

## Demographic Statistics

2018

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### **The mean number of children per woman was 1.41, the highest value since 2005**

In 2018, the resident population in Portugal was estimated at 10,276,617 people, a decline of 14,410 inhabitants from the previous year.

The number of live births was 87,020, an increase of 1.0% compared with 2017 (86,154). The total fertility rate increased to 1.41 children per woman (1.37 in 2017).

The mean age of women at childbirth continued to increase, reaching 31.4 years (31.2 in 2017), while the mean age at first childbirth increased to 29.8 years (29.6 years in 2017).

The number of deaths was 113,051, an increase of 3.0% when compared to 2017 (109,758). The number of infant deaths was 287, more 58 deaths than in 2017. The infant mortality rate increased to 3.3 deaths per thousand live births (2.7‰ in 2017).

In 2018, 34,637 marriages were celebrated in Portugal, an increase of 3.0% over the previous year (33,634). The mean age at first marriage was 33.6 years for men and 32.1 years for women (33.2 years and 31.6 years, respectively in 2017).

The number of divorces decreased 5.7%, to 20,345. The mean age at divorce was 47.1 years for men and 44.6 years for women.

The number of permanent immigrants who entered Portugal in 2018 was estimated at 43,170, 17.8% more than in 2017 (36,639), and the number of permanent emigrants who left the country was estimated at 31,600, 0.5% less than in 2017 (31,753). Thus the net migration was positive for the second consecutive year (4,886 in 2017 and 11,570 in 2018).

In 2018, 28,856 foreigners acquired Portuguese citizenship, 23.7% higher than in 2017 (23,320): 21,333 citizenship acquisitions were attributed to foreigners residing in Portugal and 7,523 to residents abroad.

In spite of the increase of the number of live births, decreasing emigration and rising immigration, the demographic situation in Portugal in 2018 continues to be characterized by a decrease in the resident population, although it has been attenuated in the last two years.

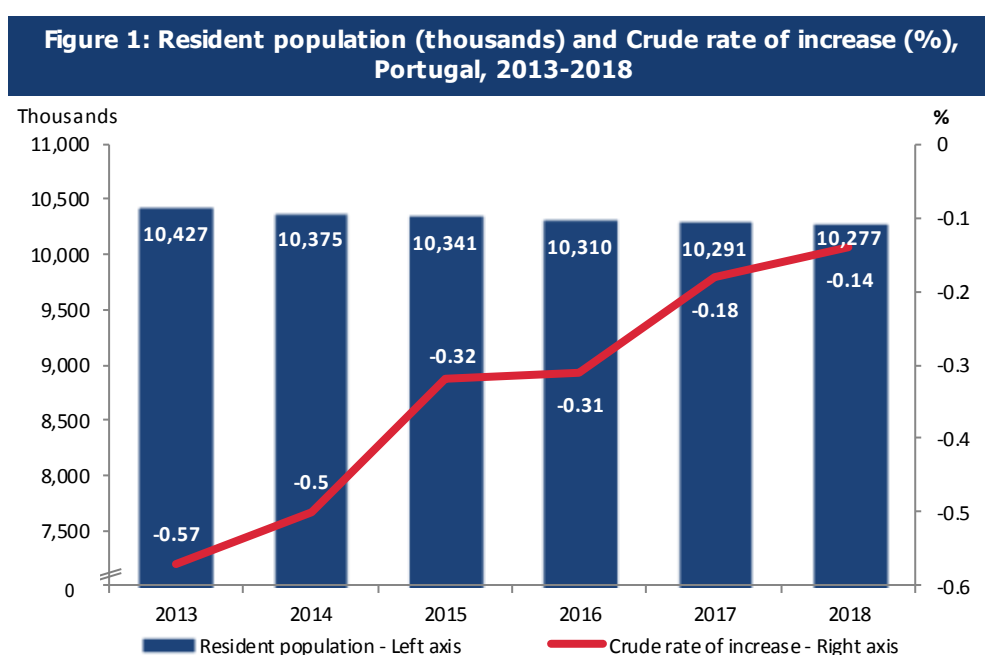
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Statistics Portugal releases today on its website - [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt) - the publication [Demographic Statistics 2018](#), which presents an analysis of the demographic situation: resident population (volume and structure), births and fertility, mortality and life expectancy, family formation and dissolution (celebrated marriages and dissolved marriages by divorce or death), international migration, and acquisition of Portuguese citizenship.

## 1. Resident population

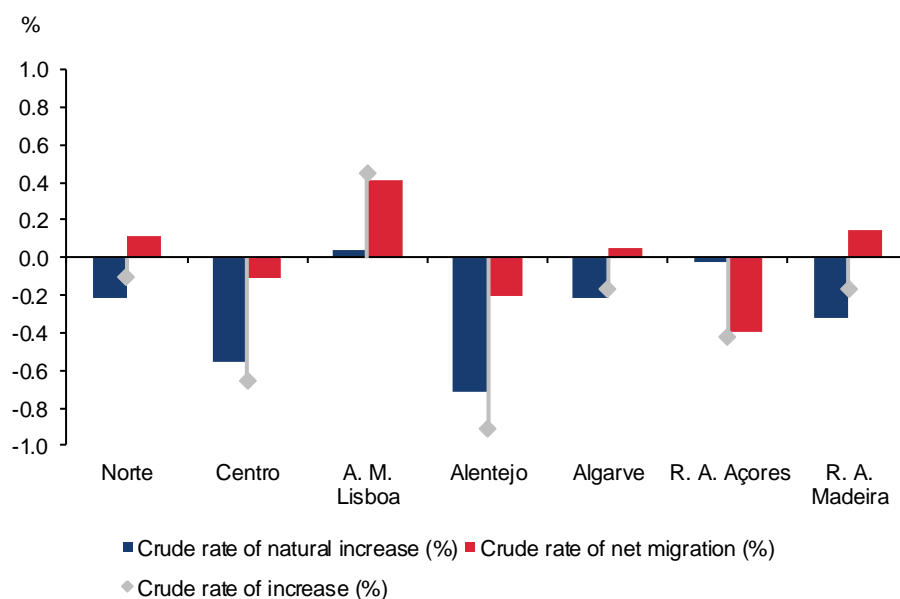
*The decline of the resident population continued in 2018, albeit at a slower pace*

In 2018, the resident population in Portugal was estimated at 10,276,617 people, accounting for a 14,410 decline from the previous year. The crude rate of total population increase was -0.14% (-0.18% in 2017), which resulted from a crude rate of natural increase of -0.25% and from a crude rate of net migration of +0.11%. The population's downward trend observed since 2010 continued in 2018, although in the last two years at a slower pace.



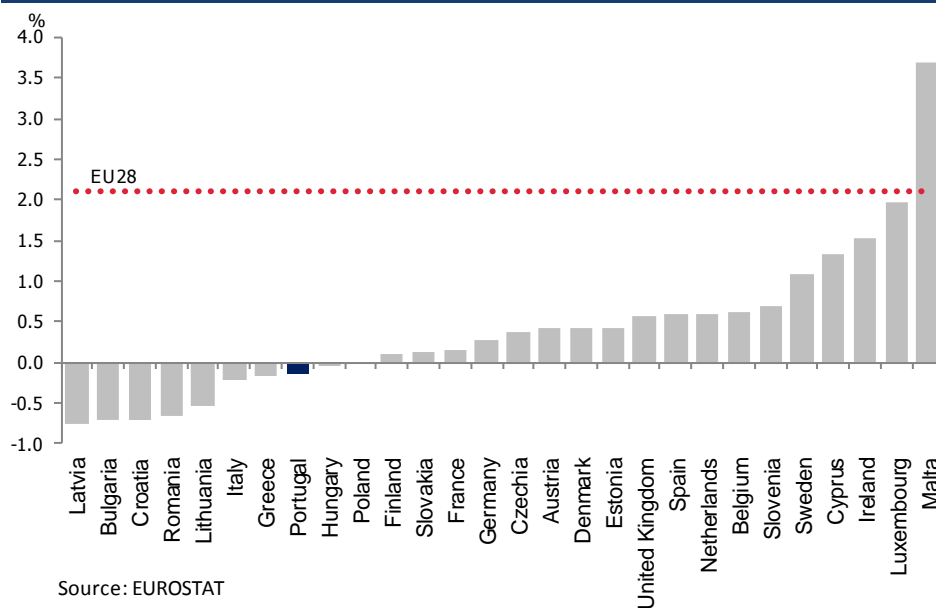
The Área Metropolitana de Lisboa was, in 2018, the only region NUTS 2 where the resident population increased, with a crude rate of total population increase of 0.45%. Although this increase was mainly due to migratory growth (0.41%), the Área Metropolitana de Lisboa was also the only region that had a positive crude rate of natural increase (0.04%). In 2018, Alentejo was the region that lost the most population, with a crude rate of total population increase of -0.91%, as a result of negative crude rates of net migration and natural increase, respectively of -0.20 and -0.72.

**Figure 2: Crude rates of total population increase, natural and net migration increase (%), NUTS 2, 2018**



In 2018, the resident population of European Union (EU28) increased by 1.1 million people (+0.21%). The population increased in eighteen Member States and decreased in ten. The largest increase was observed in Malta (+3.68%), ahead of Luxembourg (+1.96%), Ireland (+1.52%), Cyprus (+1.34%), Sweden (+1.08%), Slovenia (+0.68%), Belgium (+0.61%), Spain and the Netherlands (both +0.59%) and the United Kingdom (+0.56%). The largest population decrease was recorded in Latvia (-0.75%), followed by Bulgaria and Croatia (both -0.71%), Romania (-0.66%) and Lithuania (-0.53%). Portugal, being among the countries with negative crude rates of total population increase (-0.14%), ranks third among those which lost fewer population, behind Poland (-0.01%) and Hungary (-0.06%).

**Figure 3: Crude rate of total population increase (%), EU28, 2018**

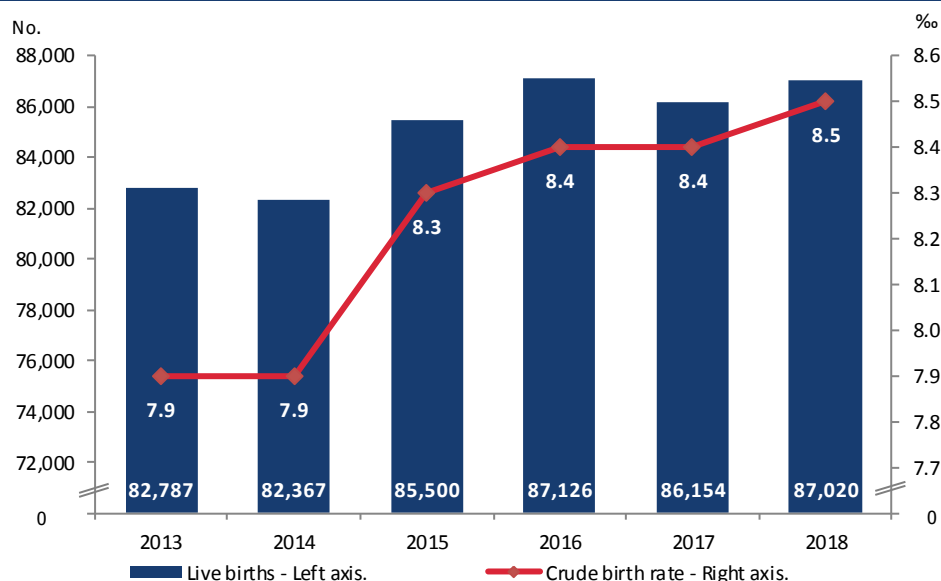


## 2. Births and fertility

*Number of live births increased 1.0%, and total fertility rate rose to 1.41*

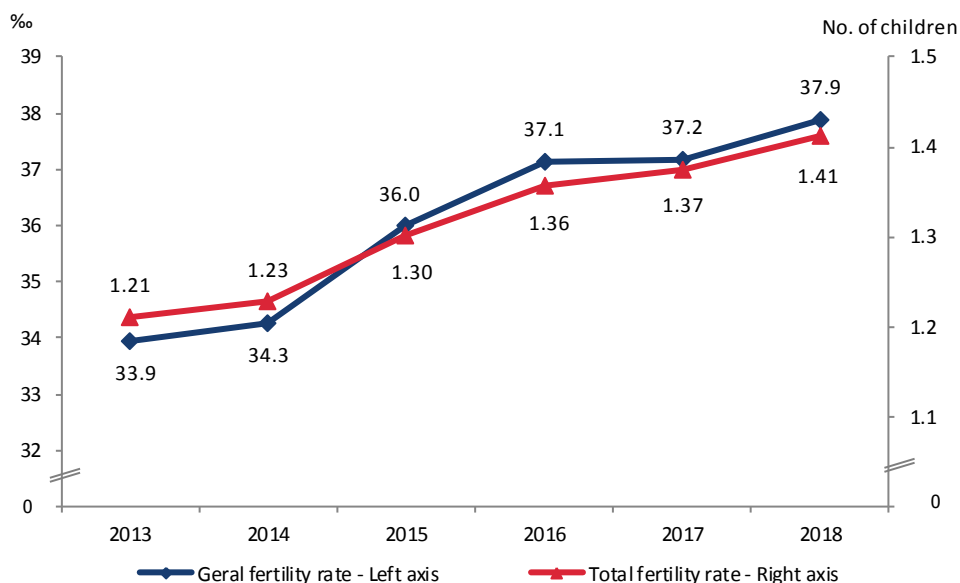
In 2018, there were 87,020 live births from mothers residing in Portugal, corresponding to an increase of 1.0% when compared to 2017. This increase contributed to a slight increase of the crude birth rate to 8.5 live births per thousand inhabitants (8.4 in 2017).

**Figure 4: Live births (No.) and Crude birth rate (‰), Portugal, 2013-2018**



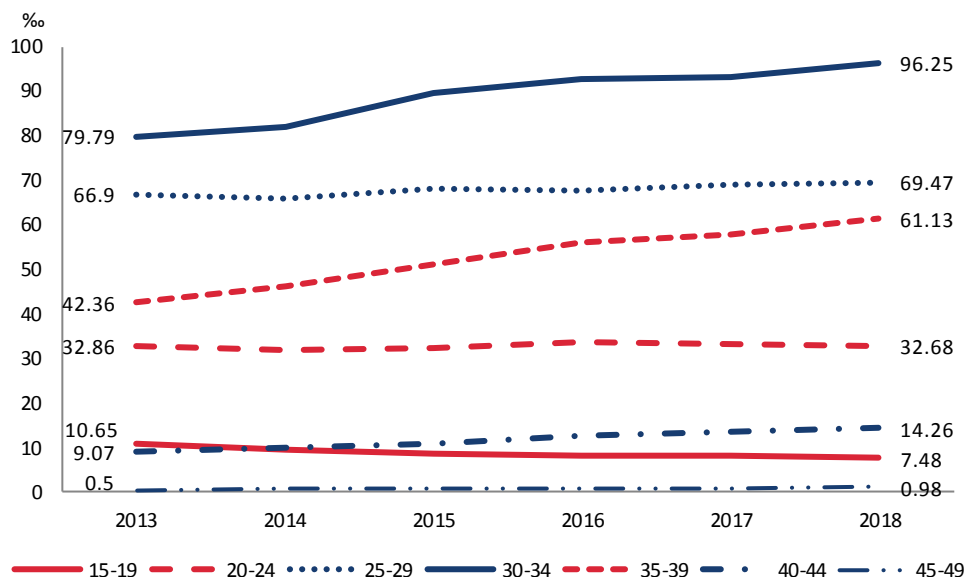
After recording a minimum of 1.21 children per woman of childbearing age in 2013, the total fertility rate (TFR) has been recovering, reaching 1.41 in 2018.

**Figure 5: General fertility rate (‰) and Total fertility rate (No.), Portugal, 2013-2018**



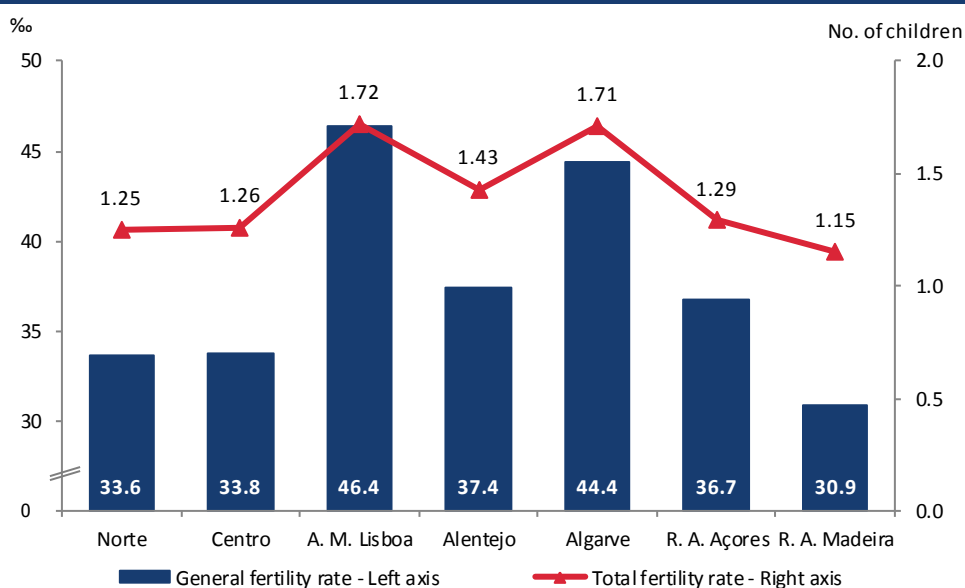
This increase in fertility resulted from the positive change in the general fertility rate (37.9 live births per thousand women aged 15-49, compared to 37.2 in 2017). The decomposition by women's age showed that, compared with 2017, the highest increases in fertility rates were observed in the age groups 30-34 and 35-39 years, noting that there were increases in all age groups over 25 years.

**Figure 6: Specific fertility rates by age group (%), Portugal, 2013-2018**

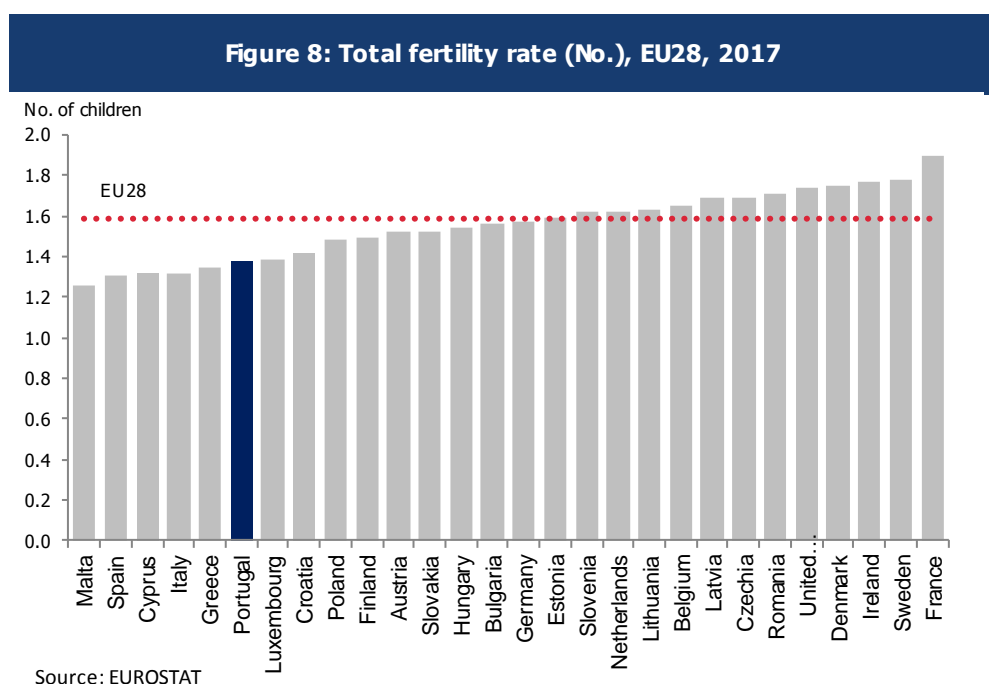


By region, the highest total fertility rates were recorded in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Algarve, respectively, 1.72 and 1.71 live births per woman of childbearing age. In Região Autónoma da Madeira was registered the lowest value for this indicator (1.15).

**Figure 7: General fertility rate (%) and Total fertility rate (No.), NUTS 2, 2018**



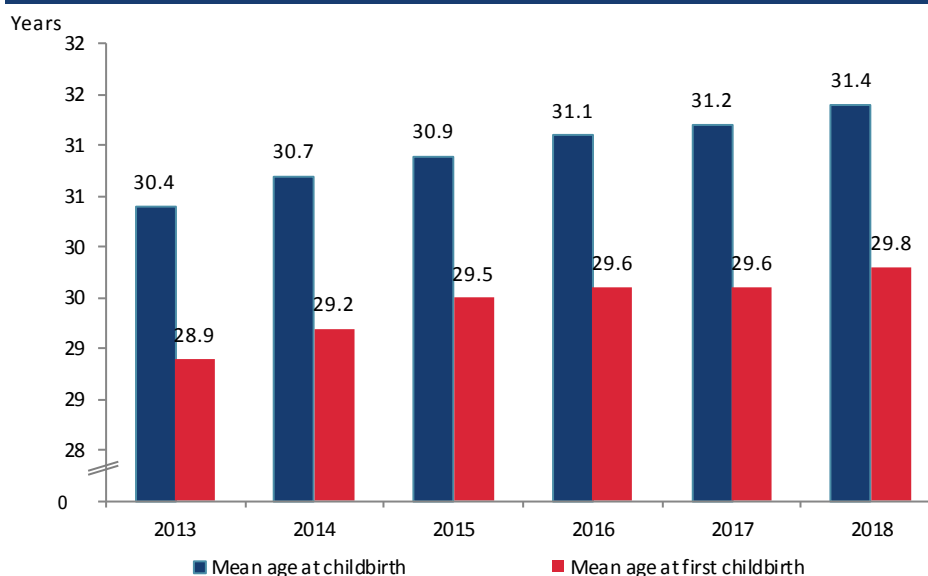
In 2017, the most recent year for which comparable data are available from Eurostat, the TFR in the EU28 was 1.59 children per woman. The highest value of TFR belonged to France (1.90 children per woman of childbearing age) and the lowest to Malta (1.26 children per woman of childbearing age). Portugal was the sixth EU28 country with the lowest TFR.



**Mean age of women at childbirth continues to increase**

Between 2013 and 2018 the mean age of women at childbirth rose from 30.4 to 31.4 years and the mean age of women at first childbirth increased from 28.9 to 29.8 years.

**Figure 9: Mean age of women at childbirth and at first childbirth (years), Portugal, 2013-2018**



### 3. Mortality<sup>1</sup> and life expectancy

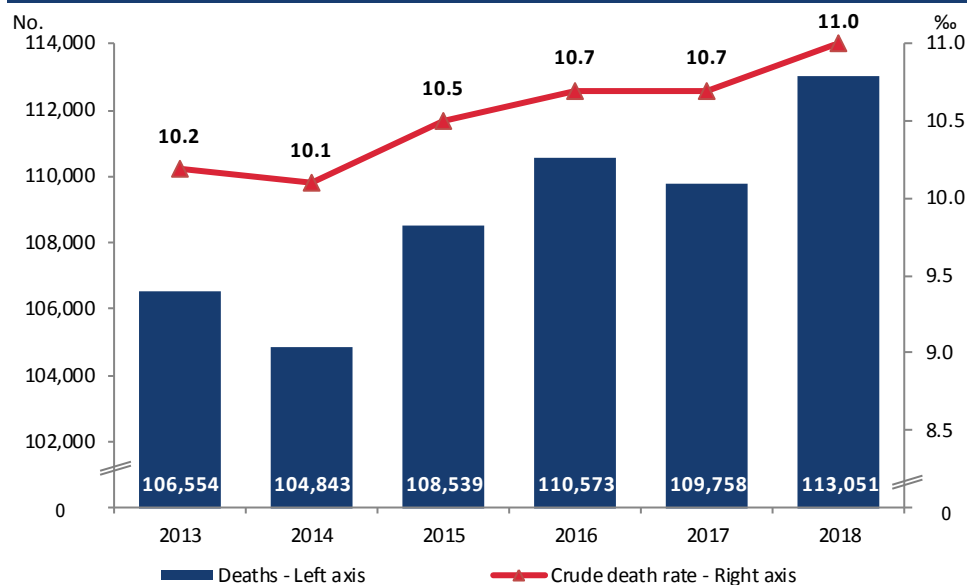
#### *Number of deaths increased 3.0%*

In 2018, there were 113,051 deaths of residents in Portugal (50.2% male deaths and 49.8% female deaths), leading to an increase of 3.0% (3,293 deaths) compared with 2017. The crude death rate was 11.0‰, slightly higher than in 2017 (10.7‰).

<sup>1</sup> Mortality data for 2018 are those available in October 2019, updated as a result of the final codification of causes of death in the death registers for 2018. As such the data here presented differ from those previously made available by Statistics Portugal in the press releases "Vital Statistics 2018" and "Portugal Resident Population Estimates 2018", published, respectively, April 29<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

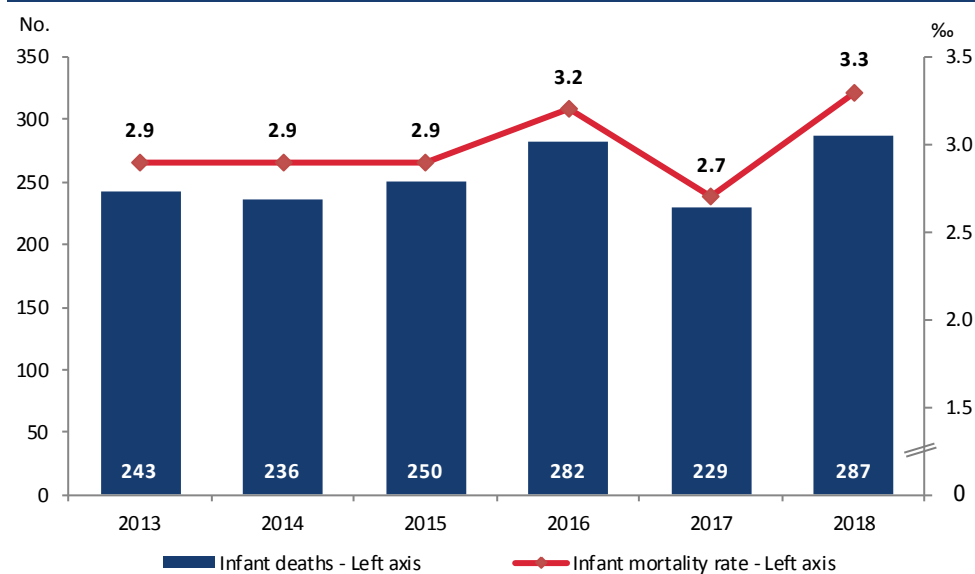


**Figure 10: Deaths (No.) and Crude death rate (%), Portugal, 2013-2018**



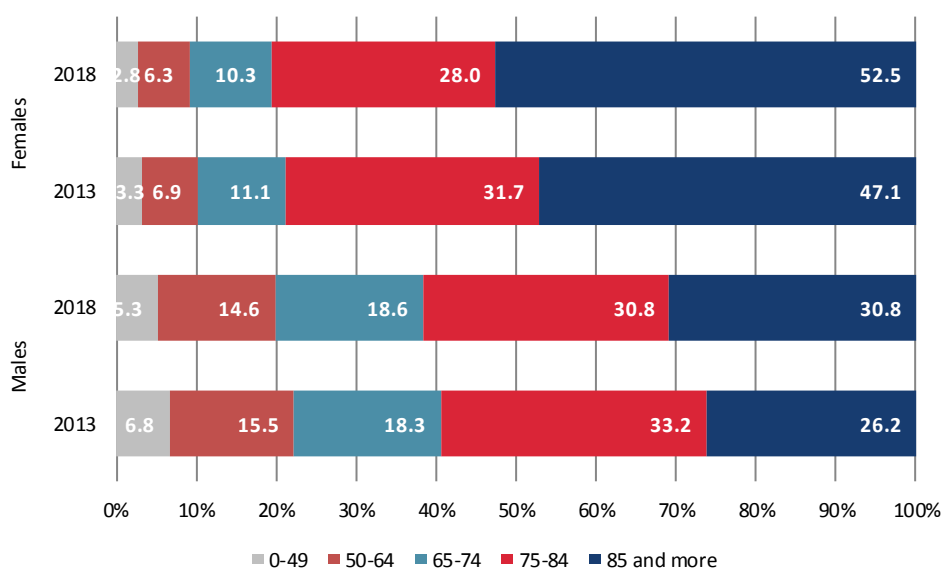
In 2018, there were 287 infant deaths, corresponding to an increase when compared with the previous year (more 58 infant deaths). The infant mortality rate increased to 3.3 deaths per thousand live births (2.7 ‰ in 2017).

**Figure 11: Infant deaths (No.) and Infant mortality rate (%), Portugal, 2013-2018**



In 2018, of the total deaths of residents in Portugal, 41.6% (40.7% in 2017) occurred at ages of 85 years old and over. More than half (52.5%) of the female deaths occurred at ages of 85 years and over (51.5% in 2017) while the majority of male deaths still occur at ages below 85 years (69.2% in 2018).

**Figure 12: Distribution of deaths by sex and age groups (%), Portugal, 2013-2018**

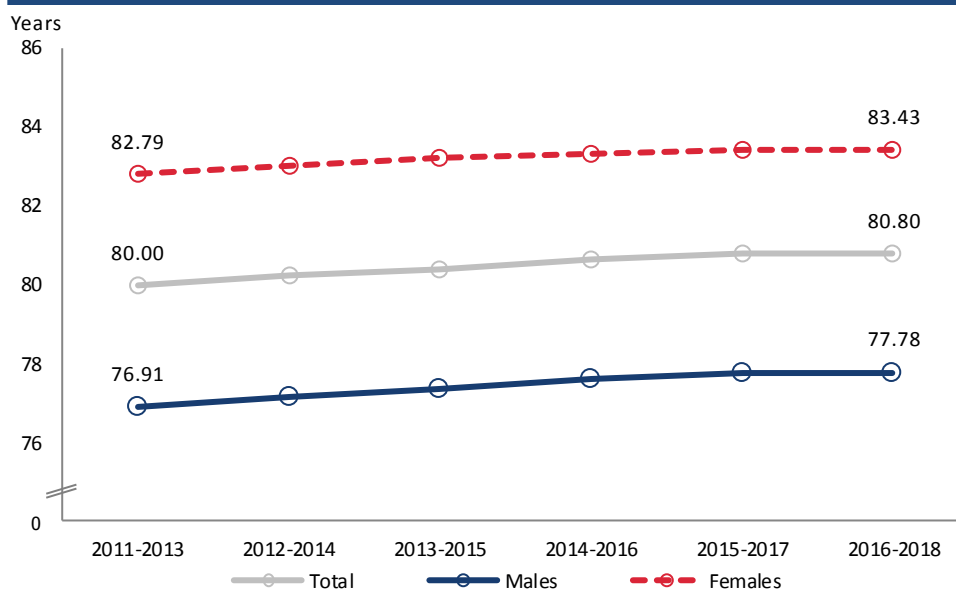


**Higher gains in life expectancy for males, but higher longevity for women**

Life expectancy at birth for the total population was estimated at 80.80 years in the 2016-2018 triennium.

Although recent gains in expected life years were higher for the male population (0.87 years for men and 0.64 years for women, between 2011-2013 and 2016-2018), life expectancy at birth continues to be higher for women. In the period 2016-2018, women could expect to live 83.43 years and men 77.78 years.

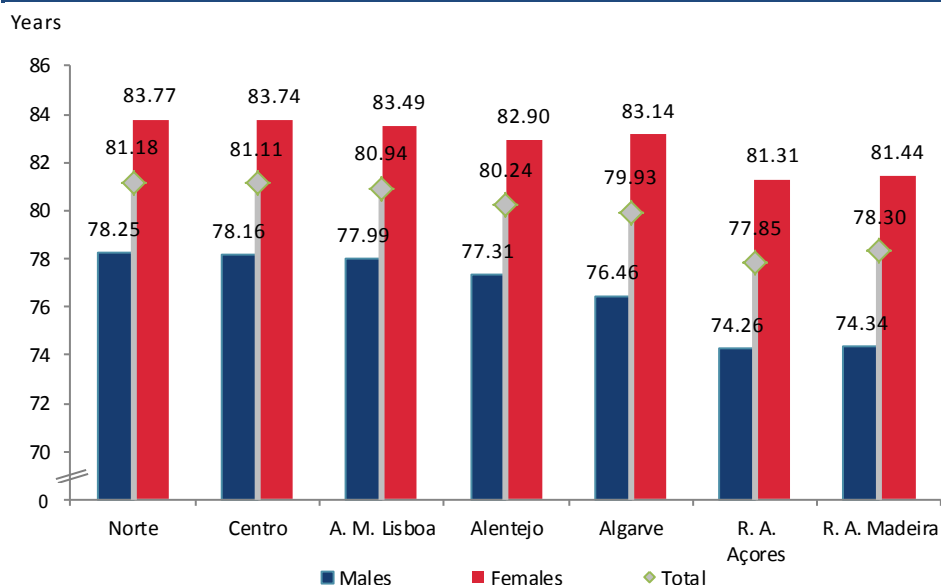
**Figure 13: Life expectancy at birth (years), Portugal, 2011-2013 to 2016-2018**



The region Norte recorded the highest values of life expectancy at birth for total population, for men and women. By contrast, the autonomous regions of Madeira and Açores registered the lowest values for life expectancy at birth for total population as well as for men and women.

The greatest differences in longevity between men and women in 2016-2018 were recorded in the autonomous regions of Madeira and Açores, where women could expect to live, on average, 7.10 and 7.05 years more than men, respectively. The Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Norte showed the smallest differences in longevity between the two sexes (5.50 and 5.52 years, respectively).

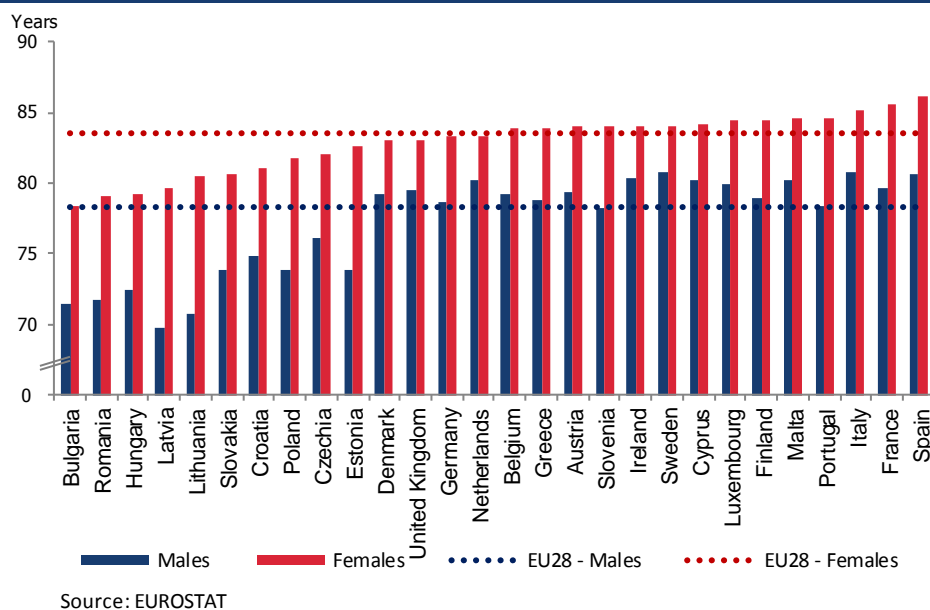
**Figure 14: Life expectancy at birth (years), NUTS 2, 2016-2018**



In 2017, the most recent year for which comparable data are available from Eurostat, life expectancy at birth in the European Union (EU28) was estimated at 80.9 years.

Portugal's position is more favourable for women, occupying the 4<sup>th</sup> position in the EU28 ranking, while for men the country occupies the 17<sup>th</sup> position. Spain is the country with the highest female life expectancy of 86.1 years, 1.5 years more than in Portugal. In the case of men, in the 1<sup>st</sup> position are Italy and Sweden, both with 80.8 years old, 2.4 years more than in Portugal.

**Figure 15: Life expectancy at birth (years), UE28, 2017**



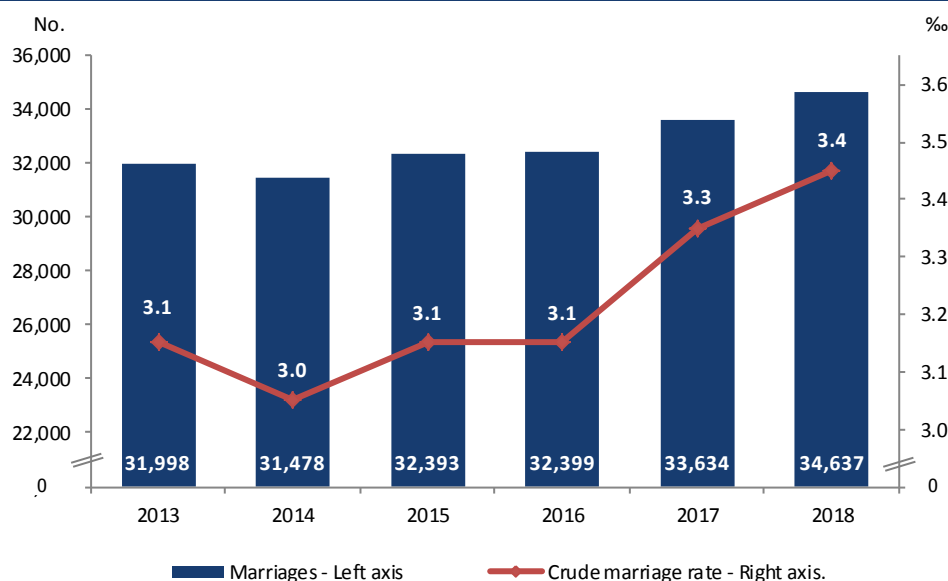
#### 4. Marriages and divorces

*Number of marriages increased 3.0% and number of divorces decreased 5.7%*

In 2018, 34,637 marriages took place in Portugal, from which 607 were between same sex couples. The total number of marriages increased by 1,003 when compared with 2017 (33,634), consequence of the increase of marriages both between opposite sex couples (more 919 marriages) and same sex couples (more 84 marriages).

The crude marriage rate increased to 3.4 marriages per thousand inhabitants (3.3 in 2017).

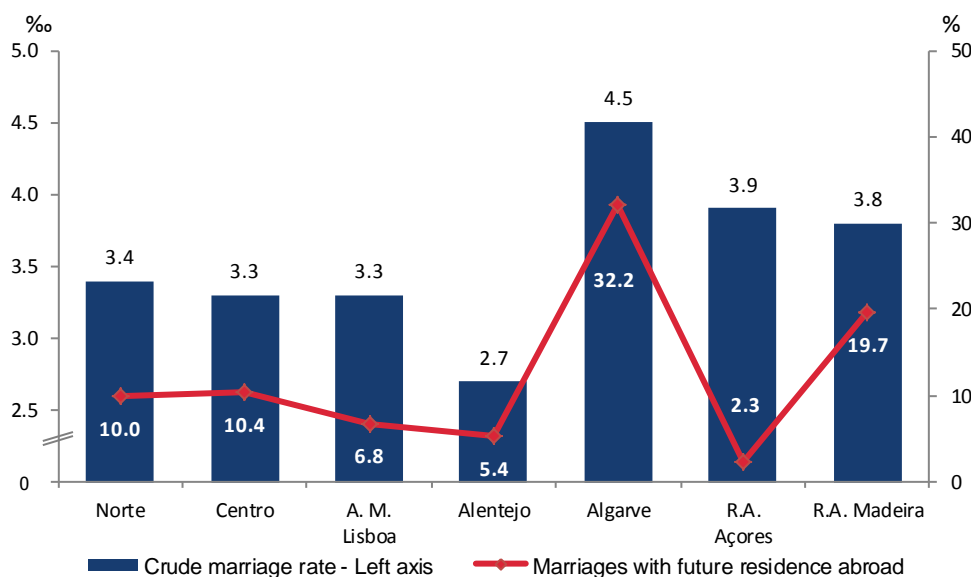
**Figura 16: Marriages (No.) and Crude marriage rate (‰), Portugal, 2013-2018**



Alentejo recorded the lowest crude marriage rate. By contrast, Algarve and the autonomous regions of Açores and Madeira registered the highest rates, respectively, 4.5 ‰, 3.9 ‰ and 3.8 ‰.

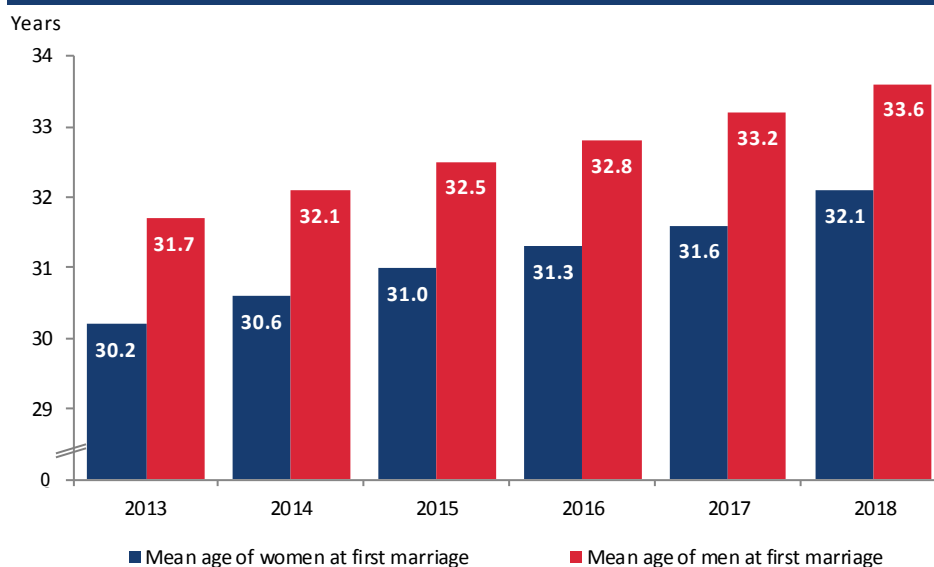
In 2018, in 10.3% of the marriages that took place in Portugal, the spouses declared that their future residence would be abroad. This proportion was clearly higher in the Algarve (32.2%) and in the Região Autónoma da Madeira (19.7%). The regions Norte and Centro registered proportions close to the national value. With a proportion below the national value were Área Metropolitana de Lisboa, Alentejo, and Região Autónoma dos Açores.

**Figure 17: Crude marriage rate (‰) and Marriages with future residence abroad (%), NUTS 2, 2018**



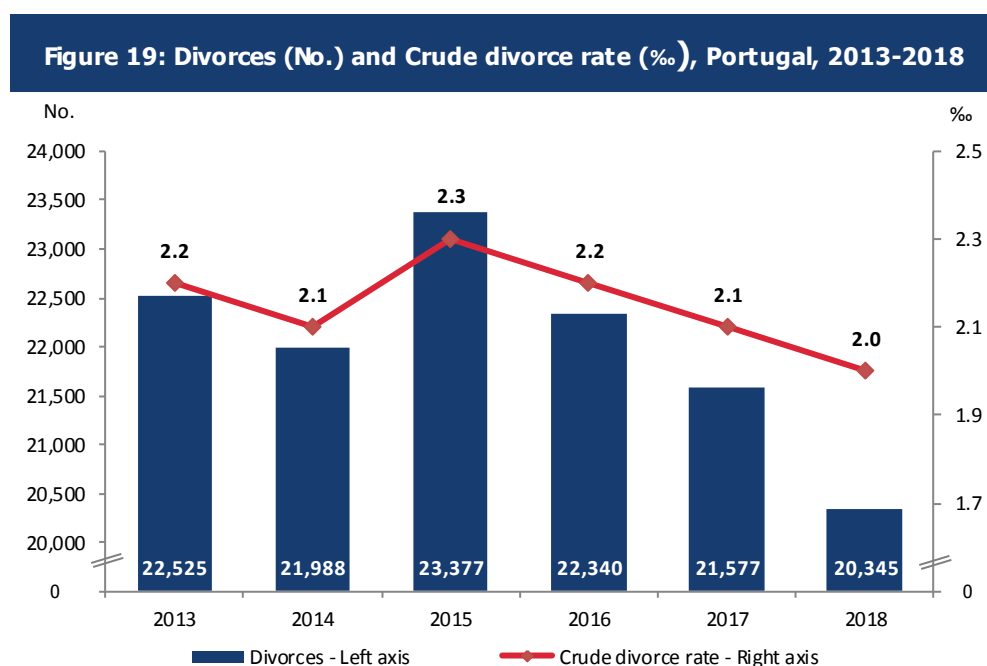
The postponement of marriage to older ages is a trend that has continued over the last decades for both sexes: the mean age at first marriage in 2018 was 33.6 years for men and 32.1 years for women, compared with 33.2 years and 31.6 years, respectively, in 2017.

**Figure 18: Mean age at first marriage (years) by sex, Portugal, 2013-2018**



In 2018, there were 20,345 divorces of couples whose family address was in Portugal, 1,232 less than in 2017.

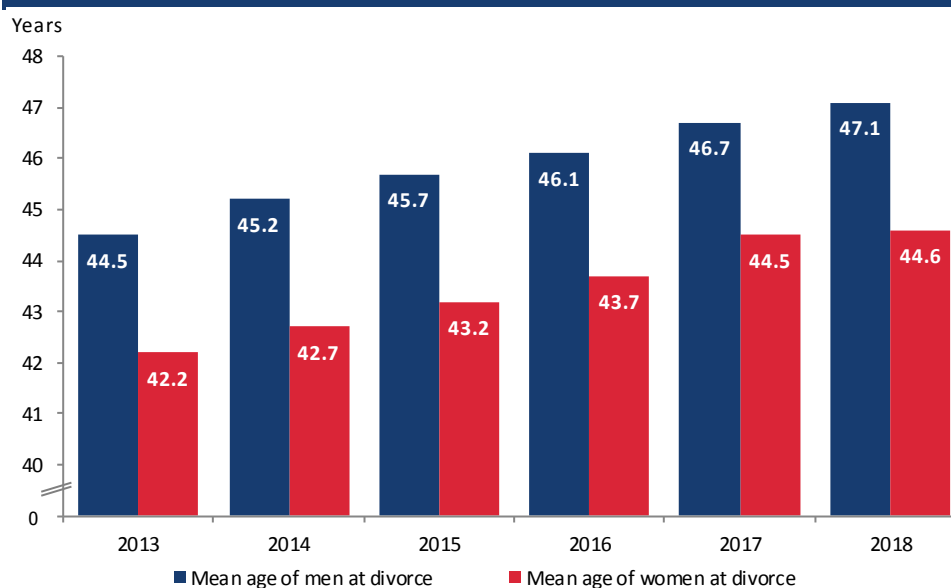
The crude divorce rate follows the trend of the number of divorces, reaching, in 2018, 2.0 divorces per thousand inhabitants, slightly lower than in the previous year (2.1‰).



The mean age at divorce was 45.9 for both sexes, higher than the one registered in the previous year, which stood at 45.6 years. The mean age at divorce for men was 47.1 years and 44.6 years for women.



Figure 20: Mean age at divorce (years) by sex, Portugal, 2013-2018



## 5. International migration

*Number of immigrants continued to increase and the number of emigrants decreased for the fifth consecutive year*

In 2018, the number of permanent immigrants (persons who entered Portugal to reside for a period of one year or more) was estimated at 43,170 corresponding to an increase of 17.8% over that estimated for 2017 (36,639).

Of the total number of permanent immigrants:

- 53% were women;
- 47% had Portuguese citizenship;
- 34% were born in Portugal;
- 43% had previously resided in a European Union country;
- 83% were of working age (15-64 years).

The number of permanent emigrants (persons who left Portugal to reside abroad for one year or more) was estimated at 31,600, corresponding to 0.5% less than in 2017 (31,753).

Of the total number of permanent emigrants:

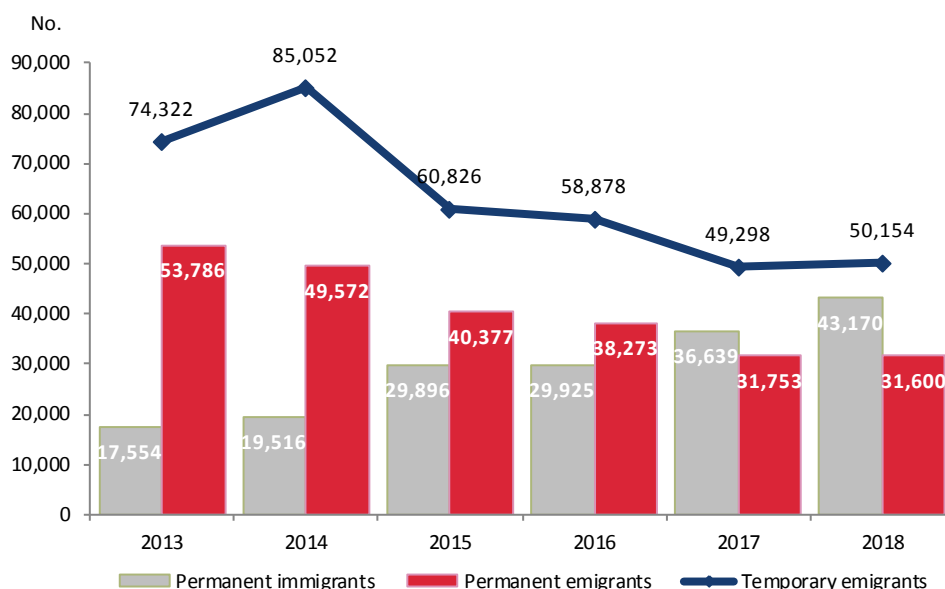
- 73% were men;
- 93% had Portuguese citizenship;
- 68% had a European Union country as destination;

- 94% were of working age.

The estimated values of permanent emigrants and immigrants resulted in a positive net migration for the second consecutive year (4,886 in 2017 and 11,570 in 2018).

The estimated number of persons who left the country with the intention of residing abroad for a period from three months to one year – temporary emigrants – increased by 1.7% when compared with 2017, from 49,298 to 50,154 in 2018.

**Figure 21: Temporary and permanent emigrants and Permanent immigrants (No.), Portugal, 2013-2018**

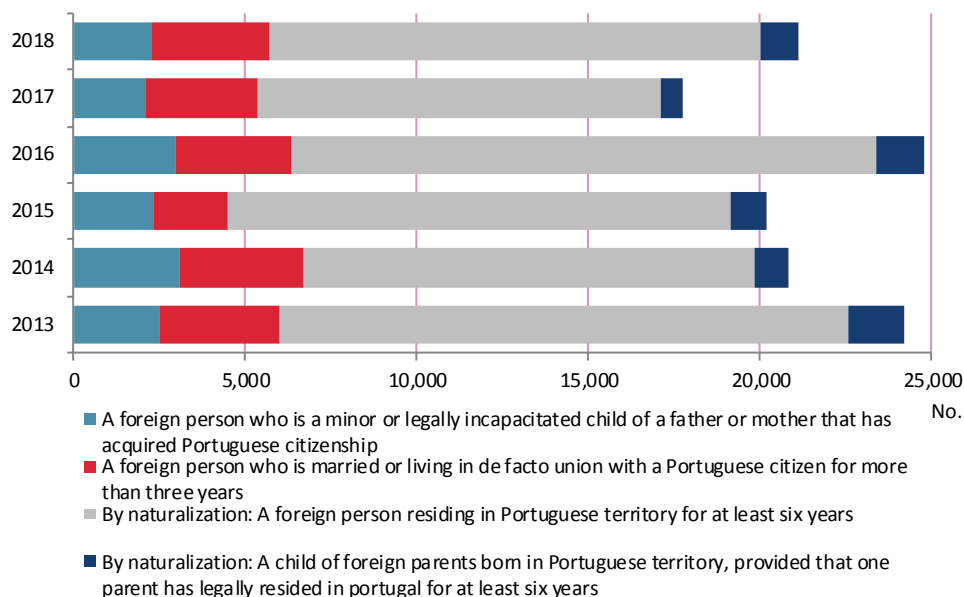


## 6. Portuguese citizenship acquisitions

*Number of Portuguese citizenship acquisitions reached 28,856; 21,333 granted to foreigners residing in Portugal and 7,523 residing abroad.*

In 2018, 21,333 foreigner citizens residing in Portugal acquired Portuguese citizenship, 18.4% higher than 2017 (18,022). The main reason for the acquisition of Portuguese citizenship by foreigners residing in Portugal was naturalization (72.9%), followed by "marriage or *de facto* union with Portuguese citizen for more than three years" (16.0%) and by "minor or legally incapacitated child of a father or mother that has acquired Portuguese citizenship" (10.8%).

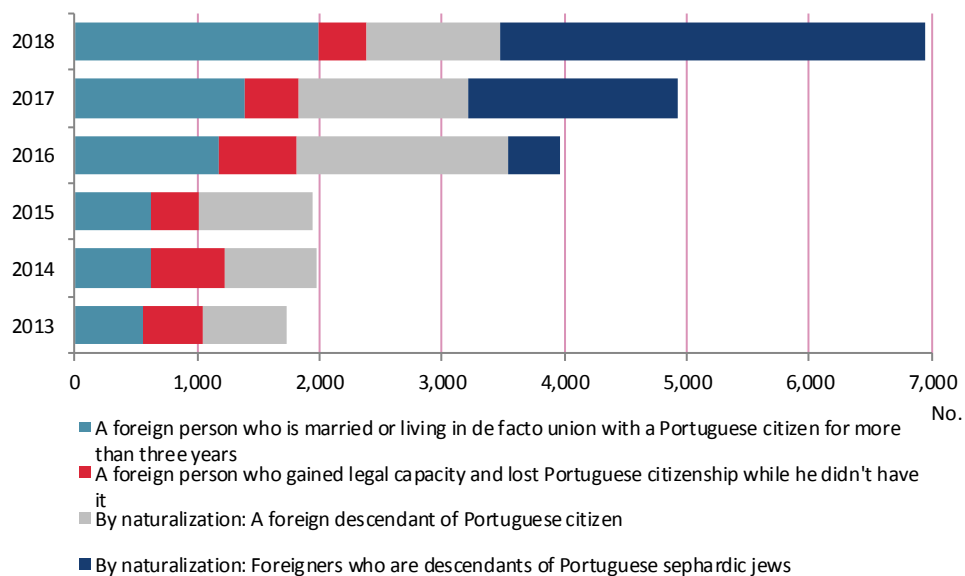
**Figure 22: Foreign population resident in Portugal that acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition, 2013-2018**



Regarding the Portuguese citizenship acquisitions by foreign citizens residing abroad, the trend of increase observed in the last years continued in 2018 (7,523 cases in 2018, an increase of 42.0% over the previous year). This growth is in part a result of legislative changes that have enhanced the possibility of citizenship acquisition by foreign Portuguese descendants and, in particular, of Sephardic Jews of Portuguese origin.

As a matter of fact, in 2018, the main reason for acquiring Portuguese citizenship by non-resident foreigners was being "descendent of Portuguese Sephardic Jews", with 46.2% of the total (3,472 cases). Following, in descending order of importance, "marriage or *de facto* union with a Portuguese citizen for more than three years" with 26.4% of the total (1,986 cases) and "being a descendant of a Portuguese citizen" accounting for 14.7% of the total (1,105 cases).

**Figure 23: Foreign population residing abroad who acquired Portuguese citizenship (No.), by main reasons of acquisition, 2013-2018**



### Technical note

The electronic publication Demographic Statistics is released annually and aims to analyze the various themes of demographic behaviour of the resident population in Portugal, namely aspects related to the volume and age structure of the population, live births and fertility, mortality and life expectancy, family formation and dissolution (marriages and divorces), international migratory movements, foreign population residing or staying in Portugal with legal framework and Portuguese citizenship acquisition.

This edition corresponds to the 78<sup>th</sup> edition of the thematic yearbook on Demography, published by Statistics Portugal since 1935.

The published data are generally disaggregated to the first and second levels of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistical Purposes (NUTS 1 and NUTS 2) and refer to the period 2013-2018. Associated to each figure are hyperlinks to data with greater geographic and temporal detail. Long series of the main demographic indicators with 10-year information are available for the period 1900-1980 and annually from 1980 to 2018 (Chapter 6 - summary tables).

The complete publication, as well as the statistical data supporting the analysis, is available at [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), under the option *Statistical Information > Publications > Population* theme. Also available at [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt) is a broad set of demographic indicators with territorial breakdowns by NUTS 1, 2 and 3 and Municipality, under the option *Statistical Information > Statistical Data > Database > Population*.