

Vital Statistics  
2019

**Live births, deaths, and marriages decrease in 2019**

In 2019, there were 86,579 live births of mothers residing in Portugal. This figure represents a decrease of 0.5% (- 441 children) compared to the previous year. 56.8% of live births were born outside marriage, meaning they were the children of unmarried parents.

The total number of deaths of people residing in the national territory was 111,793, representing a decrease of 1.1% (- 1,258 deaths) compared to 2018. 55,824 of all deaths were men and 55,969 women; 85.6% of deaths occurred at ages 65 and over.

Portugal recorded, for the eleventh consecutive year, a negative natural balance (- 25,214).

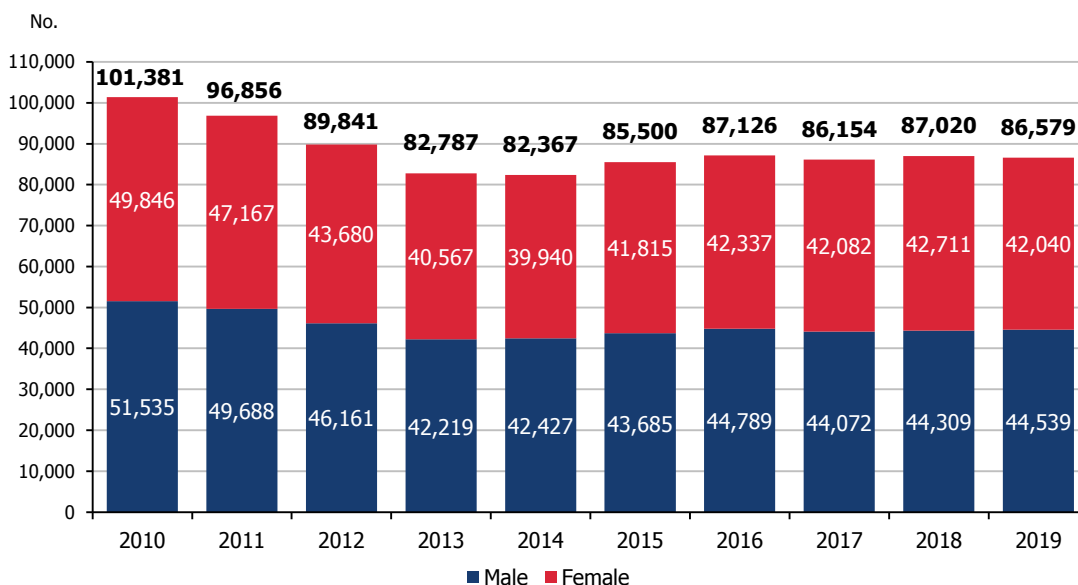
There were 246 deaths of children under 1 year of age (41 fewer than those recorded in 2018), representing a decrease in the infant mortality rate from 3.3 to 2.8 deaths per thousand live births.

33,272 marriages were celebrated, representing a decrease of 3.9% from 2018 (minus 1,365 weddings were celebrated). In more than half of the marriages held in the country (61.1%), the spouses shared residence before marriage. There were 45,720 marriage dissolutions due to the death of one of the spouses, resulting in 13,281 widowers and 32,439 widows.

**Number of live births decreased 0.5%**

In 2019, 86,579 live births were born to mothers residing in Portugal, 0.5% less than in 2018 (87,020).

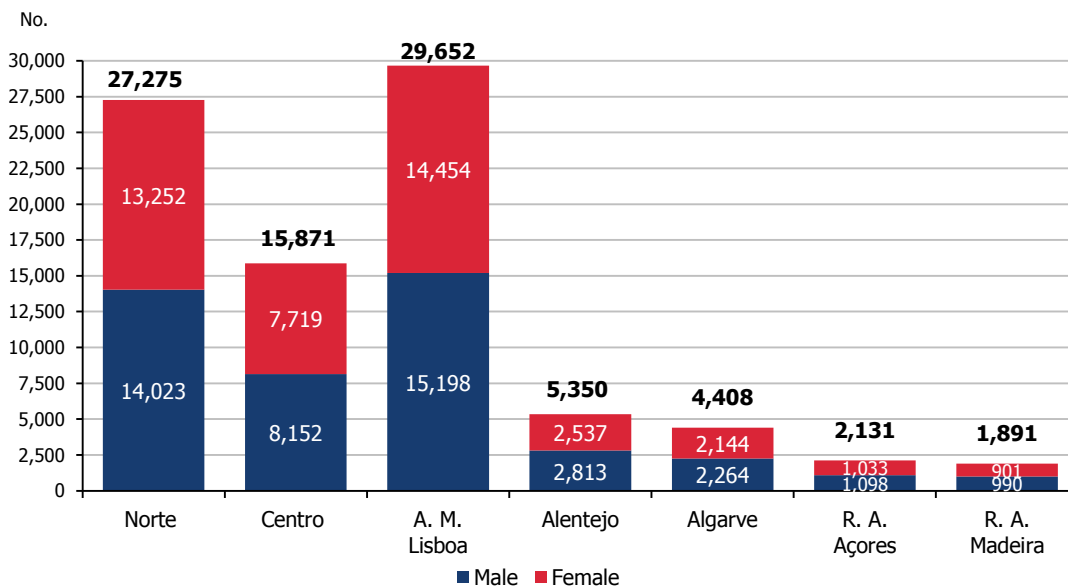
**Figure 1: Live births by sex, Portugal, 2010-2019**



Of the total number of live births, 44,539 were born male and 42,040 were born female, representing a sex ratio of 106. In other words, in 2019, for every 100 females born, around 106 males were born.

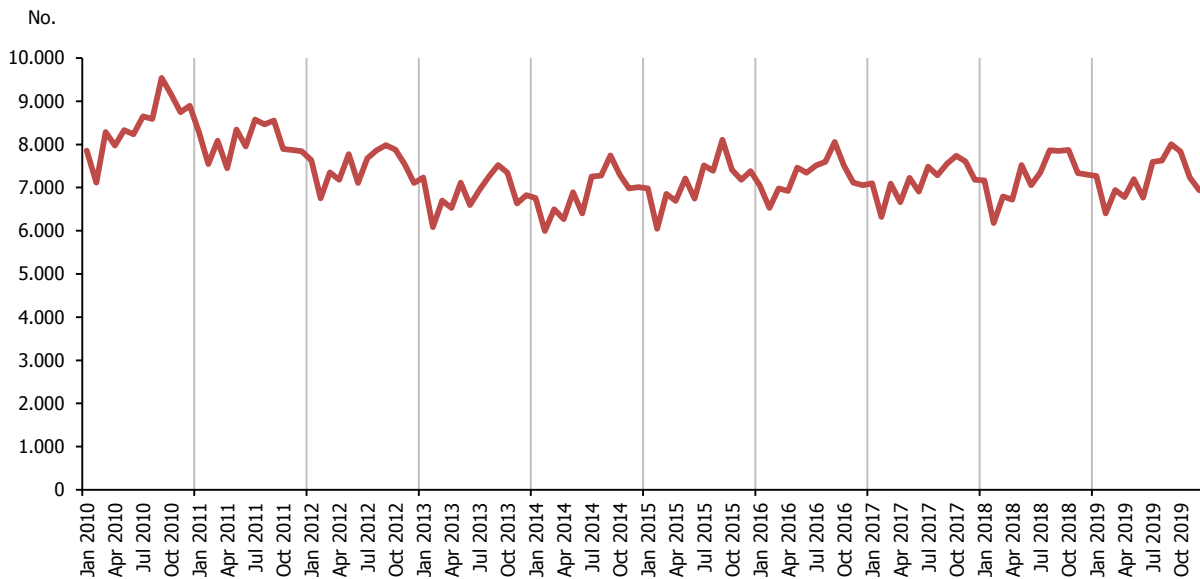
Only Alentejo and Região Autónoma da Madeira registered a sex ratio higher than the value observed in Portugal (111 and 110 respectively).

**Figure 2: Live births by sex, NUTS 2, 2019**



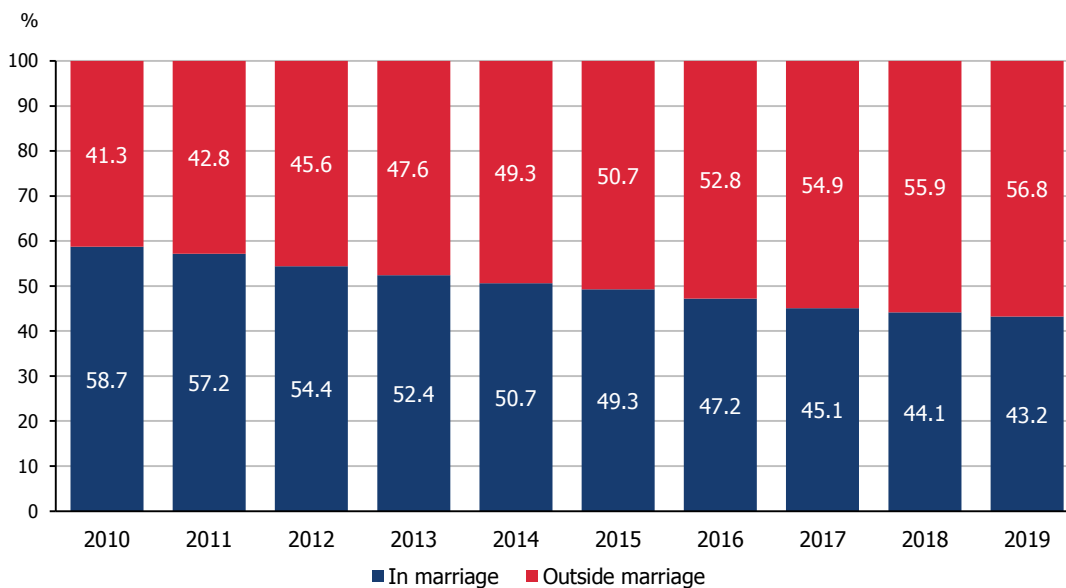
In 2019, as in previous years, the highest number of births was registered in September. Between 2010 and 2019, there was almost always a higher birth rate in this month, with the exception of the years 2017 and 2018 (when the month with the highest number of births was October) and 2011 (when July was the month with the highest number of births).

**Figure 3: Live births by month of birth, Portugal, January 2010 to December 2019**



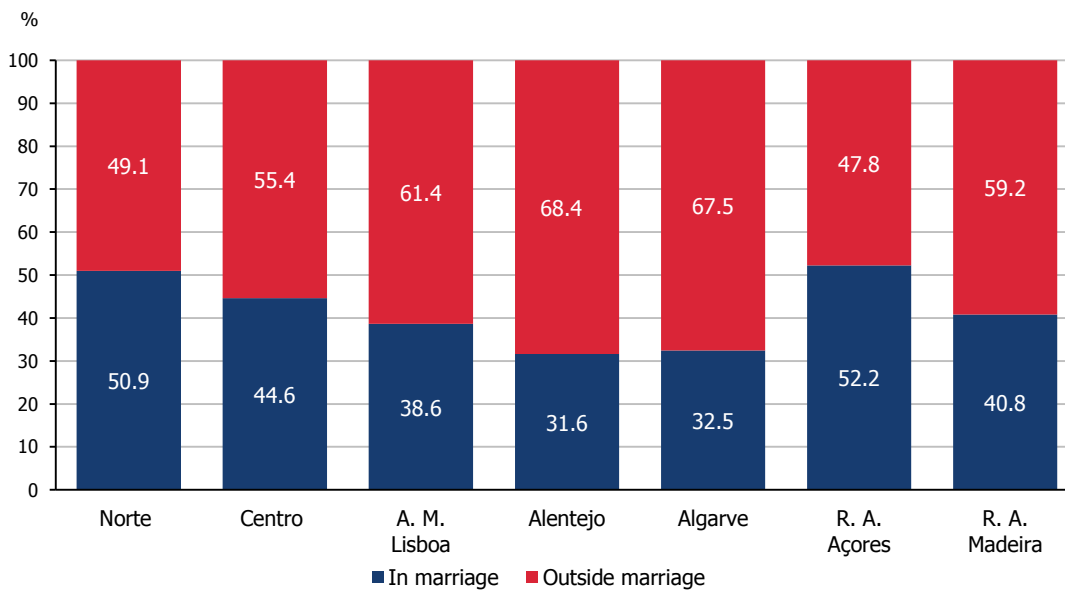
In 2019, the share of live births born outside marriage, that is, children of unmarried parents, increased to 56.8% (55.9% in 2018 and 41.3% in 2010), standing, for the fifth consecutive year, as the highest share of births, with more than half of the total births in Portugal.

**Figure 4: Live births by legitimacy status, Portugal, 2010-2019**



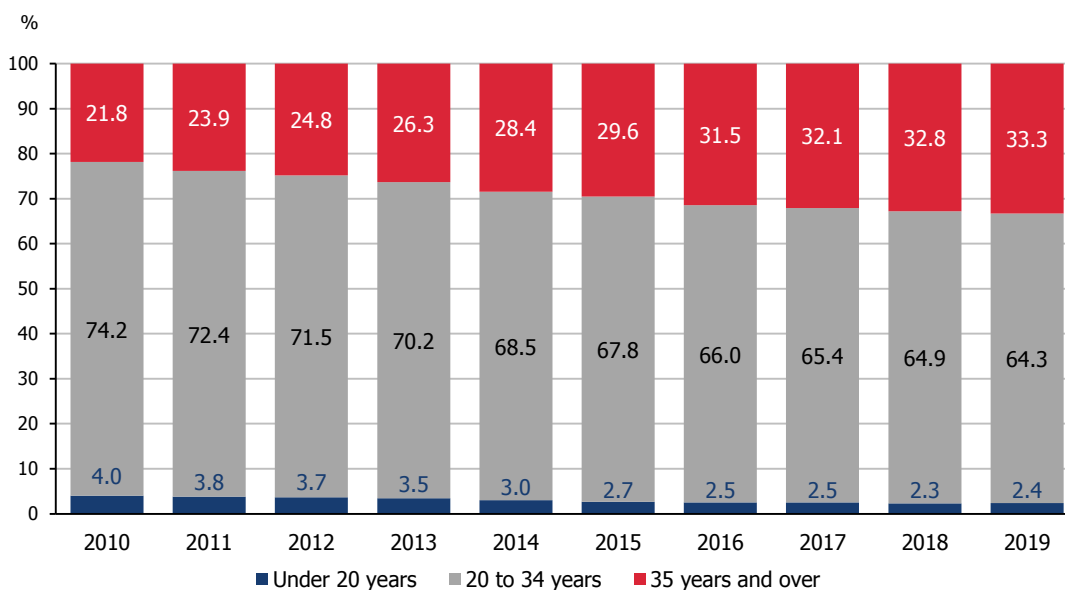
Only in the Região Autónoma dos Açores and in the Norte region, more than 50% of births occurred within marriage (52.2% and 50.9%, respectively). In contrast, in the Alentejo, Algarve and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa regions, more than 60% of live births were born outside marriage (68.4%, 67.5% and 61.4%, respectively).

**Figure 5: Live births by legitimacy status, NUTS 2, 2019**



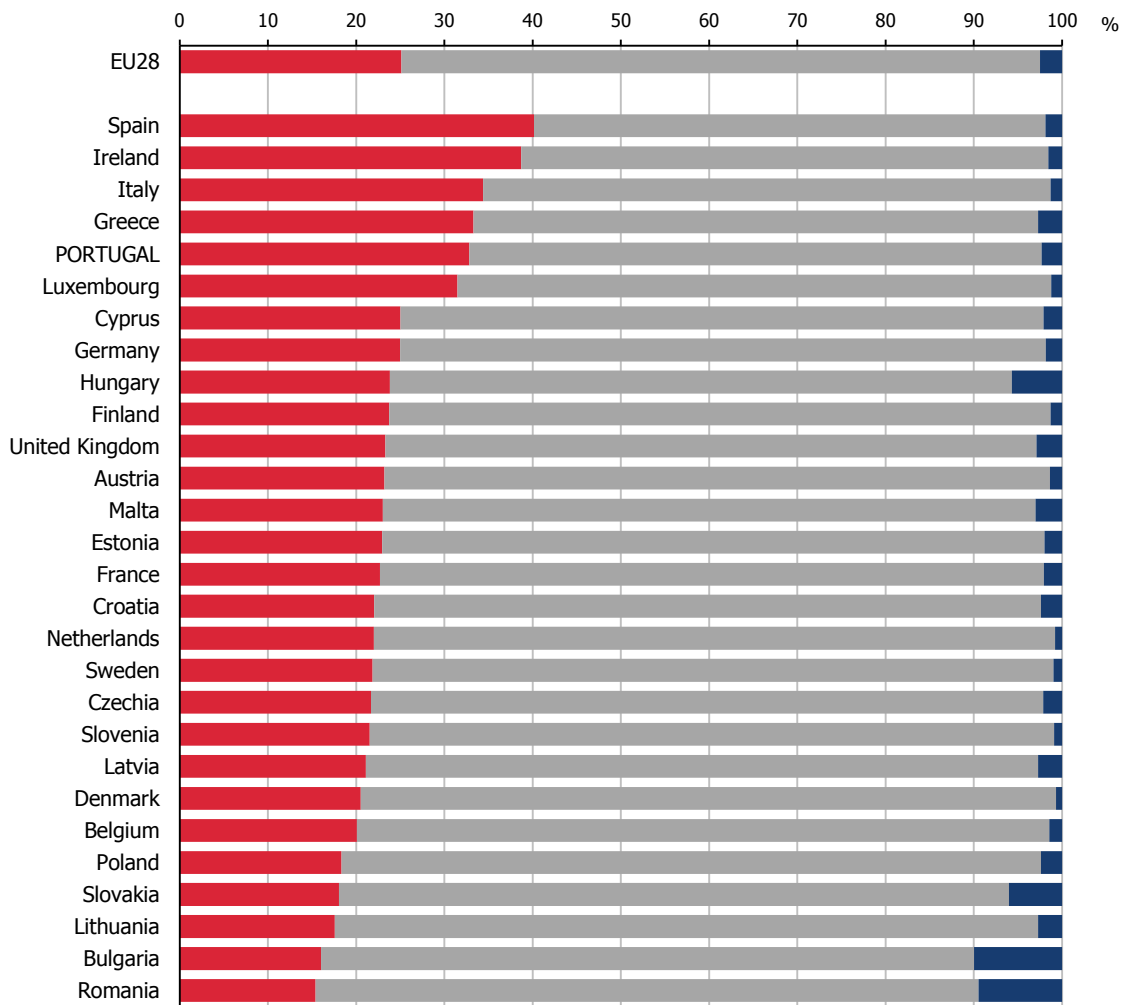
In 2019, of all births, 64.3% were of mothers aged between 20 to 34 years; 33.3% were of mothers aged 35 and over; and 2.4% of mothers under 20 years of age. Between 2010 and 2019, there were decreases in the share of live births of mothers under the age of 20 and of mothers aged between 20 and 34 years, respectively of 1.6 and 9.9 percentage points (pp). On the other hand, over this period there was an increase of 11.5 pp in the proportion of live births of mothers aged 35 and over.

**Figure 6: Live births by age group of the mother, Portugal, 2010-2019**



In the European Union (EU28), in 2018 – the most recent year for which comparable data is available from Eurostat –, six countries registered more than 30% of their births to mothers aged 35 and over. Portugal was the fifth country in this group, with around 33% of births observed in this age group, and Spain was the first, with about 40% of births in this age group. In contrast, Romania and Bulgaria were the EU28 countries with the highest share of births to mothers under the age of 20.

**Figure 7: Live births by age group of the mother, EU28, 2018**

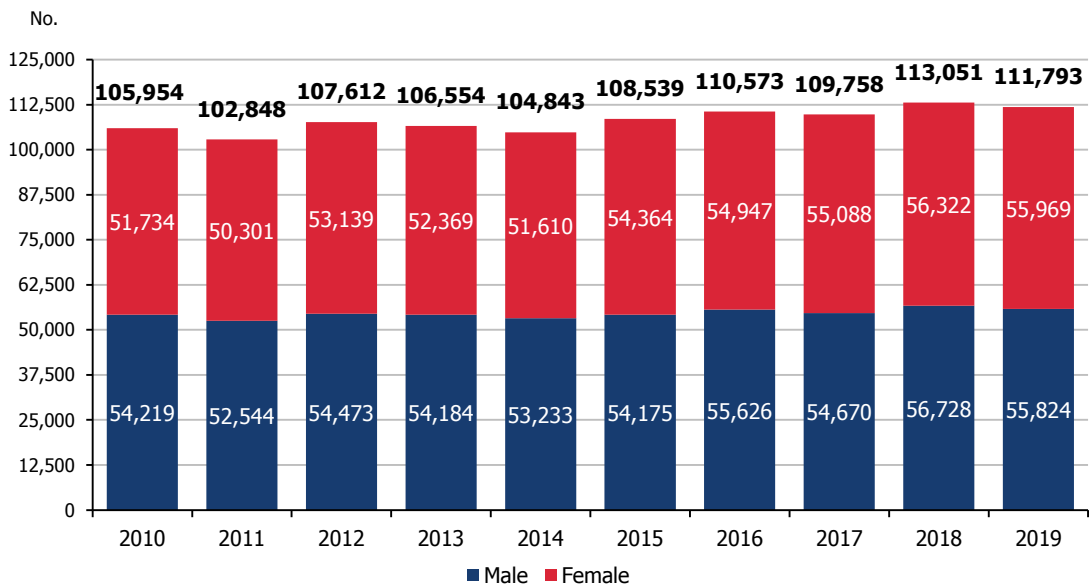


Source: EUROSTAT. ■ 35 years and over ■ 20 to 34 years ■ Under 20 years

**Number of deaths decreased 1.1%**

In 2019, 111,793 deaths of residents in the national territory were recorded, which represents a 1.1% decrease in mortality when compared to 2018 (113,051). Of the total deaths recorded in 2019, 55,824 were of men and 55,969 were of women.

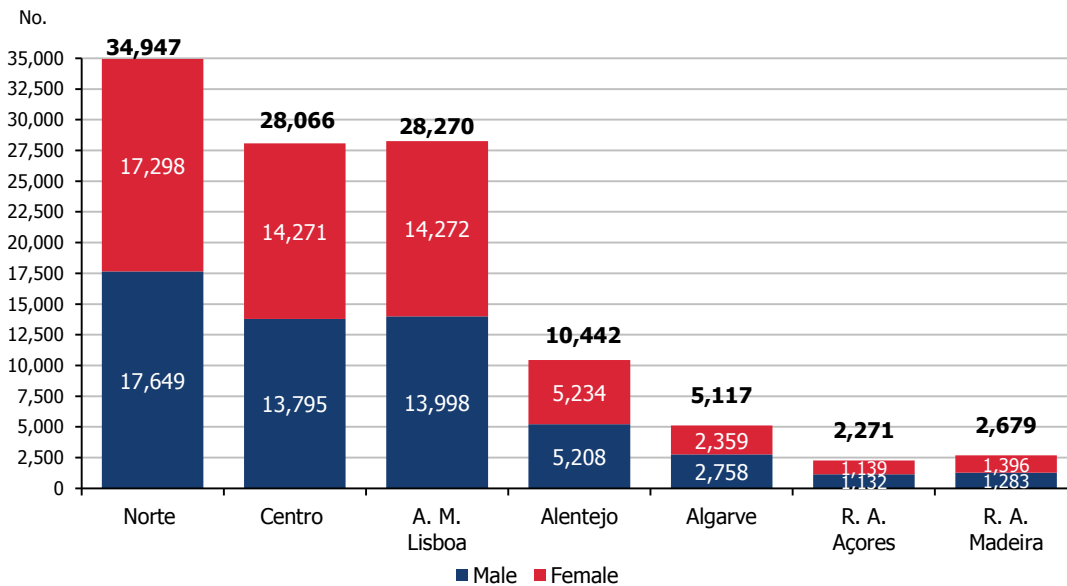
**Figure 8: Deaths by sex<sup>1</sup>, Portugal, 2010-2019**



<sup>1</sup> The total number of deaths may not correspond to the sum of the partial figures by sex, due to the existence of records with unknown sex

With the exceptions of Norte and Algarve, in the remaining NUTS 2 regions the total number of deaths among women was always higher than the total number of deaths among men.

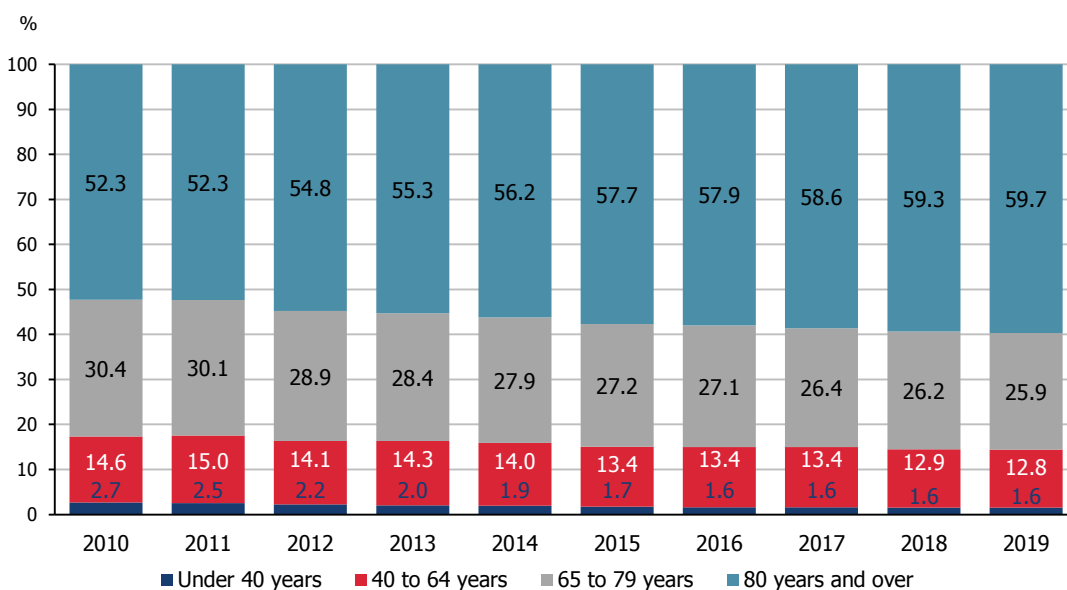
**Figure 9: Deaths by sex, NUTS 2, 2019**



Most deaths occurred at older ages. Of the total deaths of residents in Portugal registered in 2019, 85.6% were of people aged 65 and over. Also, more than half (59.7%) of all deaths occurred at ages 80 and over.

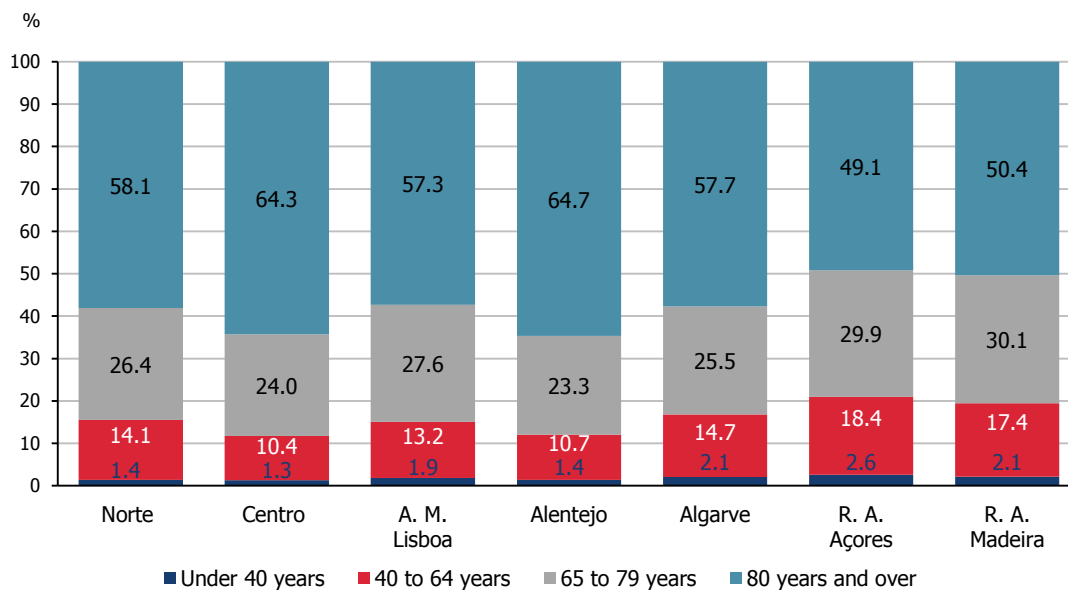
Between 2010 and 2019, there were decreases in the share of deaths under the age of 65 and between the ages of 65 and 79, respectively of 2.9 and 4.5 percentage points (pp). On the other hand, there was an increase of 7.4 pp in the share of deaths over the age of 80.

**Figure 10: Deaths by age group, Portugal, 2010-2019**



As in Portugal, in 2019 in the NUTS 2 regions the highest share of deaths occurred in the age group of 80 and over, representing more than 50% of mortality in all regions, with the exception of the Região Autónoma dos Açores (49.1%). In Alentejo and Centro regions, mortality in this age group was higher than the national average (64.7% and 64.3%, respectively, against 59.7%).

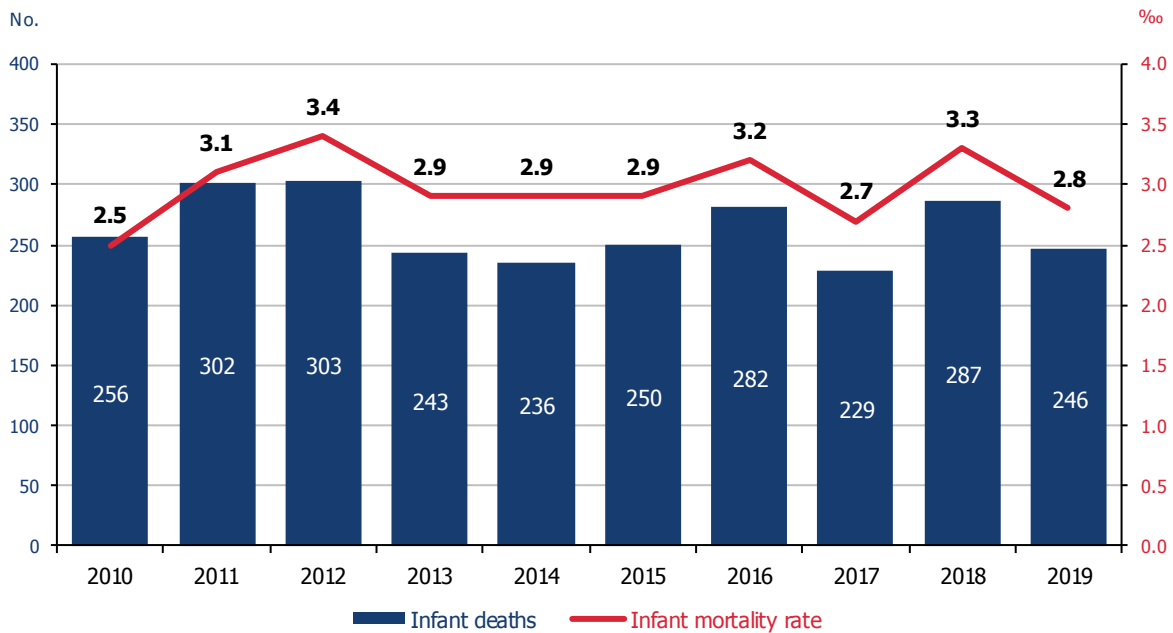
**Figure 11: Deaths by age group, NUTS 2, 2019**



In 2019, there were 246 deaths of children under 1 year of age (41 fewer than those registered in 2018). This decrease contributed to a decrease in the infant mortality rate, which stood at 2.8 deaths per thousand live births (3.3 ‰ in 2018), a value close to that observed between 2013 and 2015. However, the lowest value was registered in 2010, with 2.5 infant deaths per thousand live births.

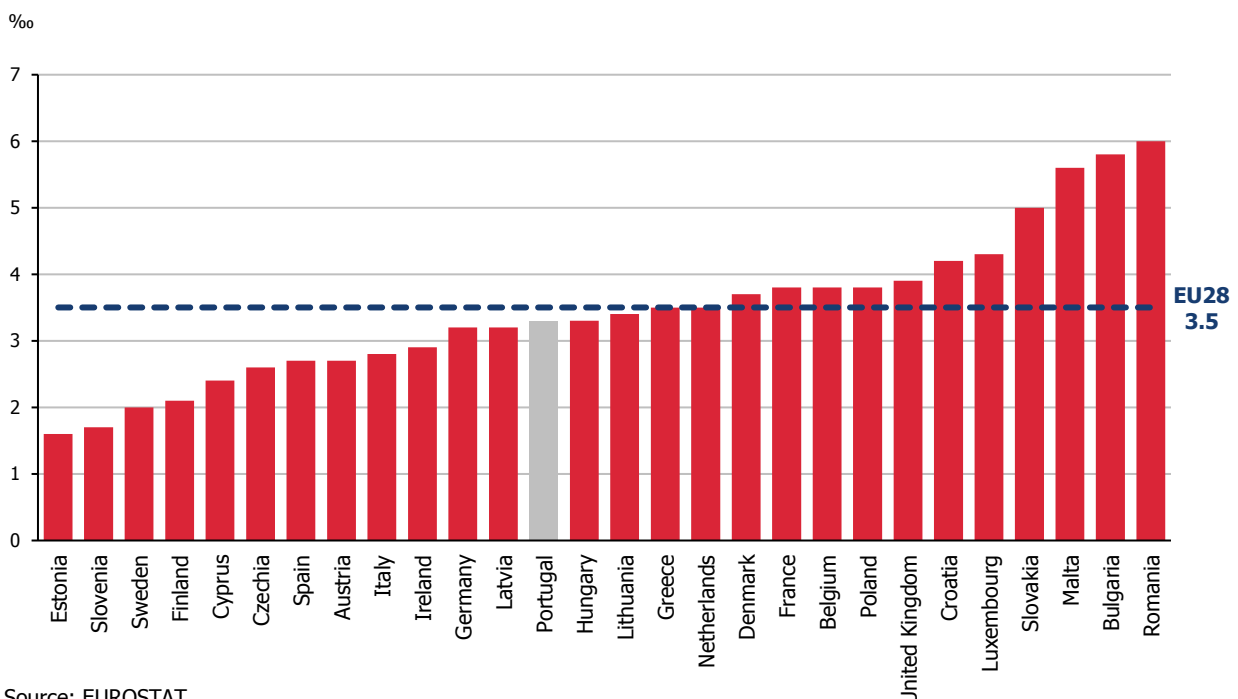


**Figure 12: Infant deaths and infant mortality rate, Portugal, 2010-2019**



In 2018, the most recent year for which comparable data is available from Eurostat, Portugal ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the group of EU28 countries in terms of infant mortality, with 3.3 deaths per thousand live births, below the European average of 3.5 deaths per thousand live births. The lowest infant mortality rate was observed in Estonia (1.6 ‰) and the highest in Romania (6.0 ‰).

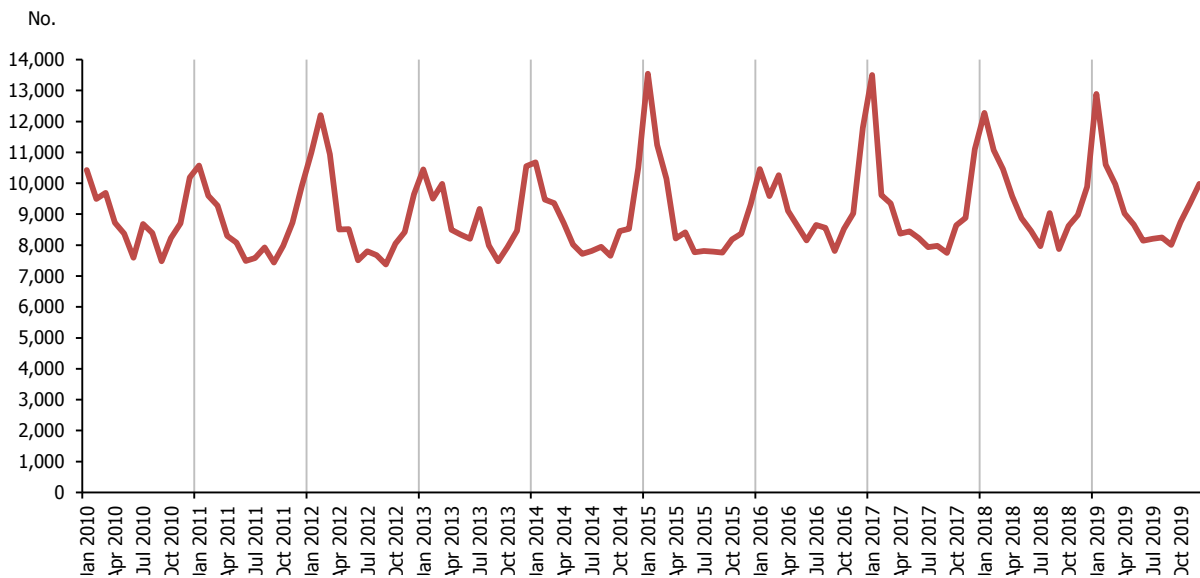
**Figure 13: Infant mortality rate, EU28, 2018**



Source: EUROSTAT.

Mortality presents a seasonal pattern, with higher values in the winter months and lower values in spring and summer. In 2019 mortality followed the same pattern, with the month of January registering the highest number of deaths. On the other hand, between 2010 and 2019, September was always the month with the lowest number of deaths.

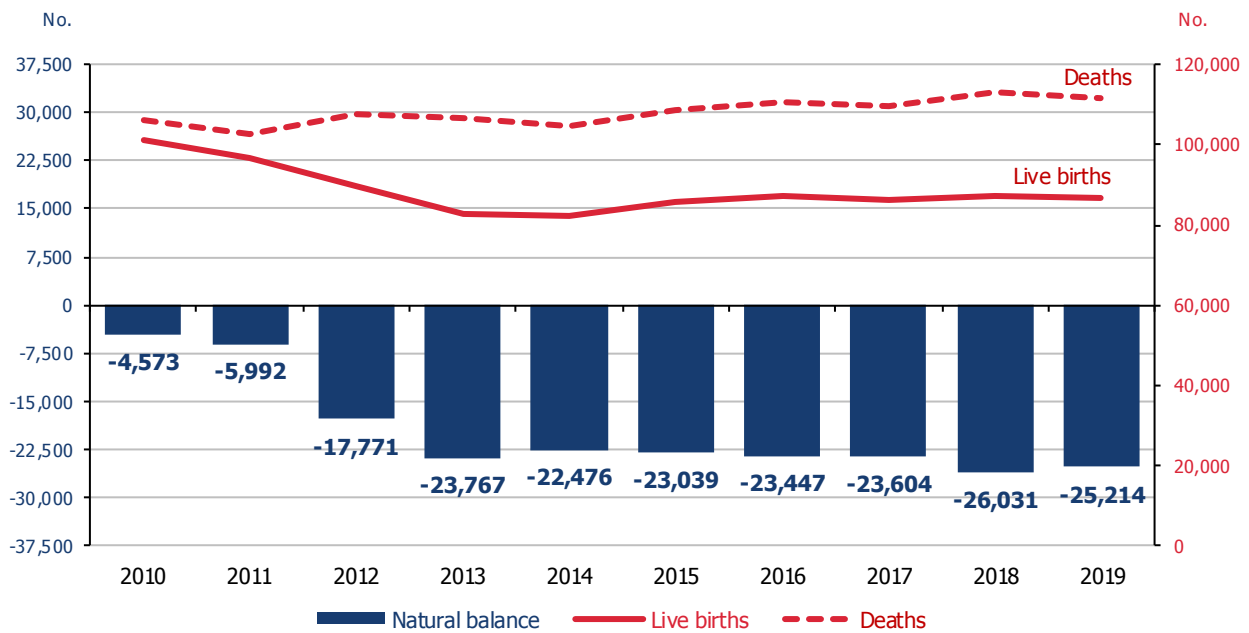
**Figure 14: Deaths by month of death, Portugal, January 2010 to December 2019**



**Natural balance remained negative**

The difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths registered in 2019 results, for the eleventh consecutive year, in a negative natural balance of 25,214.

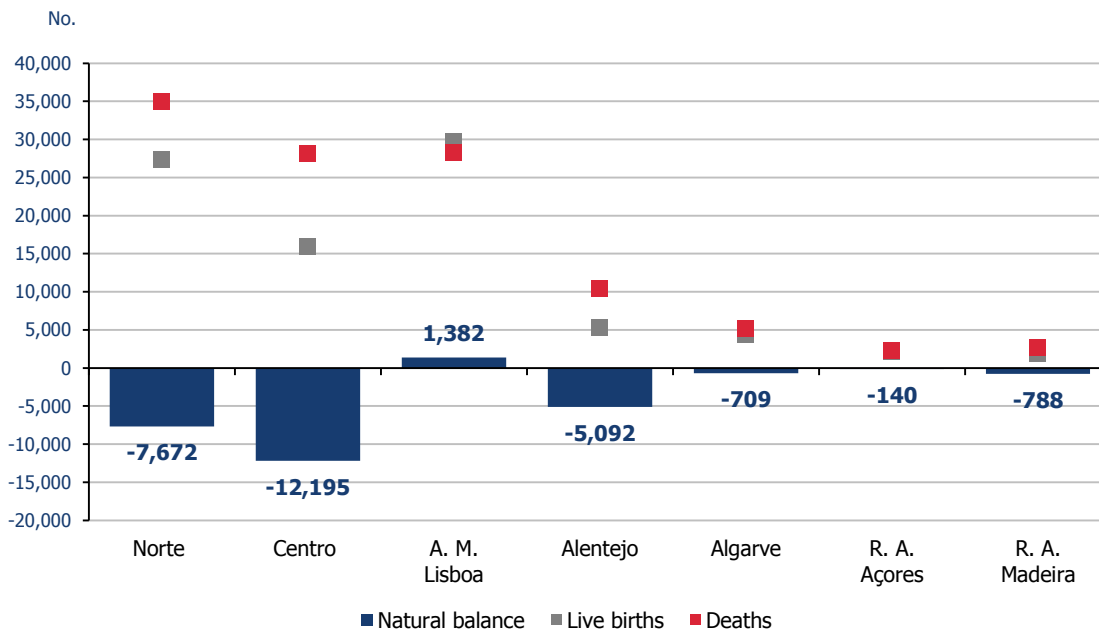
**Figure 15: Live births, deaths and natural balance<sup>1</sup>, Portugal, 2010-2019**



<sup>1</sup> In this press release natural increase figures refer to updated deaths figures. In this sense they can present small differences when compared with data disseminated in previous press releases.

In the NUTS 2 regions, only the Área Metropolitana de Lisboa registered a positive natural balance (1,382). The Centro region was the one with the highest negative natural balance (- 12,195).

Figure 16: Live births, deaths and natural balance, NUTS 2, 2019

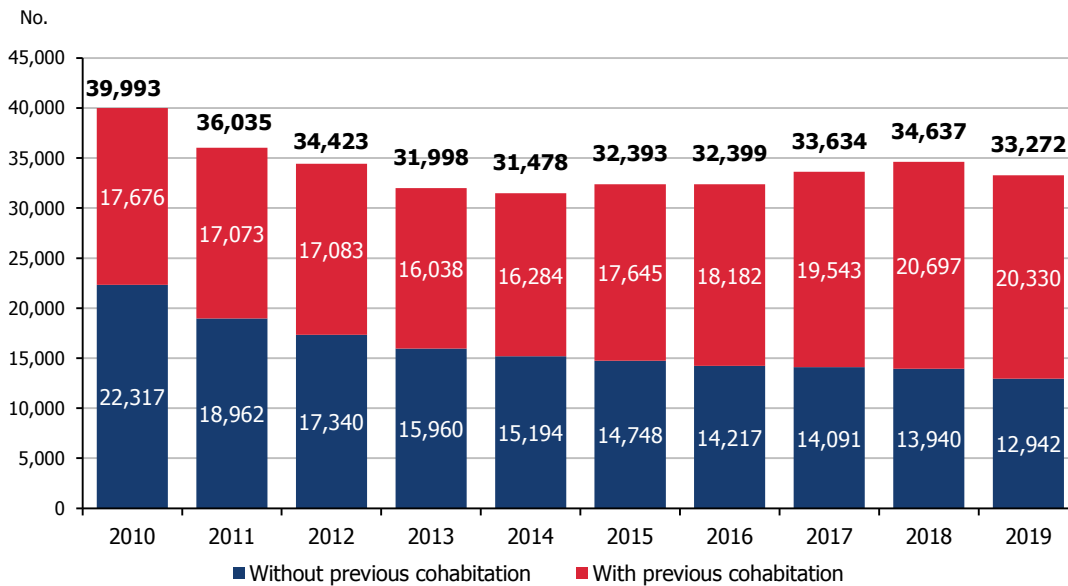


### Number of marriages decreased 3.9%

In 2019, 33,272 marriages were celebrated in Portugal, a 3.9% decrease from the previous year (- 1,365 marriages), against the upward trend observed since 2015. Of the celebrated marriages, 32,595 were opposite-sex marriages and 677 were same-sex marriages (607 in 2018): 358 between men and 319 between women (342 and 265, respectively, in 2018).

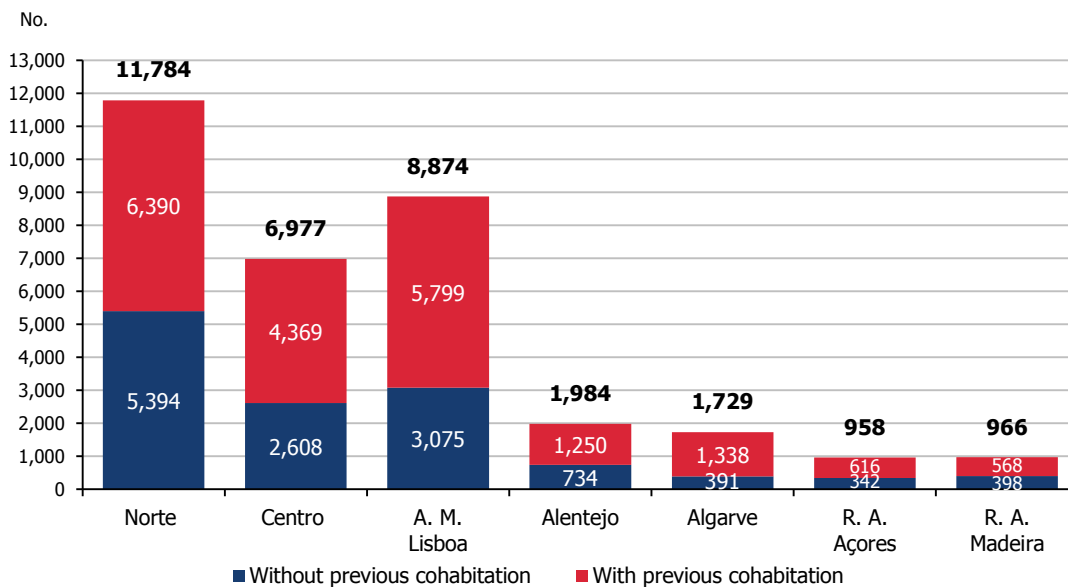
In more than half the marriages held in 2019, spouses already cohabited (20,330 marriages). This situation has grown considerably over recent years, with an increase of 11 percentage points (pp) since 2013, the moment when the share of marriages between spouses who already cohabited exceeded 50% (50.1% in 2013 against 61.1% in 2019).

**Figure 17: Marriages, with or without previous cohabitation, Portugal, 2010-2019**



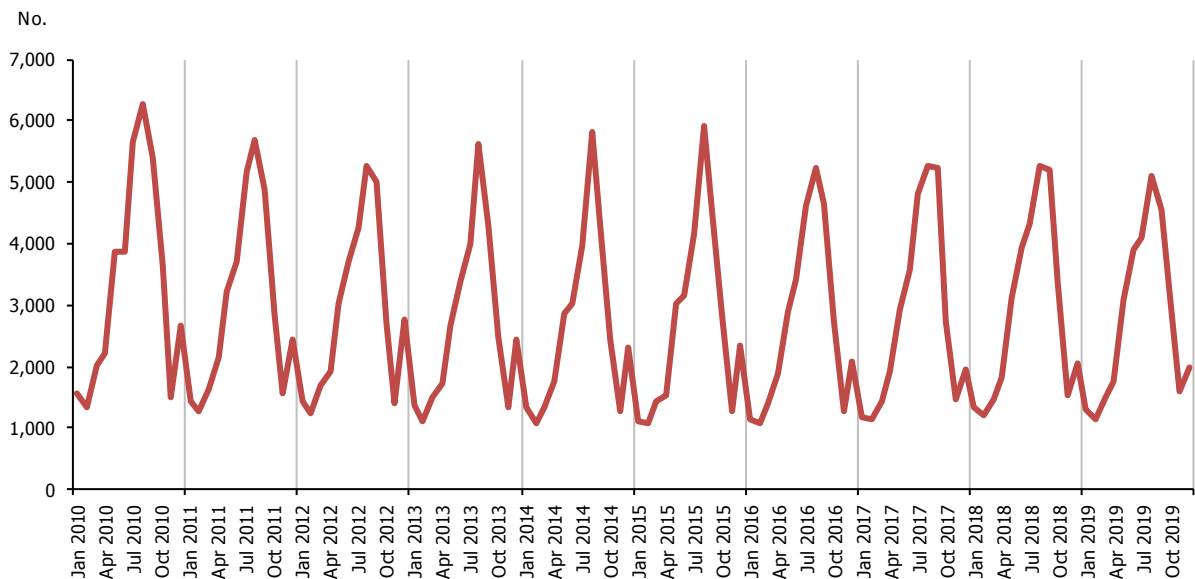
All NUTS 2 regions followed the national trend, with more than 50% of the newlyweds sharing residence before marriage. In Algarve, that figure exceeded 75% (1,338 of the 1,729 registered marriages).

**Figure 18: Marriages, with or without previous cohabitation, NUTS 2, 2019**



In 2019, 53.0% of marriages (17,635) took place in the summer months (between June and September), with August being the month with the highest frequency (5,097). Between 2010 and 2019, the month of August was always the one in which more marriages were celebrated. On the other hand, February was always the month with the lowest number of registered marriages.

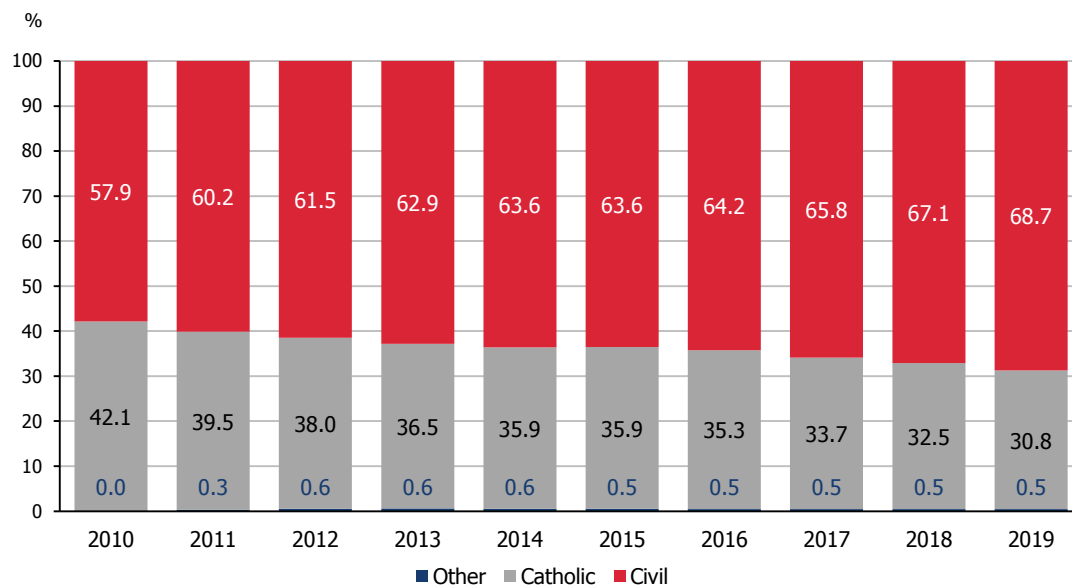
**Figure 19: Marriages by month of marriage, Portugal, January 2010 to December 2019**



Of all opposite-sex marriages celebrated, 30.8% (10,037) were Catholic marriages, 68.7% (22,404) were only civil marriages, and 0.5% (154) were celebrated according to other religious rites<sup>1</sup>.

The share of civil marriages increased 1.6 pp from 2018 and 10.9 pp from 2010. The share of Catholic marriages decreased 1.7 pp from 2018 and 11.3 pp from 2010.

**Figure 20: Marriages between opposite-sex couples, by celebration type, Portugal, 2010-2019**

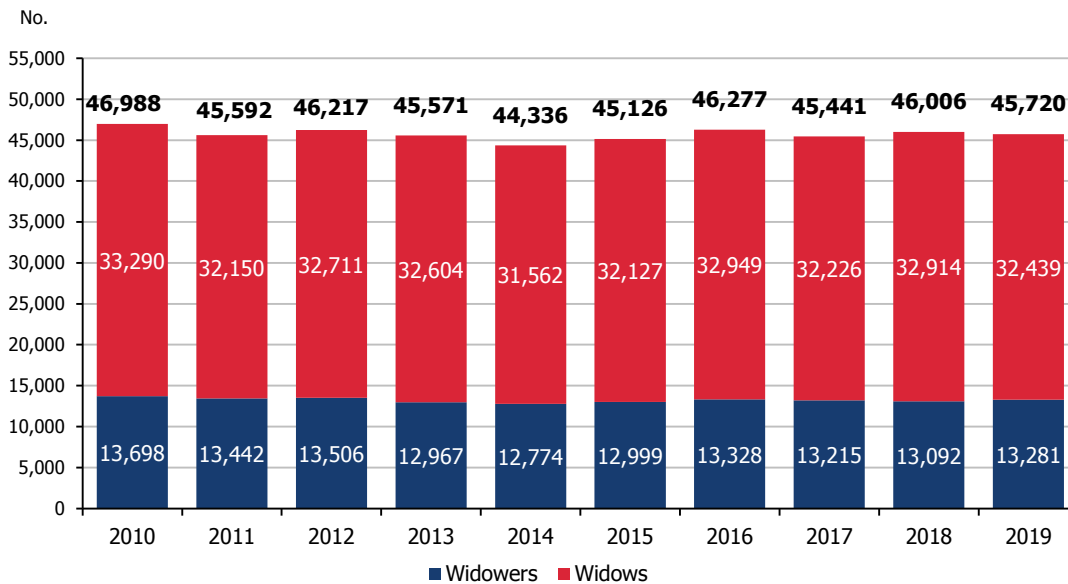


<sup>1</sup> Decree-Law No. 324/2007 – As of 2007, marriages celebrated in a religious rite before the priest/minister of a church or religious community rooted in Portugal have civil effects, similarly to Catholic marriages.

### More widows than widowers

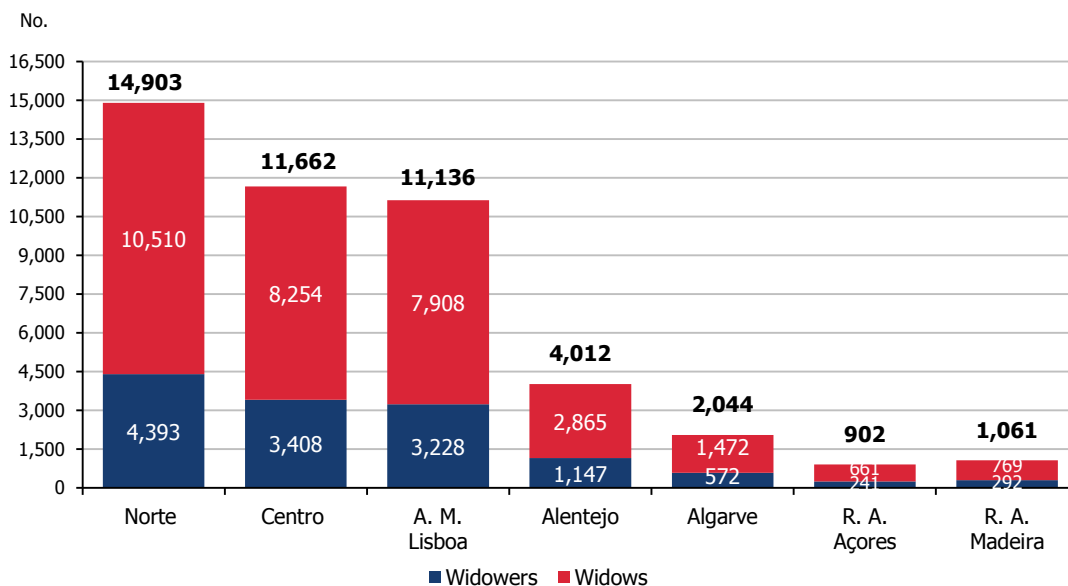
In 2019, there were 45,720 marriages dissolved by death of a spouse, of which resulted 13,281 widowers and 32,439 widows. Widowhood mainly affects women, in particular due to the higher female life expectancy.

**Figure 21: Dissolved marriages by death and surviving spouses, Portugal, 2010-2019**



In all NUTS 2 regions, the situation was identical to that of Portugal, that is, the number of widows was always higher than the number of widowers.

**Figure 22: Dissolved marriages by death and surviving spouses, NUTS 2, 2019**



## TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases indicators on live births, deaths and marriages with information for 2019, broken down on a territorial basis for NUTS 1, 2 and 3, municipality and parish levels, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until March 2020. Revisions of data, namely with regard to deaths, may occur after the codification of the causes of death recorded in 2019.

Data on live births, deaths and marriages are obtained from statistical operations aimed at the direct and exhaustive collection of information on these demographic events occurred in Portuguese territory using facts that are subject to compulsory civil registration (birth, death and marriage) in the "Sistema Integrado do Registo e Identificação Civil" (SIRIC).

In addition to administrative information obtained from Civil Register, Statistics Portugal also collects an additional set of variables identified as statistically pertinent and included in SIRIC.

Data are recorded and sent electronically, in compliance with the requirements set out by Statistics Portugal and laid down in liaison with the "Instituto de Registos e Notariado" (IRN) and the "Instituto de Gestão Financeira e Equipamentos da Justiça" (IGFEJ).

### Definitions:

**Marriage:** Contract signed by two persons that intend to start a family in full partnership and cohabitation according to legislation. Note: marriage can be held between persons of different or same sex.

**Nado-vivo:** o produto do nascimento vivo.

**Live birth:** This is the complete expulsion or extraction from the mother's body, irrespective of the duration of the pregnancy, of a product of fertilisation that, after separation, breathes or shows any other signs of life, such as a beating of the heart or umbilical cord or actual contraction of any muscle subject to voluntary movement, whether or not the umbilical cord has been severed and whether or not the placenta is retained.

**Infant mortality:** Deaths of live-born children aged less than one year.

**Death:** The permanent disappearance of vital functions.

**Natural balance:** The difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths during a given period, usually a calendar year.

**Sex ratio at birth:** Ratio between male and female live births in a certain period (usually expressed as 100 female live births).

**Infant mortality rate:** The ratio of the number of deaths of children under one year of age during a specific period, usually a calendar year, to the number of live births in that period (usually expressed as the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births).

**Detailed methodological information available at [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), under the option Products, Metadata System.**

**Detailed statistical information available at [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt), under the option Products, Statistical Data, Database, theme Population, sub theme Birth and natality, sub theme Mortality and life expectancy, and sub theme Marriage and divorce.**