



November, 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

Transport and Communications Statistics

2020

## NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC IN ALL MODES OF PASSENGER TRANSPORT; BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS TRAFFIC CONTINUED TO GROWTH

In 2020, the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was seen in all modes of transport, with a decrease in the number of passengers transported by rail (-41.7%), subway (-47.8%), road (-42.0%) and inland waterways (-42.8%), after positive variations recorded in the previous year (+18.9%, +10.6%, +4.2% and +6.7% in 2019, in the same order). Air passenger transport had the greatest impact, with a 69.4% decrease in passenger movement at national airports and aerodromes (+6.8% in 2019).

The transport of goods presented less accentuated decreases: in air (-29.4%, +12.0% in 2019), in rail (-10.6%, -8.4% in 2019), in maritime mode (-7.0%, -5.6% in 2019) and in the road transport by national vehicles (-14.8%, -2.2% in 2019).

The volume of traffic associated with broadband internet access reached 10.1 billion GB, having grown extraordinarily (+60.6%, after +28.7% in 2019 and +44.8% in 2018).

With this press release, Statistics Portugal disseminates the publication "[Statistics on Transport and Communications 2020](#)", which provides a wide range of indicators on the several modes of transport, telecommunications and postal services.



Transport and communications – 2020



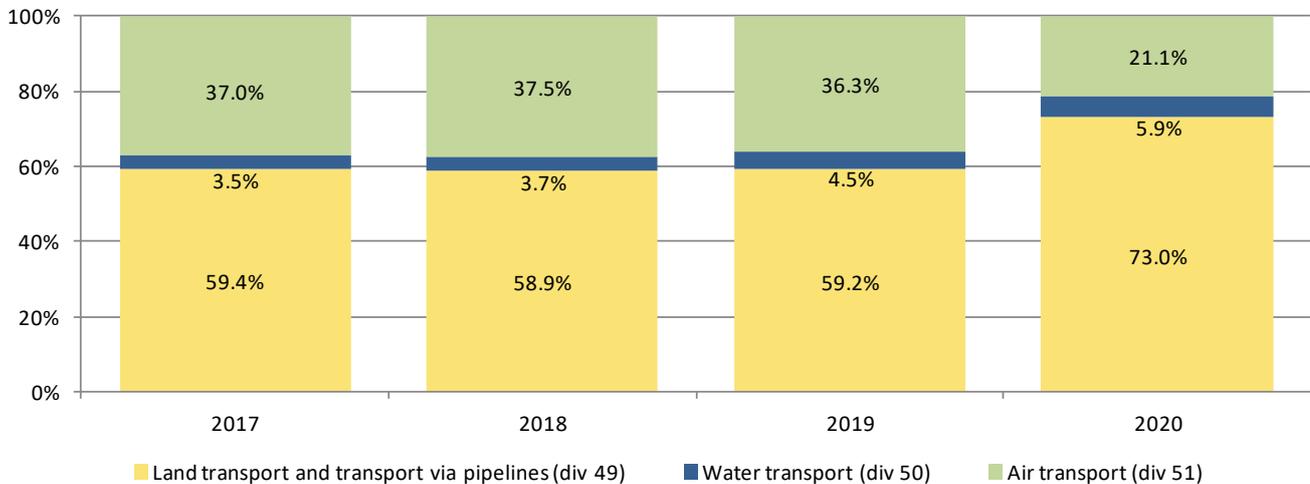
## A. TRANSPORTS

### Enterprises

According to the preliminary results of the Integrated Business Accounts System (IBAS) for 2020, the number of enterprises in the Transport and Storage sector (section H of the NACE) stood at 33.4 thousand (+6.6%). The subset of specific activities related to Transports<sup>1</sup> accounted for 27.2 thousand enterprises (+4.5%).

Turnover of the Transport and Storage sector recorded a very significant decrease (-24.1% in 2020; after +5.6% in 2019 and +7.2% in 2018), recording a total of EUR 17.5 billion. The subset of Transports enterprises, concentrating 55.8% of the turnover of the Transport and Storage sector, showed a strong decrease in this variable compared to recent years (-28.7%, +5.5% in 2019 and +8.1% in 2018).

Figure 1. Breakdown of turnover of Transport and Storage by activities, 2017-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Integrated business accounts system

### The explored railway network remained stable

As of December 31, 2020, the national railway network was 3,620.7 km in length, without change compared to the previous year.

The railway stock was comprised of 383 traction vehicles, 2,719 wagons and 1,011 vehicles for the transport of passengers.

<sup>1</sup> Only enterprises of divisions 49 – Land transport and transport via pipelines; 50 – Water transport and 51 – Air transport; excluding divisions 52 (Warehousing and auxiliary activities ) and 53 (Postal and courier activities).

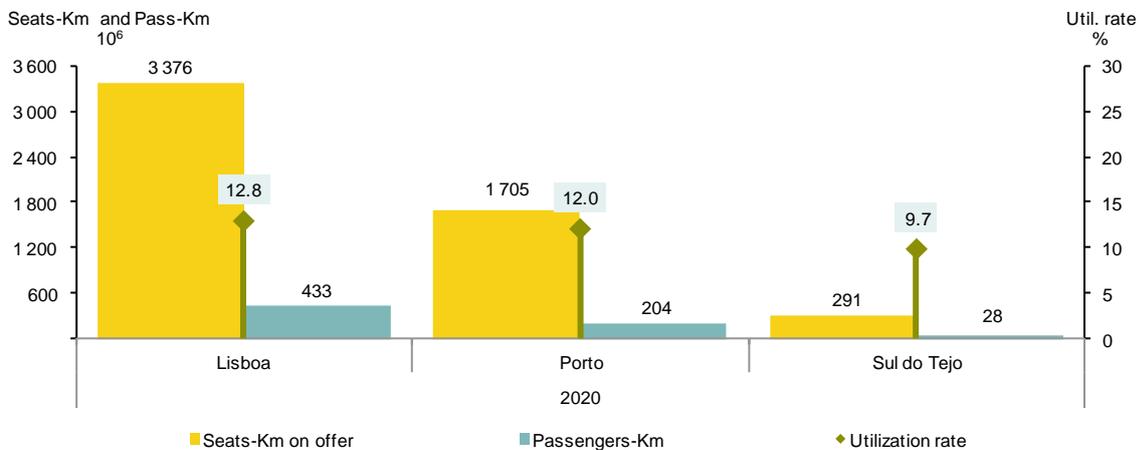


## Strong reductions in the number of passengers transported in railway and subway

In 2020, 102.2 million passengers were transported by train, which corresponded to a decrease of 41.7% (+18.9% in 2019) resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic which strongly affected mobility. The volume of transport decreased by 48.6% (+10.6% in 2019), corresponding to 2.6 billion passengers-km.

In 2020, 141.0 million passengers were transported by subway, corresponding to a reduction of 47.8% (+10.6% in 2019). The Lisbon underground recorded the largest decrease (-50.5%, after +8.2% in 2019), carrying 90.6 million passengers. The Porto railway system carried 39.4 million passengers, showing a decrease of 44.7% (+13.9% in 2019). The Metro Sul do Tejo had the smallest decrease among the three light railway systems (-29.8%, after +26.4% in 2019), corresponding to 10.9 million passengers.

Figure 2. Supply and demand by subway system, 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Subway Transport Survey

## Transport of goods in railway mode with decreases

In 2020, 8.7 million tonnes of goods were transported by rail, with a reduction of 10.6% (-8.4% in 2019). The volume of transport decreased by 3.0% (-10.4% in 2019), leading to an 8.6% increase in the average distance travelled by each tonne (277.2 km).

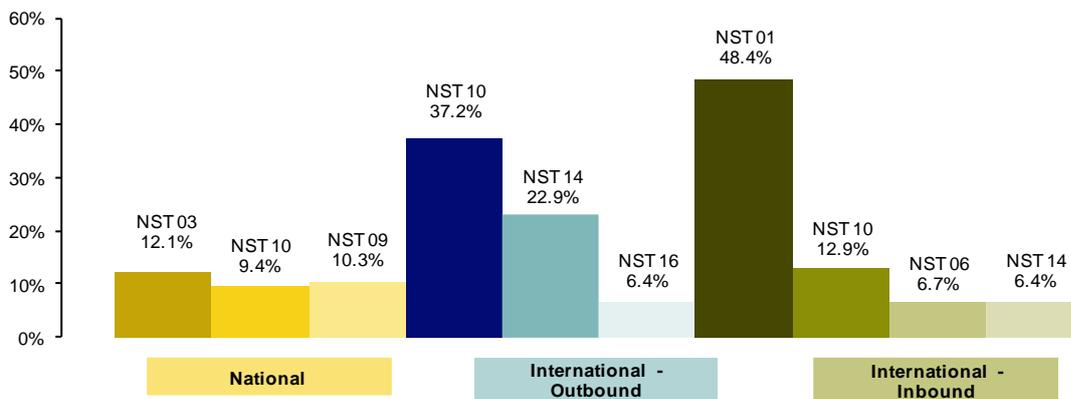
In national traffic, 6.6 million tonnes of goods (-10.0%, after -11.3% in 2019) were moved, equivalent to 76.9% of total traffic (76.4% in 2019).

In international traffic, 2.0 million tonnes of goods were transported, with a decrease of 12.5% compared to 2019, after growth of 5.3%, 10.2% and 4.1% in the previous 3 years. The origin and destination of all international transport was Spain.



The main group of goods carried in railway mode (when considering the NST 2007 classification) was group **10** - " Basic metals; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment ", with 987.4 thousand tones, equivalent to 11.4% of the total (13.1% in 2019).

Figure 3. Weight of main categories of goods carried by rail, by type of traffic, 2020



**NST 2007:**

01- Products of agriculture, hunting, and forestry; fish and other fishing products

03 - Metal ores and other mining and quarrying prod.; peat; uranium and thorium

06 - Wood and prod. of wood and cork (exc.furniture); art. straw and plaiting m.; pulp, paper and paper p.

07 - Coke and refined petroleum products

09 - Other non-metallic mineral products

10 - Basic metals; fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment

14 - Secondary raw materials; municipal wastes and other wastes

16 - Equipment and material utilised in the transport of goods

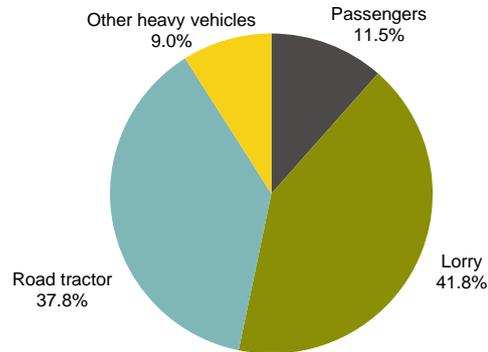
Source: Statistics Portugal, Transport by Train Survey

## The fleet of vehicles in circulation decreased for the first time

In 2020, the fleet of motorized road vehicles presumably in circulation remained at 7.0 million vehicles and recorded, for the first time in the available series, a slight decrease in year-on-year terms (-0.1%).



Figure 4. Distribution of heavy vehicles stock by type, 2020



Source: Portuguese Road Agency (IMT) and Statistics Portugal

### Strong reduction in the number of new registered and cancelled vehicles

The number of vehicles registered and cancelled fell sharply in 2020, -28.3% and -13.4%, respectively (after +0.7% and +0.5% in 2019). 293.6 thousand vehicles were registered and 120.7 thousand were cancelled.

### Sales of new vehicles and used imported ones with a sharp drop

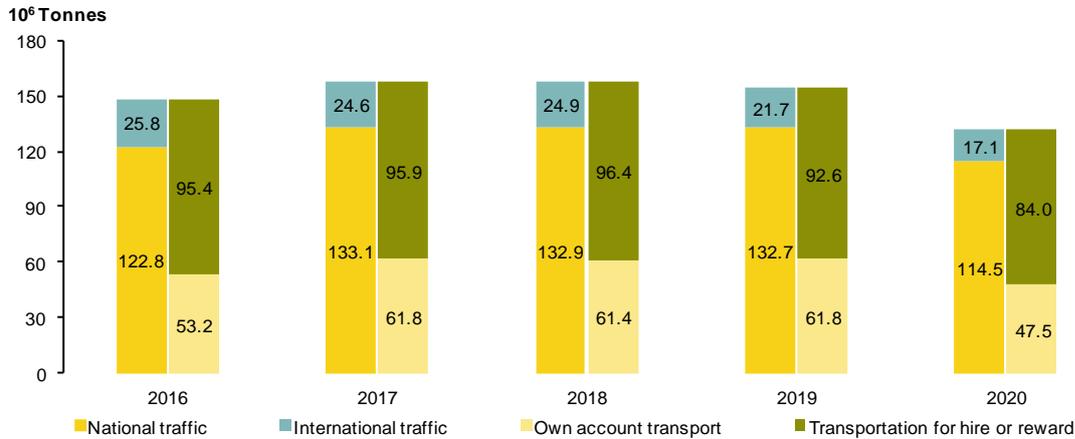
Sales of (new) light passenger vehicles fell sharply in 2020 (-35.0%; -2.0% in 2019) and reached 145.4 thousand vehicles. The only month to record an increase in sales was February, with 20.3 thousand vehicles (+7.4%). As with new vehicles, the sales of used imported passenger cars decreased sharply in 2020 (-26.9%; +2.9% in 2019) and reached 58.1 thousand vehicles.

### Goods transported in domestic vehicles continued to decline

In 2020, the results of the Road Freight Transport Survey (ITRM), which corresponded to the national and international transport of goods in national vehicles, showed a decrease of 14.8% in transported goods, which corresponded to 131.5 million tonnes (-2.2% in 2019).



Figure 5. Goods (tonnes) carried by type of traffic and transport, 2016-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Road Freight Transport Survey

### Transport of goods in foreign vehicles increased in weight but reduced in volume

In 2020, it is estimated that 14.5 million tonnes were transported by foreign vehicles in Portugal, which represented an increase of 1.9% compared to the previous year (+6.1% in 2019). In volume, the transport carried out reached 8.9 billion tonnes-km (-5.4%), which represented 26.8% (+3.5 p.p.) of the total volume carried out.

### Road passenger transport with significant reductions in the number of passengers transported and in the use of vehicles

Due to the pandemic, the number of passengers transported fell sharply and 328.2 million passengers were transported (-42.0%). The offer of road transport was reduced to 20.3 billion seats-km, with 92.4% (+10.9 p.p.) being made available in regular transport. Demand fell by half and 3.9 billion passenger-km were registered (-50.4%). As a result, the utilization coefficient fell to 19.5% (-9.4 p.p.).

### Fuel and energy consumption in road transport below 5 million toe

In 2020, and according to provisional information provided by DGEG, fuel and energy consumption in road transport decreased by 15.2% (+2.9% in 2019) and reached 4.8 million toe (tonnes of oil equivalent).



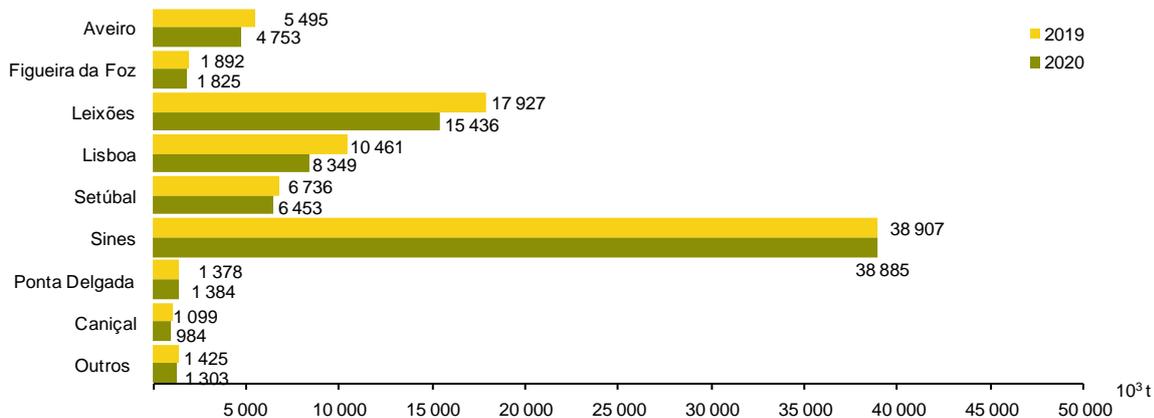
## Number of accidents with victims, deaths and injuries with sharp reductions

The 30-day accident in Portugal provided by ANSR revealed a 25.6% reduction in the number of accidents with victims, to 27,700 claims. The total number of victims also fell sharply (-28.2%) to 34.5 thousand people, both in number of deaths (-22.2%) and injured (-28.3%).

## Decreasing national port activity

The movement of goods in national maritime ports amounted to 79.4 million tonnes, decreasing by 7.0% and reinforcing the decrease registered in 2019 (-5.6%). Sines, with 38.9 million tonnes, registered a decrease of 0.1%, compared to 2019, increasing its weight in the total by 3.4 p.p., remaining as the port with the greatest representation (49.0%) in the national total. Leixões (19.4% of the total) and Lisbon (10.5%) decreased their movement of goods by 13.9% and 20.2%, respectively.

Figure 6. Movement of goods (tonnes) in ports, 2019 and 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Maritime transport of passengers and goods survey

National ports registered 68.3 million tonnes of international traffic (-6.1%, after -6.5% in 2019), reaching 86.0% of the total.

In 2020, 32.1 million tonnes of goods were loaded in national ports, which corresponded to a reduction of 1.4% compared to 2019. The group **07** - "Coke and petroleum products", despite the reduction of 3.4% compared to 2019, remained the most representative, reaching 25.2% of the total, followed by group **09** - "Other non-metallic mineral products" which presented an increase of 2.1% compared to the previous year, and represented 11.8% of the total goods loaded.

47.3 million tonnes of goods were unloaded at national ports, corresponding to a decrease of 10.4% compared to the previous year. The groups that include energetic products were the most representative, with the groups **02** - "Coal and lignite; crude oil and natural gas" (-2.3% compared to 2019) and **07** - "Coke



and refined petroleum products" (-43.7% compared to 2019) representing, respectively, 31.7% and 12.3% of the total.

The movement of liquid bulk reached 30.7 million tonnes (-8.3% compared to 2019) representing 38.7% of the total movement, followed by containerized cargo (28.0 million tonnes; +5.4% than in the previous year), which reached 35.2% of the total handled (+4.1 p.p.).

### Inland waterway passenger and vehicles transport decreases

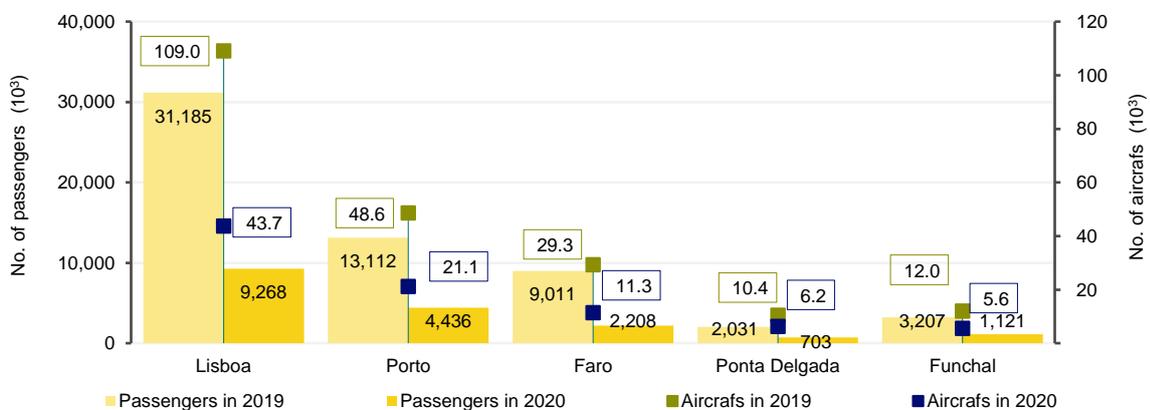
By inland waterways in Portugal, regular (national and international) crossings ensured the transport of 13.1 million passengers and 274.0 thousand vehicles, reducing by 42.8% and 28.0%, respectively.

### Sharp decrease in passenger movement at the main national airports

The movement of passengers at national airports and aerodromes in 2020 amounted to 18.4 million (-69.4%, +6.8% in 2019).

At the main airports, passenger traffic registered the following decreases: -70.3% in Lisboa (+7.4% in 2019), -66.2% in Porto (+9.8% in 2019), -75.5% in Faro (+3.7% in 2019), -65.1% in Funchal (+0.8% in 2019) and -65.4% in Ponta Delgada (+6.3% in 2019).

Figure 7. Air traffic indicators at the main national airports, 2019 and 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Airports and aerodromes survey (ANAC/ANA)



At national airports, in 2020, in terms of the movement of goods, there were less accentuated decreases: -29.4% in the movement of cargo (totalling 136.3 thousand tonnes) and -39.5% in the movement of mail ( 10.7 thousand tonnes).

## Pipeline transport with decreases in gas and oil pipelines

Gas transport in pipelines decreased in 2020, both in inflows (-3.3%, +6.8% in 2019) and outflows (-3.2%, +6.9% in 2019), corresponding to 68.8 thousand GWh and 70.6 thousand GWh, respectively.

The transport of goods by pipeline decreased by 31.7% (+2.8% in 2019), reaching 2.1 million tonnes.

## Goods with decreases of 10.7% in imports and 5.6% in exports

In 2020, according to the definitive results of international trade, imports of goods totalled 55.5 million tonnes, registering a decrease of 10.7% (-0.9% in 2019).

Maritime transport concentrated 58.1% of imported goods, with a total of 32.3 million tonnes (-15.5% compared to 2019). By road, 19.9 million tonnes of goods entered (-2.2%), corresponding to 35.9% of the total.

The volume of exports totalled 36.9 million tonnes of goods, recording a decrease of 5.6% (+1.0% in 2019). The maritime mode concentrated 51.5% of the total exported tonnage, the road 43.2% and the air 1.7%.

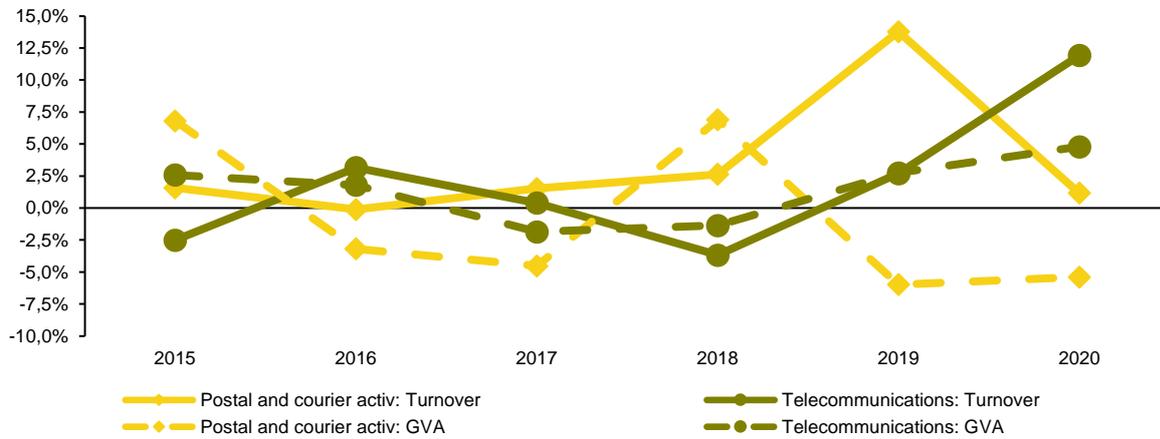
## B. COMMUNICATIONS

### Growth in turnover in the Communications Sector

According to the preliminary results of the IBAS, the turnover in the communications sector amounted to EUR 7.3 billion in 2020, growing by 10.1% compared to the previous year (+4.4% in 2019). The telecommunications sub-sector grew by 11.9% to EUR 6.2 billion and the postal activities sub-sector increased by 1.2% (+13.8% in 2019).



Figure 8. Turnover and gross value added growth rate, 2015-2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Integrated business accounts system

### Number of subscribers and accesses to fixed telephone service continued to increase

The fixed telephone service with direct access registered 4.2 million customers in 2020, increasing by 2.3% over the previous year. The number of telephone accesses continued to grow (+2.4%; +0.3% in 2019), reaching 5.2 million accesses.

### Voice traffic with growth in the number of minutes in the mobile telephone service

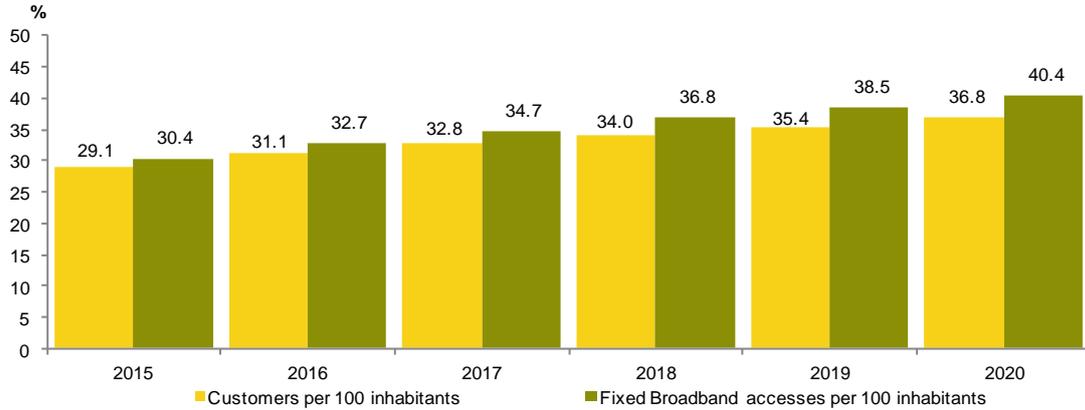
Voice traffic originating on the mobile network registered a remarkable growth of 16.4% in the number of minutes, to 33.8 billion, although the number of calls decreased by 4.5% , to 10.4 billion. This evolution was determined by the performance of domestic traffic, with an increase in the number of minutes to all destinations, with special emphasis on connections to the mobile network with different operators (+23.3%) and connections to the operator's own mobile network (+13.3%). On the contrary, international traffic registered a significant decrease of calls (-27.8%) and minutes (-21.8%).

### Internet access traffic volume expanded strongly

The number of internet accesses increased by 4.9% in 2020 (+4.8% in 2019) and reached 4.16 million. Fibre optics access continued to grow at a noteworthy rate (+14.1%), although slightly lower than the previous year (+17.4% in 2019). Traffic volume associated with broadband internet access reached 10.1 billion GB, having grown extraordinarily in 2020 (+60.6%, +28.7% in 2019).



Figure 9. Internet Fixed Access coverage, 2015-2020

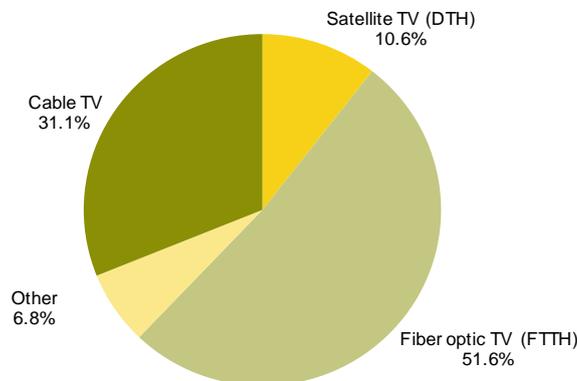


Source: ANACOM

### Increase in the number of fibre optic television subscribers

The number of subscribers to the TV signal distribution service continued to grow in 2020 (+4.0%, +3.7% in 2019) and reached 4.2 million subscribers. Fibre optic service (FTTH), as in the previous year, was the only service to record an increase in the number of subscribers (+14.4%; +17.5% in 2019) and represented 51.6% of the total, reaching 2.2 million subscribers.

Figure 10. Distribution of TV subscribers by type of subscription, 2020



Source: ANACOM



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# DIISTAQUE

## Postal network with more access points and less traffic

In 2020, the national postal network grew 8.3%, reversing the decrease from the previous year (-0.6%) and is comprised of 14,802 access points. With 23 new establishments, post offices grew by 4.3% (+0.2% in 2019) to 562 posts, while in the opposite direction, letter posts decreased by 1.5% (-0.8% in 2019) to 1,804 letter posts, registering a decrease of 27 posts. The decrease in postal traffic accentuated in 2020 (-12.0%, -6.7% in 2019), with 604 million items dispatched.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

The results presented are developed in the publication "Transport and Communications Statistics 2020".

The information disclosed was based on the following sources:

### **Rail transport**

Inquiries to the passenger and freight rail transport companies and to the metro systems, "Infraestruturas de Portugal SA" and "Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes IP" (IMT).

### **Road transport**

Surveys for Road Transport of Passengers and Goods; IMT; "Autoridade Nacional de Segurança Rodoviária" e "Comandos Regionais da Polícia de Segurança Pública dos Açores e da Madeira"; "Direção Geral de Energia e Geologia"; "Associação Automóvel de Portugal".

### **Maritime and waterway transport**

Surveys for maritime transport of passengers and freight and for river transport (port administrations, river transport companies, municipalities, IMT and "DocaPesca SA").

### **Air transport**

ANAC – Autoridade Nacional de Aviação Civil e ANA – Aeroportos de Portugal SA.

### **Transport by pipeline**

REN Gasodutos SA and CLC - Companhia Logística de Combustíveis SA.

### **Communications**

Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM) and the main communication companies.

These and other information on Statistics on Transport and Communications are available on the Official Statistics Portal at [www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt).



## ACRONYMS AND DESIGNATIONS

ANA	Aerportos de Portugal (Enterprise that manages the airports)
ANAC	Civil Aviation National Authority
ANACOM	Communications National Authority
ANSR	Road Safety National Authority
CAE	National Economic Activity Classification (similar to Nace Rev.2)
CLC	Companhia Logística de Combustíveis SA (Enterprise that manages the oil lines)
DGEG	Directorate General for Energy and Geology
DTH	Direct to Home (Sattelite distribution service)
FTTH	Fiber to the Home (Optic Fiber distribution service)
IBAS	Integrated Business Accounts System
IMT	Portuguese Road Agency (Instituto da Mobilidade e dos Transportes)
INE	Statistics Portugal
ITRM	Road Freight Transport Survey
NACE	Statistical Classification of Economic Activities
NST	Standard Goods Classification for transport statistics, 2007
REN	Rede Eléctrica Nacional (Enterprise that manages the energy infrastructure)
VAB	Gross Value Added

## UNITS AND ABBREVIATIONS

%	Percentage
GB	Gigabyte
GWh	GigaWatt per hour
LKm	Seats kilometer
N.º	Number
p.p.	Percentual points
PKm	Passenger kilometer
toe	Tonnes of oil equivalent