Economic Activity* chapter, the **Energy** subchapter includes the synthetic indicator *Domestic consumption of electricity and natural gas per inhabitant*. The **Construction and Housing** section, the information for monitoring the dynamics of the real estate market has been strengthened by presenting values for the 1st and 3rd quartiles (values corresponding to the first quarter and the third quarter of the sorted set of data) of *House Rental statistics at local level*. Lastly, the **Science and Technology** subchapter provides the results of the National Scientific and Technological Potential Survey (IPCTN), by municipality.

The 2023 *Regional Statistical Yearbooks* are based on the Common Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS 2013). The Portuguese NUTS 2013 set out by the regulation (EC) No. 868/2014 and they have been into force within the European and National Statistical System since January 1st, 2015. For the analysis of information according to the intensity of urbanization, TIPAU 2014 was used, which constitutes an exhaustive classification of Portuguese parishes in three categories: predominantly urban area (PUA), medium urban area (MUA) and predominantly rural area (PRA). The territorial administrative division at municipality level – the territorial unit of reference for most of the information presented – is the one set out by the Administrative Division Code of the National Statistical System (NSS) and corresponding delimitation of the country's administrative boundaries according to the Official Administrative Map of Portugal (CAOP) produced by Directorate-General for the Territorial Development (DGT).

In this context, it should be noted that the next edition of the *Regional Statistical Yearbooks* will adopt the NUTS 2024 version, established by European Regulation 2023/674, which will apply to the ESS and NSS as of January 1, 2024. This new version of the NUTS structures the national territory into 9 level 2 regions and 26 level 3 sub-regions.

The period under analysis may vary as a result of a large variety of sources being used. Nevertheless, the reference year for most of the indicators corresponds to 2022.

Statistics Portugal (INE) wishes to thank all the institutions that have contributed with the timely provision of statistical data to make the *Regional Statistical Yearbooks* possible.

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