



June 18th 2021

VITAL STATISTICS – Monthly data

May 2021

MORTALITY, LIVE BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES

MARRIAGES IN APRIL PRACTICALLY AT THE SAME LEVEL AS THE TOTAL MARRIAGES OF THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS

In May 2021, the number of deaths was 8,584. Although slightly higher than the figure recorded in April, it remained below the number of deaths registered in the same month of 2020, minus 10.5% (-1,007 deaths). The number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 49, accounting for 0.6% of the total deaths.

In March and April 2021, 6,567 and 6,153 children, respectively, were born alive, corresponding to reductions of 8.3% (-597) and 11.5% (-801), when compared to the same months of 2020, thus maintaining the downward trend registered since July 2020.

The natural balance, despite remaining negative, improved in March and April to, respectively, -3,039 and -2,275.

In March 2021, 443 marriages were celebrated, 57.2% less than in the same month of the previous year. In April 2021, the number of celebrated marriages was 1,381, approximately the total of marriages celebrated in the first trimester of 2021 (1,430).

In this press release, Statistics Portugal provides **preliminary data** regarding the number of deaths, per month until May 2021 and per week until the 22nd week (May 31st to June 6th), live births and marriages, per month until April 2021, that occurred in the national territory, making a comparison with the homologous period.

The information is obtained through the Civil Register collected under the Integrated Civil Registration and Identification System (SIRIC) until June 15th, 2021. The information is preliminary and will be subject to updates.

In May mortality maintained pre-pandemic numbers

January 2021 recorded the highest number of monthly deaths observed since the beginning of the pandemic (19,641), corresponding to an increase in mortality of 65.6% (+7,779 deaths) compared to the same month of 2020. Of the total deaths, 5,785 were by COVID-19, representing 29.5% of mortality in January and the maximum of monthly deaths by COVID-19. Mortality decreased in February to 12,718 deaths, however, continuing to register an increase in relation to the same month of 2020, of 28.7% (+2,838 deaths). In this month, the number of deaths by COVID-19 was 3,594, the second highest after January, corresponding to

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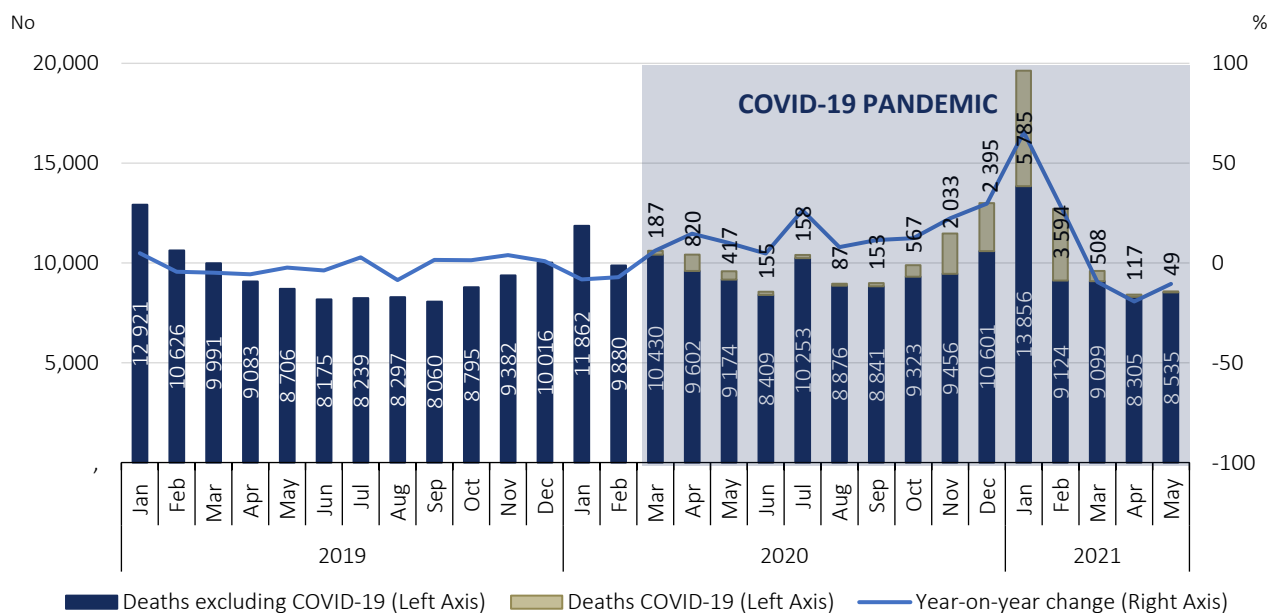


28.3% of the total. Excluding the deaths by COVID-19 recorded in February, mortality in this month would be, for the first time after the start of the pandemic, below the homologous value of 2020 (-756 deaths).

In March and April 2021, the number of deaths continued to decrease, reaching numbers below those recorded in the same months of 2020, representing the possibility of mortality starting to return to levels of years prior to the pandemic. In those months there were 9,607 and 8,422 deaths in Portugal, respectively, 9.5% (-1,010 deaths) and 19.2% less (-2,000 deaths) than in the same months of 2020. The number of deaths by COVID-19 in those months was 508 and 117, representing, respectively, 5.3% and 1.4% of the total deaths.

In May 2021, the number of deaths was 8,584, although slightly higher than the figure recorded in April, it remained below the number of deaths registered in the same month of 2020, minus 10.5% (-1,007 deaths). The number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 49, accounting for 0.6% of the total deaths.

Figure 1: Deaths and year-on-year change, January 2019 to May 2021



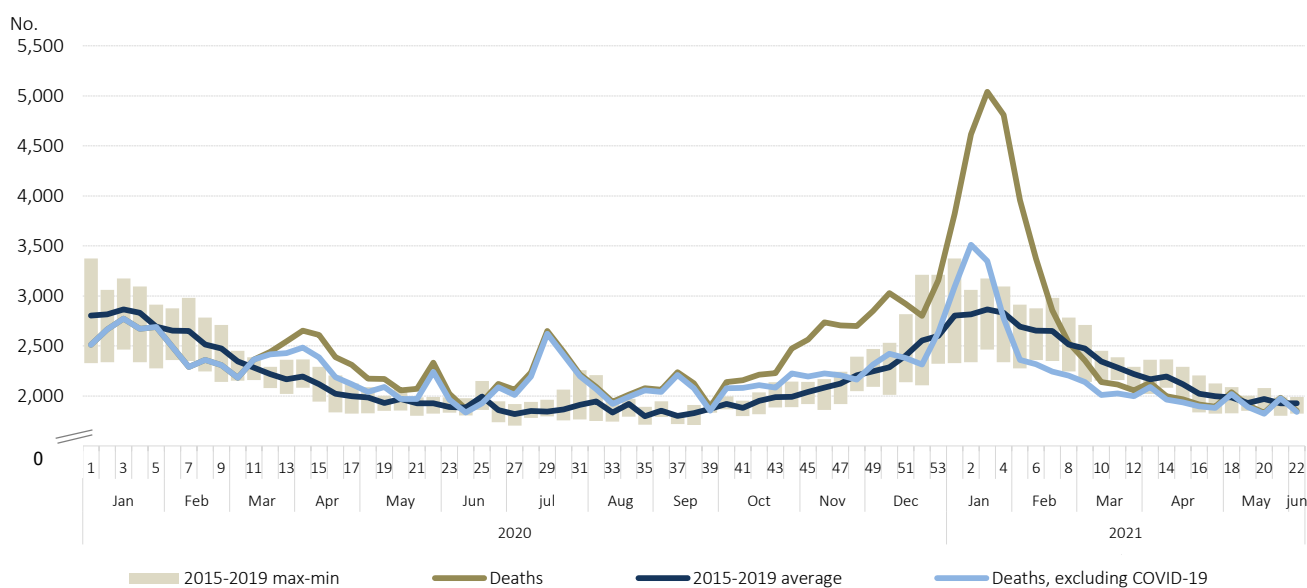
Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.

Analyzing weekly mortality, from the last week of 2020 (December 28th to January 3rd, 2021) the number of deaths strongly increased up to the 3rd week of 2021 (January 18th to 24th), thus reaching the highest number of weekly deaths observed since the beginning of the pandemic (5,038). However, it was in the 4th week (January 25th to 31st) that the highest number of deaths by COVID-19 (2,036) was recorded, starting from this week onwards a decreasing trend.



Between May 3rd and June 6th (weeks 18 to 22), the number of deaths remained relatively stable around the 2015-2019 average, that is, close to pre-pandemic values. In the 22nd week, 1,851 deaths were registered. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 was 11, accounting for 0.6% of the total deaths.

Figure 2: Deaths 2020, 2021 and average 2015-2019, by week, weeks 1 of 2020 to 22 of 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Deaths. Directorate-General of Health, Daily COVID-19 Status Report.

Considering the indicator “excess mortality” calculated by Eurostat, which compares the number of deaths recorded in each month, in the European Union (EU-27) and EFTA countries, with the average number of monthly deaths in the period 2016-2019, Portugal was, in the month of January, one of the countries with the highest excess of mortality in a total of 31 European countries: 60.3% more deaths than the 2016-2019 average, ranking 2nd, only behind Slovakia (73.7% more). In February, excess mortality was reduced in Portugal and in most countries. In this month, Portugal presented a mortality excess of 24.2%, ranking 3rd, behind Slovakia (+67.5%) and Czechia (+39.9%).

In March and April 2021, mortality registered a new increase in most European countries. In Portugal, however, mortality continued to decline, reaching values below the 2016-2019 average, corresponding to negative excess mortality, respectively of -4.6% and -6.4%. In April, Portugal, together with Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland, and Malta, were the only countries with negative excess mortality.



Figure 3: Monthly excess mortality in UE 27 and EFTA countries, January 2020 to April 2021 (2016-2019 average = 100)

Countries	2021			
	January	February	March	April
EU 27	116,7	105,5	109,9	120,9
Austria	109,2	97,1	100,2	111,5
Belgium	101,7	90,9	89,4	106,3
Bulgaria	99,4	104,7	152,2	176,1
Croatia	107,7	102,0	102,3	131,5
Cyprus	111,1	96,2	106,9	129,7
Czechia	153,3	139,9	161,5	130,5
Denmark	110,8	92,6	87,9	97,4
Estonia	112,2	109,0	129,8	125,4
Finland	98,1	98,1	95,7	97,8
France	110,0	108,9	107,0	116,2
Germany	122,6	97,7	90,2	105,7
Greece	92,0	97,1	116,9	131,5
Hungary	105,7	100,1	147,7	143,8
Ireland	120,1	116,6	94,0	99,5
Italy	106,9	102,5	114,8	121,8
Latvia	129,0	113,7	97,7	104,4
Lithuania	128,5	102,2	105,5	112,0
Luxembourg	108,5	96,4	109,5	108,1
Malta	103,6	115,7	132,6	99,3
Netherlands	118,4	103,4	97,1	110,0
Poland	125,9	111,0	138,3	165,6
Portugal	160,3	124,2	95,4	93,6
Romania	111,4	105,0	125,1	147,9
Slovakia	173,7	167,5	153,0	128,5
Slovenia	126,9	98,7	103,0	111,5
Spain	118,4	110,3	99,8	104,0
Sweden	115,9	94,7	92,0	94,9
Iceland	103,6	102,0	x	x
Liechtenstein	109,5	117,5	65,0	131,3
Norway	93,9	88,0	87,7	94,2
Switzerland	122,7	93,8	92,2	97,2

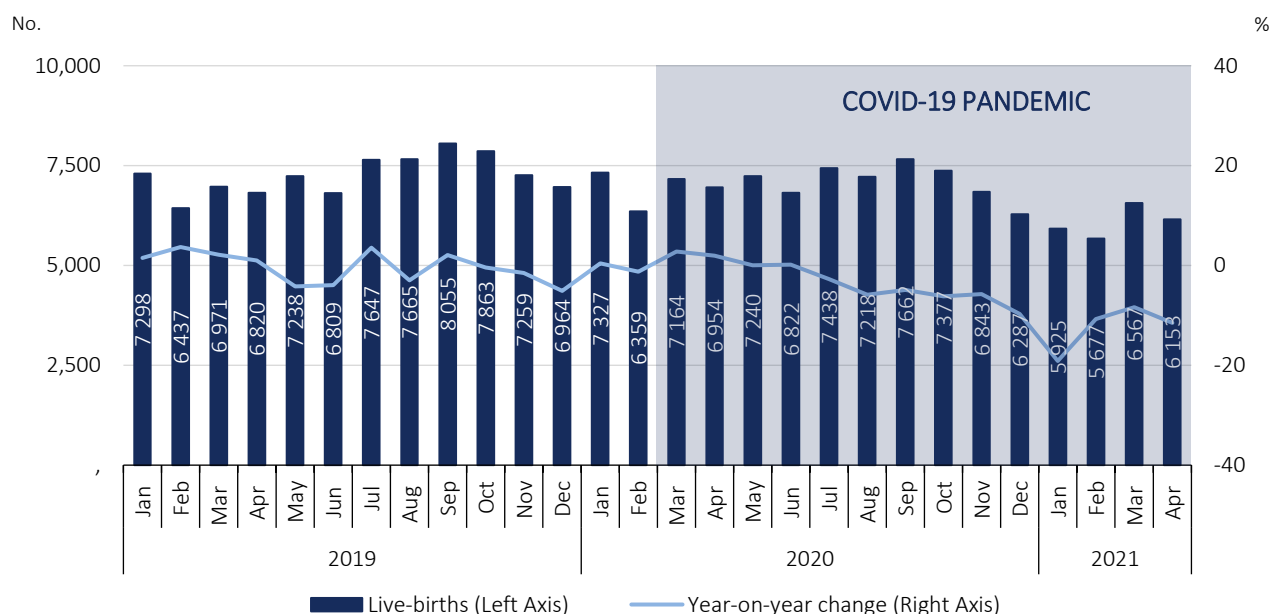
Source: Eurostat, [Excess mortality – monthly data](#) (extracted on 16/06/2021).

Live births continue to decrease

In March and April 2021, 6,567 and 6,153 children, respectively, were born alive, corresponding to a reduction of 8.3% (-597) and 11.5% (-801), when compared to the same months of 2020, thus maintaining the downward trend registered since July 2020.

In fact, in the first four months of 2021, the number of live births was always lower than in the same period in 2020, representing a total of 3,482 fewer live births.

Figure 5: Live births and year-on-year change, January 2019 to April 2021



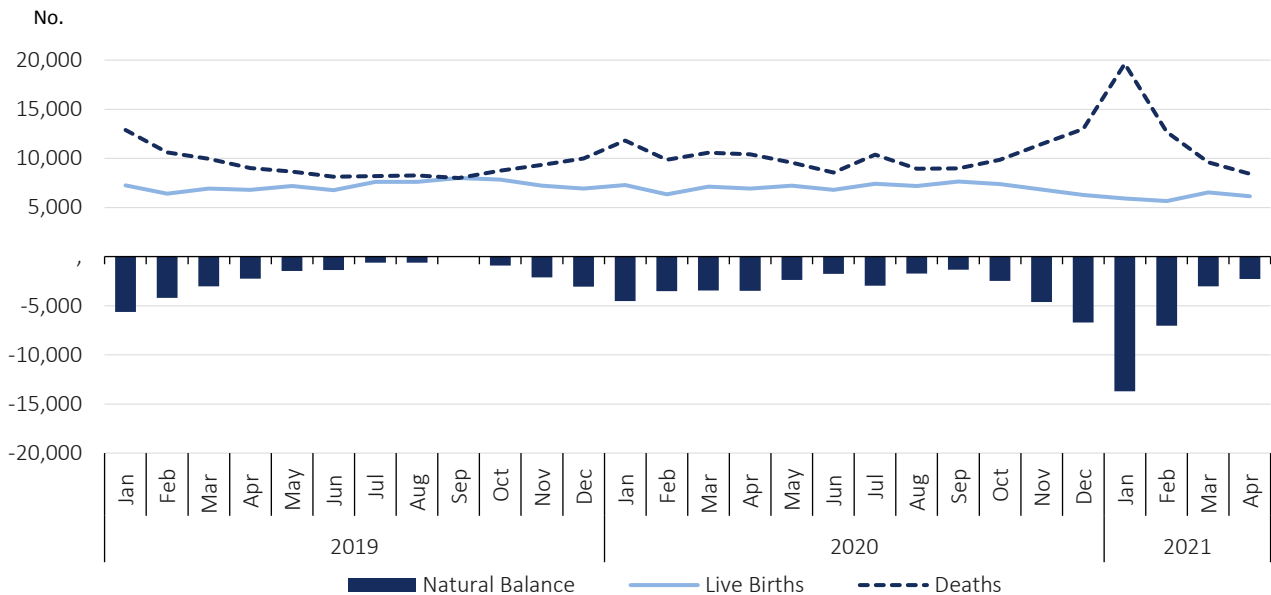
Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births.

Natural balance, although negative, slightly improved in March and April

The increase in the number of deaths, to which mortality due to COVID-19 contributed, as well as the decrease in the number of live births, resulted in a strong reduction of the natural balance in 2020 and in the first two months of 2021. January and February 2021 were the months with the lowest natural balance observed, respectively, -13,707 and -7,040.

However, as of March there was a slight recovery, with the natural balances of March and April reaching the values, respectively, of -3,039 and -2,275.

Figure 6: Live births, deaths and natural balance¹, January 2019 to April 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Live births, Deaths and Demographic indicators.

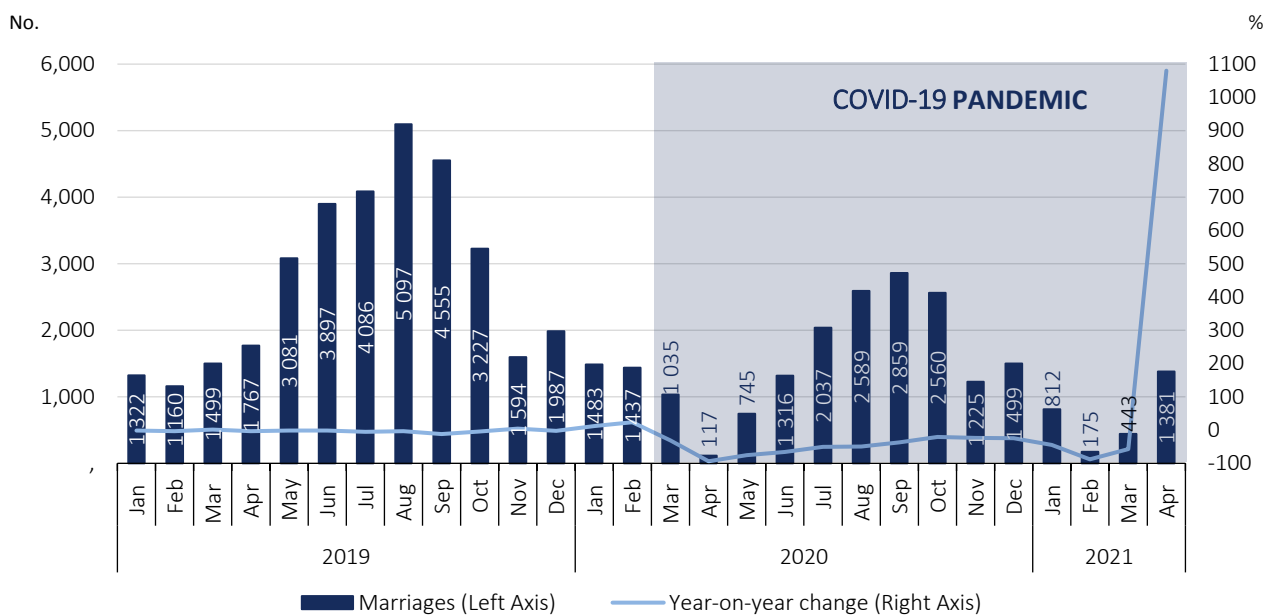
Marriage’s celebrations increased in April 2021

The measures resulting from the containment of the pandemic had an impact on the lives of citizens, including mobility and social contact. As such the statistical on marriages celebrated from March 2020 onwards should be read in this context.

From March 2020 to March 2021, the year-on-year change was always negative. In the first three months of 2021, 1,430 marriages were celebrated in Portugal (-2,525 when compared to the same period in 2020). However, in April 2021, and with the deconfinement measures in place, the number of marriages celebrated increased to 1,381, almost as many as those performed between January and March.

¹ The natural balance is calculated based on the number of live births of mothers residing in Portugal and the number of deaths of residents in Portugal.

Figure 7: Marriages and year-on-year change, January 2019 to April 2021



Source: Statistics Portugal, Marriages.



TECHNICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases the preliminary weekly deaths, based on the information registered in the Civil Register Offices until June 15th, 2021. On the Statistics Portugal Website the monthly preliminary values of live births and marriages, from January to March 2021, with geographical breakdowns up to NUTS 3 are also made available. In this Press Release the total preliminary figures of live births and marriages are disclosed for the month of April 2021.

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

In addition to administrative information obtained from Civil Register Offices, Statistics Portugal collects an additional set of variables identified as statistically pertinent to the National Statistic System (NSS) and the European Statistical System (EES).

Data is 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).

Data on the number of deaths by COVID-19 are also used, whose source is the daily situation report COVID-19 of the Directorate-General for Health that provides only a partial measure of the pandemic on mortality.

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 from different or same sex.

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 fertilization 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.

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.

Year-on-year change: The year-on-year change compares the level of a variable between the reference month and the same month of the previous year.

Detailed methodological information available at: www.ine.pt, option Products, Metadata system.

Detailed statistical information available at: www.ine.pt, option Products, Statistical data, database, theme Population, subtheme Births and natality rates and subtheme Mortality and life expectancy.