



July, 28 2021

2021 Census

CENSUS 2021 - PRELIMINARY RESULTS RELEASE

Today, July 28, Statistics Portugal releases the Preliminary Results of the XVI General Population Census and VI General Housing Census – 2021 Census, less than 4 months after the census day, fulfilling the dissemination strategy foreseen in the Action Programme for the 2021 Census.

The Preliminary Results of the 2021 Census reveal that the resident population in Portugal is 10,347,892.

In the last decade, the resident population in Portugal declined by 2% and the concentration along the coastline and around the capital increased. Algarve and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa are the only regions which registered a growth in population and Alentejo was the region which registered the most significant decrease.

Portugal recorded a slight growth in the number of residential buildings and dwellings, although at a much slower pace than in previous decades.

The first results of the 2021 Census are of a preliminary nature, as they are based on counts from the collection process (buildings, dwellings, households and individuals) and released prior to the final processing and validation of all collected information, which, by providing ease and speed of access, are essentially intended to anticipate user needs.

The Preliminary Results are available up to the parish geographical level and accessible in the 2021 Census Platform - Preliminary Results, available at censos.ine.pt

10,347,892 people live in Portugal, mostly women

According to the Preliminary Results of the 2021 Census, at the census moment - April 19, 2021- there were 10,347,892 people living in Portugal, of which 4,917,794 men (48%) and 5,430,098 women (52%).



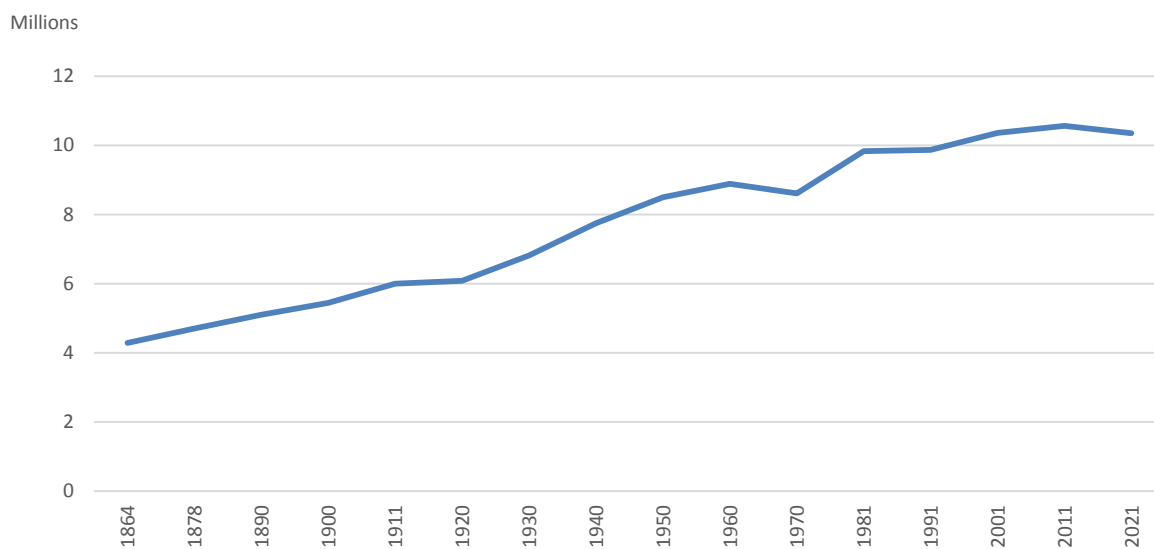
Portugal registers a population decrease of 2% in the last decade

In the last 10 years, the resident population in Portugal decreased by 214,286 people, representing a population decrease of 2.0%. As far as the censuses are concerned, the only decade in which there was a population decrease was between 1960 and 1970.

The population decrease results from the negative natural balance (-250,066 persons, provisional data) and the migration balance that although positive was not sufficient to reverse the population decline.

The resident population in 2021 shows a value close to that recorded in 2001, when 10,356,117 people resided in Portugal.

Graphic 1. Resident Population in Portugal, 1864 -2021

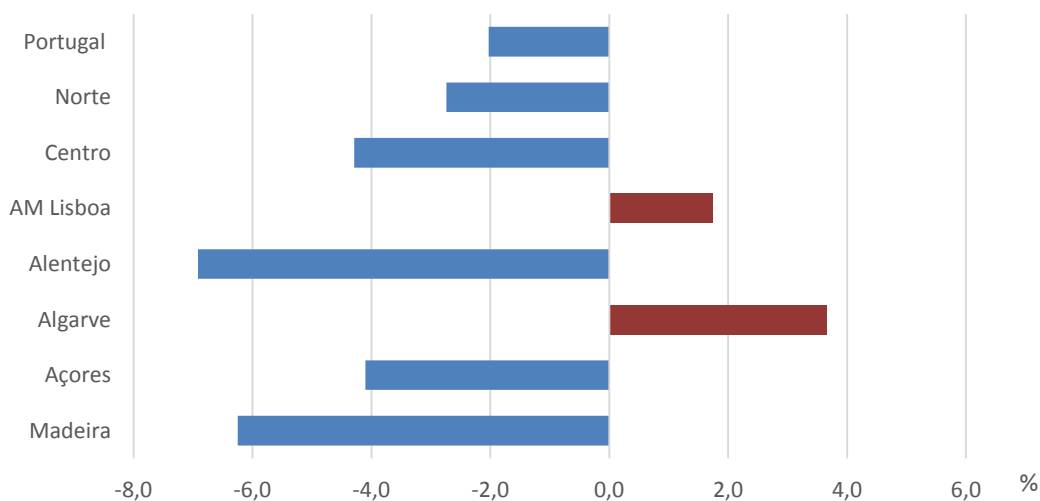


Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The only NUTSII regions that recorded a population growth between 2011 and 2021 were the Algarve (3.7%) and the Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (1.7%). The population declined in the remaining regions, with Alentejo experiencing the most significant drop with -6.9%, followed by Região Autónoma da Madeira with -6.2%.



Graphic 2. Variation in resident population, 2011-2021, NUTS II (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

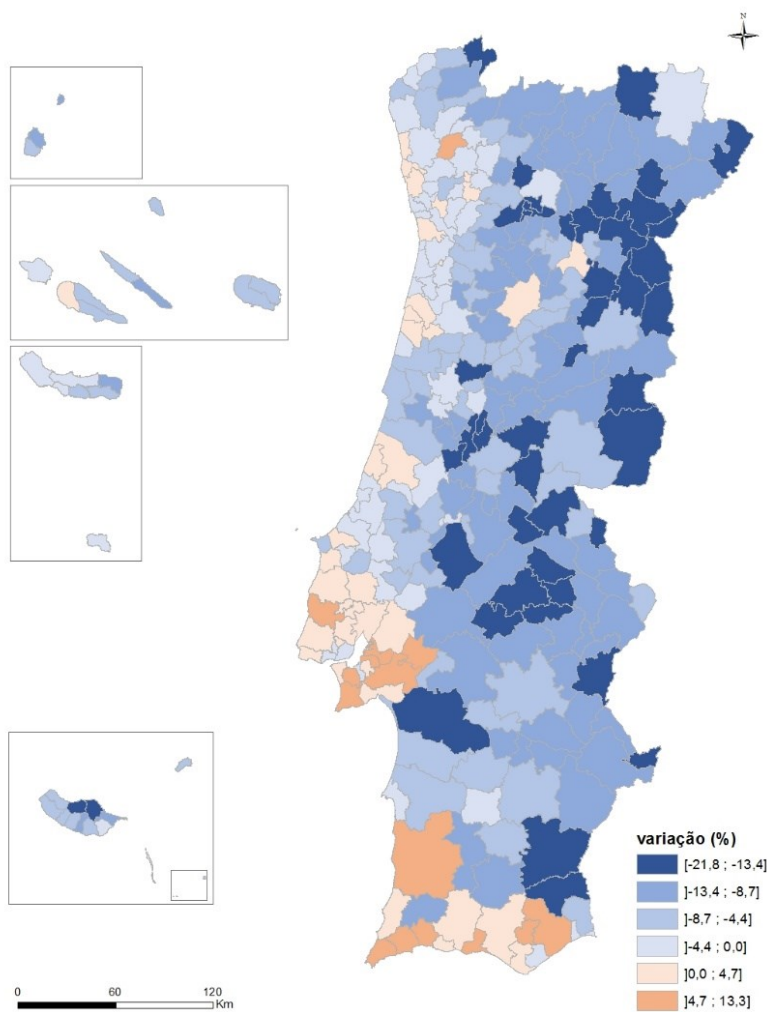
In the last decade, the country accentuated the pattern of residing along the coastline as well as strengthened the movement of population concentration towards the capital city

An analysis by municipality shows that the territories located in the interior of the country are losing population, and the municipalities with population growth are predominantly located on the coast, with a clear concentration around the capital and in the Algarve region.

In the last 10 years, from the 308 portuguese municipalities, 257 registered a population decrease and only 51 of them registered an increase. In the previous decade, 198 municipalities had experienced a population decline.



Graphic 3. Variation in resident population, 2011 - 2021, municipality (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

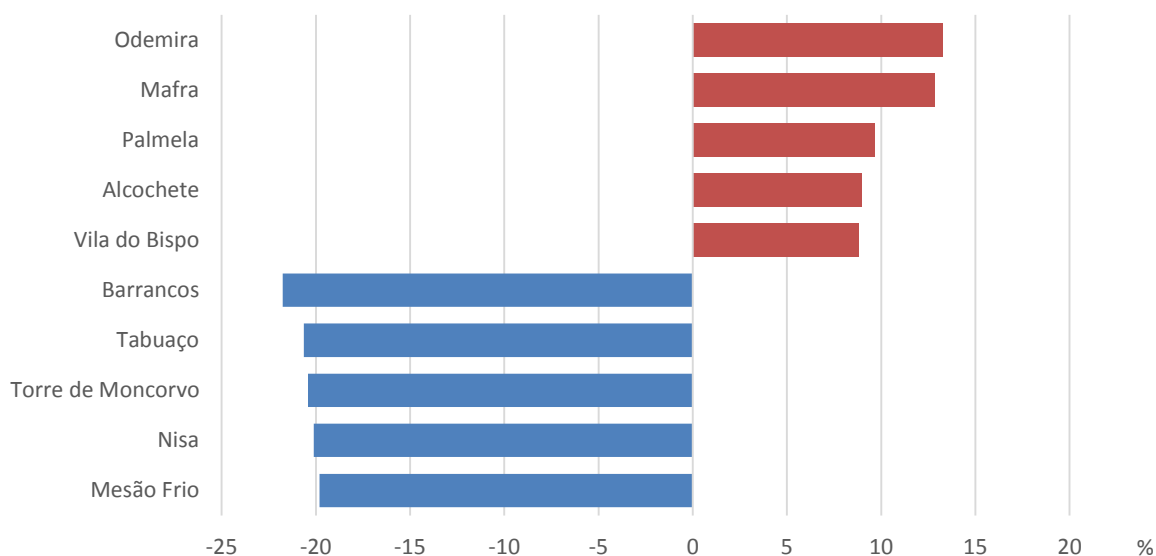
According to the Preliminary Results of the 2021 Census, just about 50% of the resident population in Portugal is concentrated in only 31 municipalities, mostly located in the Áreas Metropolitanas de Lisboa and Porto.



The 5 municipalities that registered the most significant population changes.

In relative terms, Odemira with 13.3% (3,457 more residents) and Mafra with 12.8% (9,838 more residents) were the municipalities with the largest population increases in the last decade, followed by Palmela, Alcochete and Vila do Bispo, with values between 9.6% and 8.8%.

Graphic 4: The 5 municipalities with the highest population growth and decrease, 2011 -2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

On the opposite side, Barrancos (-21.8%), Tabuaço (-20.6%), Torre do Moncorvo (-20.4%), Nisa (-20.1%), and Mesão Frio (-19.8%) were the municipalities with the most significant population decreases.



The resident population variation in the 10 most populated municipalities shows that Lisboa, Porto, Matosinhos and Oeiras are losing population, while the other six are registering population growth, with the municipality of Braga standing out while registering the highest value (6.5%; +11,839 residents).

Graphic 5. The 10 most populous municipalities, 2011 -2021

Municipalities	Resident population		Variation 2011-2021	
	2011	2021	Nº	%
Lisboa	552 700	544 851	-7 849	-1,4
Sintra	377 835	385 954	8 119	2,1
Vila Nova de Gaia	302 298	304 149	1 851	0,6
Porto	237 591	231 962	-5 629	-2,4
Cascais	206 479	214 134	7 655	3,7
Loures	199 494	201 646	2 152	1,1
Braga	181 494	193 333	11 839	6,5
Almada	174 030	177 400	3 370	1,9
Matosinhos	175 478	172 669	-2 809	-1,6
Oeiras	172 120	171 802	-318	-0,2

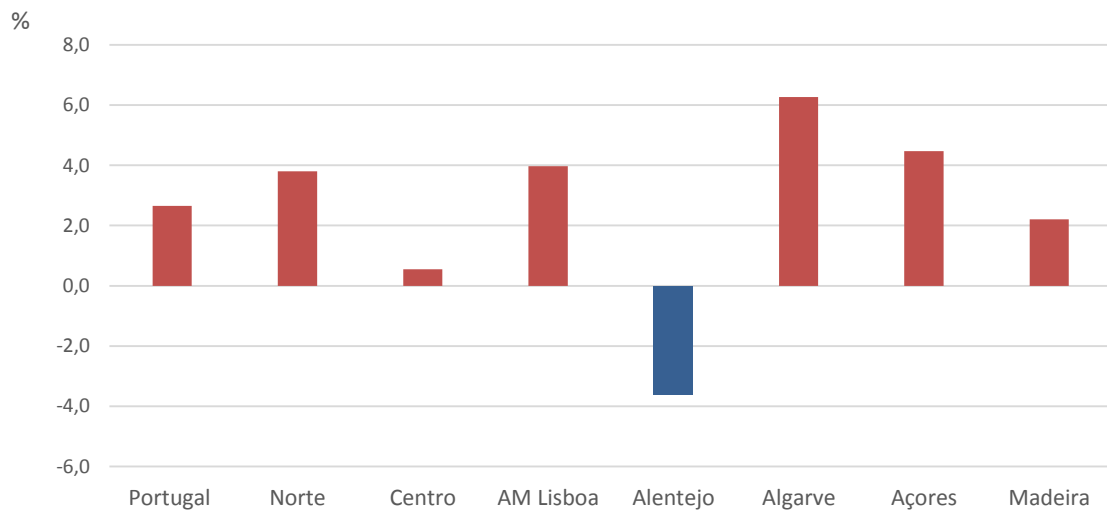
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

No matter the decrease of population, the number of households has grown slightly in the last decade

According to the preliminary results of the 2021 Census, there are 4,156,017 households (private and institutional) in Portugal, an increase of 2.7% compared to 2011. The number of households increased in all NUTS II Regions, except for the Alentejo region where the figure decreased by 3.6%.



Graphic 6. Variation in the number of households, 2011 -2021, NUTS II (%)



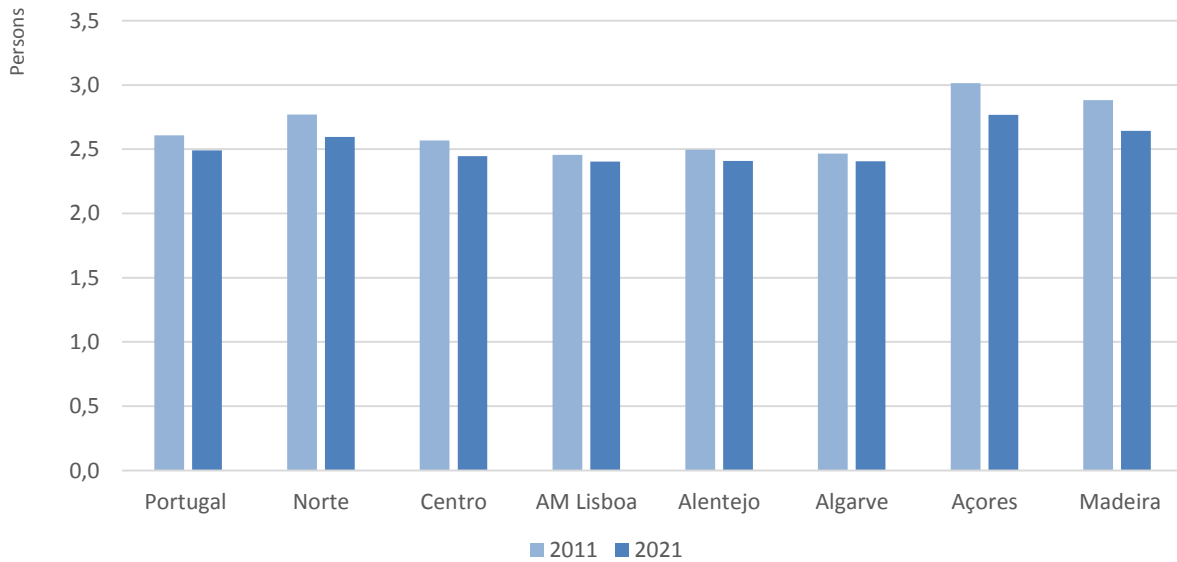
Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

The increase of households, along with the lower population, caused a reduction in the average household size in 2021, which is now 2.5 persons, 0.1 less than in 2011.

The household average size reduction was common to all regions, with the Região Autónoma dos Açores and the Região Autónoma da Madeira remaining the ones where the average household size is the highest (2.8 and 2.6 persons, respectively).



Graphic 7. Average household size, 2011 -2021, NUTS II



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

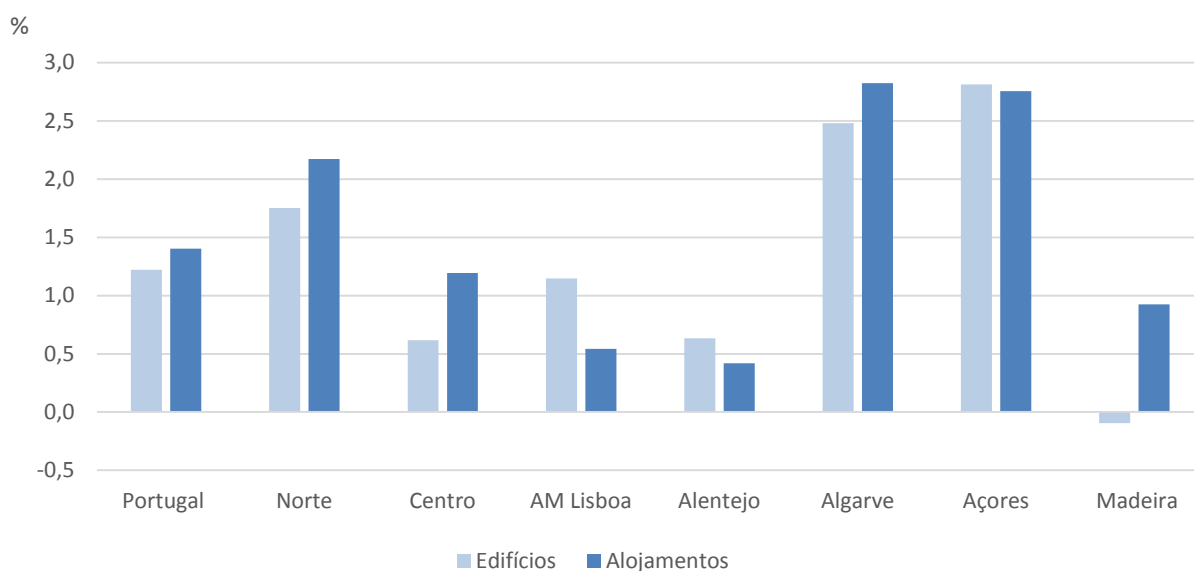
Portugal recorded a slight growth in the number of residential buildings and dwellings, though at a much slower pace than in previous decades

According to the Preliminary Results of the 2021 Census, the number of residential buildings was 3,587,669 and the number of residential dwellings was 5,961,262, an increase of 1.2% and 1.4% respectively, when compared to 2011.

The growth of the housing stock between 2011 and 2021 is significantly lower than in the previous decade, when the figures were around 12% for buildings and 16% for dwellings.



Graphic 8. Change in the number of buildings and dwellings, 2011 -2021, NUTS II (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

In a regional insight, the Região Autónoma dos Açores and the Algarve are the regions with the largest increases in the number of residential buildings and dwellings: 2.8% and 2.5% in buildings, respectively, and 2.8% in dwellings in both region.

The number of residential dwellings increases in most municipalities

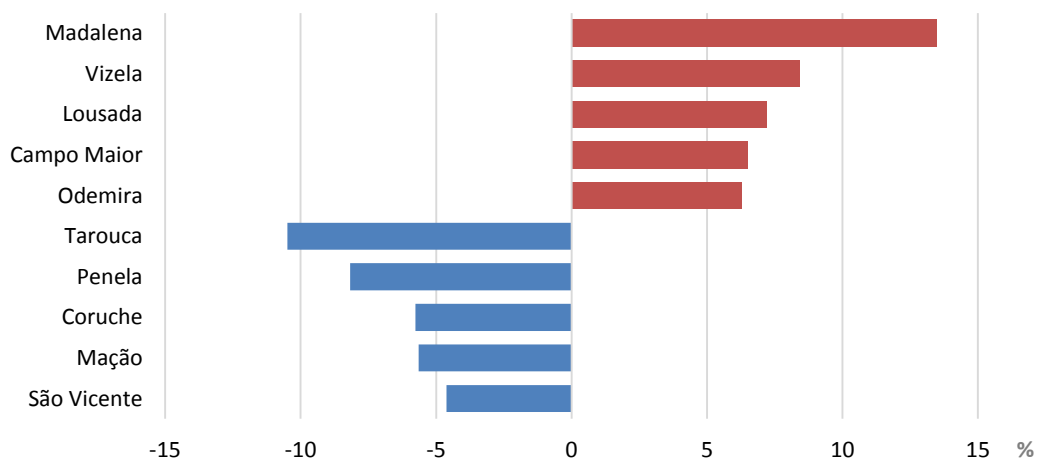
The number of residential dwellings increased in 72% of portuguese municipalities (221 municipalities).

The municipalities of Madalena (R.A. Açores), Vizela, Lousada, Campo Maior and Odemira achieved the highest growth in the number of dwellings, registering values between 13.5% and 6.3%.

The most significant decreases occurred in Tarouca, Penela, Coruche, Mação and São Vicente (R.A. Madeira) , with the number of dwellings varying between -10.5% and -4.6%.



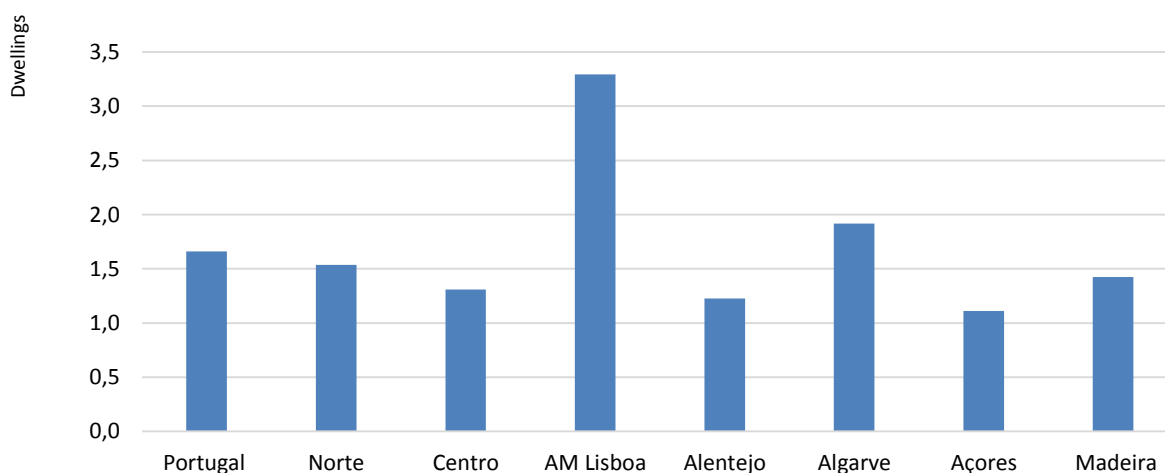
Graphic 9. The top 5 municipalities with the highest increases and decreases in number of dwellings, 2011 -2021 (%)



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census

In 2021, the average number of dwellings per building in Portugal is 1.7, a value that has been maintained since 2011. The Área Metropolitana de Lisboa is the region with the highest value, 3.3 dwellings per building, and the Região Autónoma dos Açores and Alentejo have the lowest values, 1.1 and 1.2, respectively.

Graphic 10. Average number of dwellings per building, 2021 - NUTSII



Source: Statistics Portugal, Population and Housing Census



METHODOLOGICAL NOTE

Statistics Portugal releases the first results of the XVI General Population Census and VI General Housing Census (2021 Census) – April 19, 2021 has been the census moment.

The 2021 Census keeps the longest and most consistent national statistical series on population and housing and was conducted through an entire population comprehensive survey, using a predominantly digital information collection process.

The first results of the 2021 Census are of a preliminary nature, as they are based on counts from the collection process and released prior to the final processing and validation of the collected information.

The final results will be available in the 4th quarter of 2022, preceded by provisional results to be released until February 2022

CONCEPTS

PRIVATE HOUSEHOLD	Group of persons who have their usual residence in the housing unit or the independent person occupying a housing unit.
INSTITUTIONAL HOUSEHOLD	A group of persons residing in a collective living quarter who, regardless of the relationship of kinship between them, are beneficiaries of an institution and ruled by an entity, internal or external to the group of persons.
DWELLING	Separate and independent place which, by the way it was built, rebuilt, enlarged, transformed or is being used, is intended for housing with the condition that it is not being used for other purposes at the time of reference: by separate it is meant that it is surrounded by conventional walls or other type, is covered and allows a person or group of persons to sleep, prepare meals or shelter from the weather separately from other members of the community; by independent it is meant that its occupants do not have to cross other accommodations to enter or leave the accommodation where they live.
HOUSEHOLD DWELLING	Dwelling that is normally intended to accommodate only one family, on the condition that it is not being used for other purposes at the period of reference.
COLLECTIVE LIVING QUARTERS	Living quarters intended for habitation by large groups of individuals or several households and which are used at the reference period, as usual residence of, at least, one person.



BUILDING	Any independent structure containing one or more dwellings, rooms or other spaces, covered by a roof and enclosed within external walls or dividing walls which extend from the foundations to the roof, designed for residential purposes.
RESIDENT POPULATION	Set of persons who, regardless of being present or absent in a given housing unit at the moment of observation, have lived in the place of their usual residence for a continuous period of 12 months prior to the moment of observation, or have arrived to the place of their usual residence during the period of 12 months prior to the moment of observation, with the purpose of living there for a year, at least.

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

Statistics Portugal would like to thank and acknowledge all entities that cooperated in the implementation and dissemination of the 2021 Census.