



# SYNTHESIS INE @ COVID-19

March . 09 . 2021

Statistics Portugal makes available the weekly report for monitoring the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report covers the press releases concerning:

- COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal: Regional Economic Activity – March to December 2020, published on February 24;
- Business and consumer surveys – February 2021, published on February 25;
- CPI/HICP flash estimate – February 2021, published on February 26;
- Fast and exceptional enterprise survey COVID-19 – February 2021, published on February 26;
- Context indicators for the COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal, published on February 26.

For further details, see the links available throughout this press release.

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## COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal: Regional Economic Activity How has the pandemic affected regional economies?



This initiative is part of the development of the **National Data Infrastructure (IND)** at Statistics Portugal, which aims to take advantage of the integration of data from different sources and with a potential utility to produce official statistics with greater granularity and frequency. In addition to the significant enrichment in terms of the production of statistics, it also has the effect of simplifying the reporting obligations by citizens and enterprises to Statistics Portugal.

The results presented here fall within the scope of the STATSLab – Statistics in development, portal that comprises projects for new statistical products that have not yet been fully completed and yet their results already express information that may prove useful for economic and social analysis.

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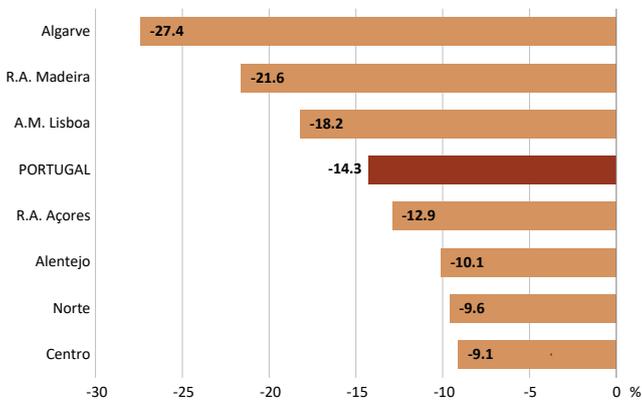
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In the framework of a protocol signed between the two entities, Tax and Customs Authority transmits monthly information to Statistics Portugal obtained through the E-invoice system (E-fatura). This information allows the evaluation of the economy behaviour from a regional perspective in the period from March (beginning of the pandemic economic effects) to December 2020 (last month available) compared to the same period in 2019. Some of the main findings:

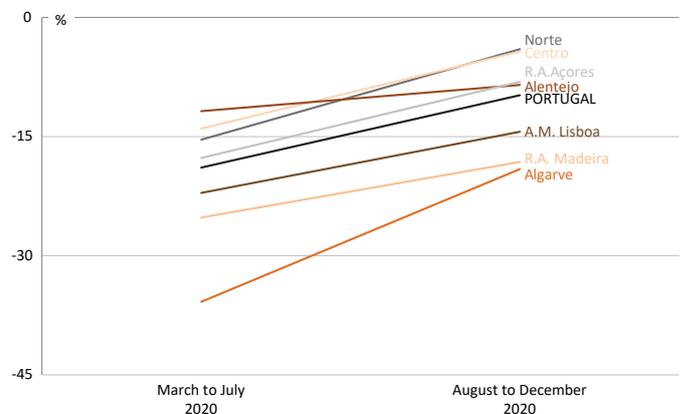


- Between March and December 2020, there was, in Portugal, a homologous decrease of 14.3% in the invoicing value and, recording values above the national average, Algarve (-27.4%), Região Autónoma da Madeira (-21.6%) and Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (-18.2%) stood out;
- In Portugal and in all NUTS 2 regions, this contraction was more intense from March to July (-18.9% in Portugal), than in the period from August to December (-9.8%);
- More than 70% of the decrease recorded in Portugal from March to December 2020 was due to the reduction in the invoicing value in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (AML) and Área Metropolitana do Porto (AMP);

Invoicing value, NUTS 2 and Portugal  
March to December 2020  
Year-on-year growth rate



Invoicing value, NUTS 2 and Portugal  
March to July and August to December 2020  
Year-on-year growth rate



- Weighting the year-on-year growth rate of invoicing value in each branch of economic activity by their respective weight in total invoiced amount, it can be concluded that the total contraction recorded from March to December 2020 (-14.3%) was mainly due to *Wholesale and retail trade; Repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles activities* (-4.2 p.p., branch 4G) and *Industrial activities* (-4.0 p.p., branch 2), which together accounted for 57.2% of the total reduction;
- At the sub-regional level, in nine out of the 25 NUTS 3 sub-regions, *Industrial activities* branch contributed more than half to the year-on-year contraction in invoicing value;
- From March to December 2020, the invoicing values of the *Accommodation activities and Arts, entertainment, sports and recreation activities* represented less than half of the invoiced amount in the same period of 2019;

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- In 21 out of the 25 NUTS 3 sub-regions, the *Accommodation activities* were also the branch with the highest homologous contraction in the invoicing value;
- In contrast, in 13 sub-regions, the *Information and Communication* branch scored the most positive performance;
- In Portugal, the branch with the most positive performance was *Manufacture of basic pharmaceutical products and pharmaceutical preparations*.

## Invoicing value, by activity branch, Portugal, March to December 2020 Year-on-year growth rate

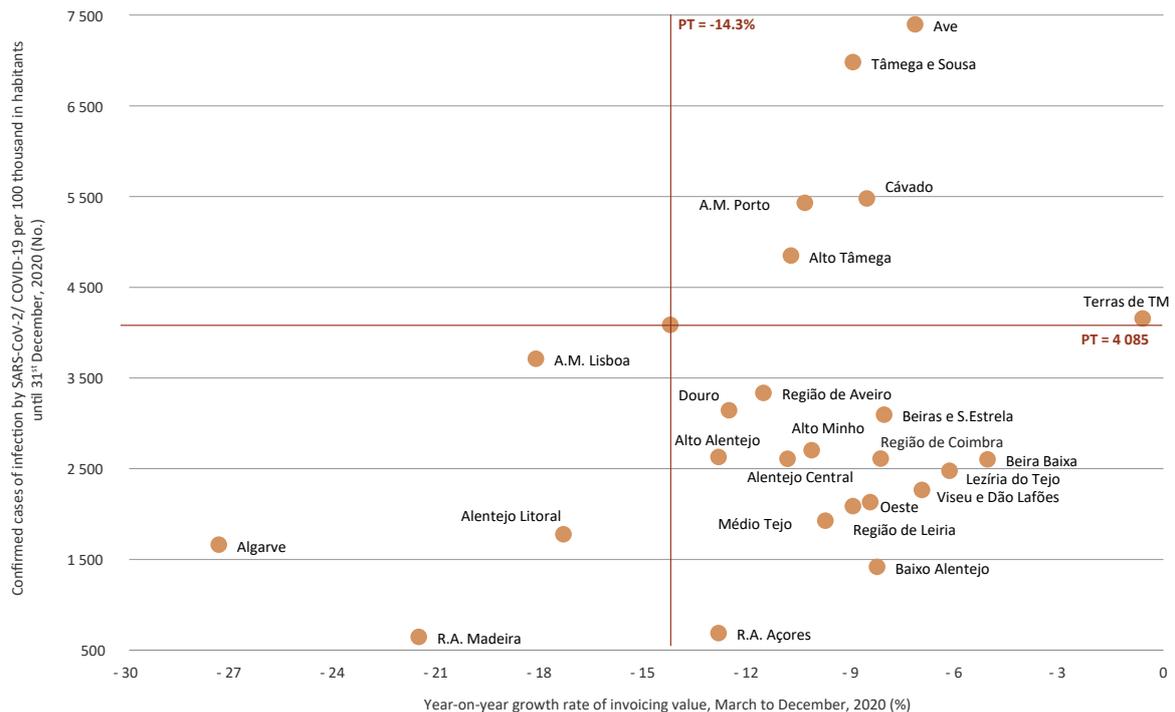


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- In the period under analysis, only six sub-regions, all from the Norte region, including the AMP, registered, simultaneously, COVID-19 confirmed cases per 100 thousand inhabitants higher than the national average and a reduction in the invoicing value lower than the country's average;
- Conversely, Algarve, Região Autónoma da Madeira, Alentejo Litoral and AML registered rates of COVID-19 confirmed cases below country's average but a contraction of invoiced values relatively more pronounced.

Confirmed cases of infection by SARS-CoV-2/ COVID-19 per 100 thousand inhabitants until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 and Year-on-year growth rate of invoicing value March to December 2020, Portugal and NUTS 3

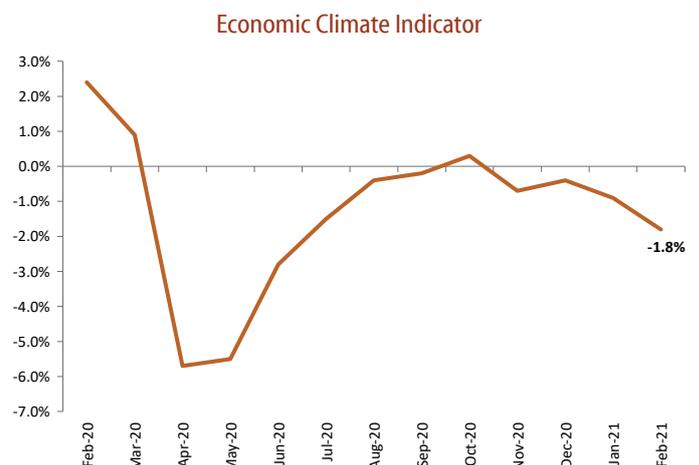


More information available at:  
[COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal: Regional Economic Activity – March to December 2020](#)  
 (24 February 2021)

## Consumer confidence indicator decreases and the economic climate indicator with greater reduction

In February 2021:

- The Consumer Confidence indicator decreased, after having increased in the two previous months, less so in January;
- The economic climate indicator intensified the reduction observed in the previous month, back to a level close to that seen in July 2020.



The confidence indicators performed as follows:

- The Consumer Confidence Indicator decreased in February, after the increases registered in the two previous months, less so in January.

Last month's developments resulted mainly from the negative contribution of the perspectives regarding future developments in the economic situation of the country; expectations about future developments in major purchases also contributed negatively.

Opinions on past developments in the financial situation of the household made a nil contribution to the evolution of the indicator, while perspectives regarding future developments in the financial situation of the household made a positive contribution.

- The Manufacturing Industry confidence indicator increased in February, after having decreased in the previous month.

In February, the indicator's evolution was due to the positive contribution of the perspectives on the firm's production expectations; opinions concerning stocks of finished goods and opinions on the evolution of overall demand made negative contributions.

The indicator increased in the *Intermediate Goods* grouping, decreased in the *Investment Goods* and stabilised in the *Consumer Goods* grouping.

- The Construction and Public Works confidence indicator decreased in February, after having increased in December and January.

The worsening in the last month reflected the negative contribution of the opinions on the order books; the perspectives on employment kept a positive contribution, although slightly lower than in January.

The indicator decreased in the three divisions, *Real Estate Development and Building Construction*, *Specialised Construction Activities*, and *Civil Engineering*, only slightly in the latter.

- The Trade Confidence Indicator decreased in January and February, after a slight increase in December.

This resulted from the negative contribution of opinions on the volume of sales and, above all, of the perspectives on the firm's activity in the next three months; opinions on the volume of stocks made a positive contribution.

In February, the confidence indicator decreased in *Wholesale Trade* and *Retail Trade*, more significantly in the latter case.

- The Services Confidence Indicator decreased significantly in February, after having increased in the previous month, resuming the downward trend started in November.

The behaviour of the indicator resulted from the strong negative contribution of all components, opinions on the evolution of the order books, perspectives on the evolution of demand and opinions on the firm's activity, more so in the first case.

In February, confidence indicators decreased in six of the eight Services Sections, namely *Real Estate Activities*, *Hotels, Restaurants, and Similar* and *Information and Communication Activities*.

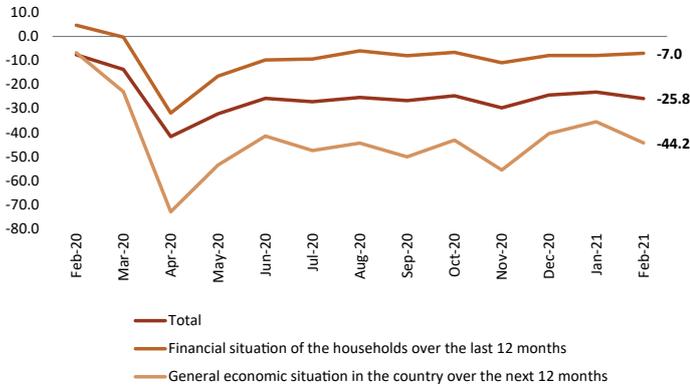


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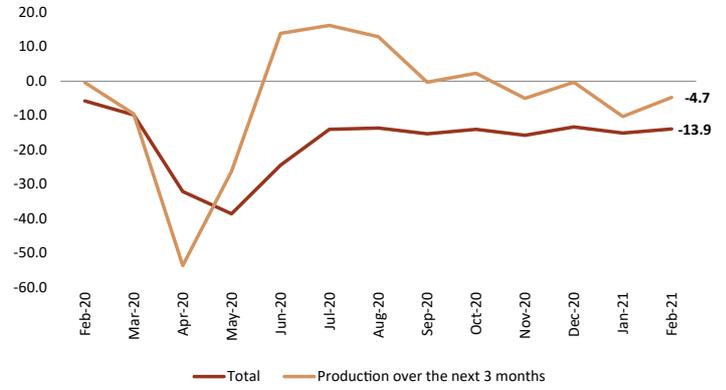
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## Confidence indicators (BER\*) (monthly seasonally adjusted basic series values)

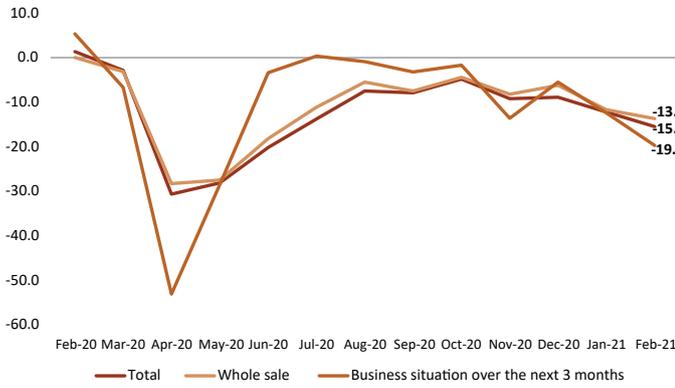
### Consumers Confidence Indicator



### Manufacturing Industry Confidence Indicator



### Trade Confidence Indicator



### Services Confidence Indicator



\*BER – Balance of extreme responses

The consumer survey telephone interviews took place between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of February and the business surveys between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of February.

More information available at:  
[Business and consumer surveys – February 2021](#)  
 (25 February 2021)



## CPI year-on-year rate of change estimated at 0.5% Flash estimate



In February 2021, the year-on-year rate of change of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 0.5% (0.3% in January).

The core inflation indicator (total index excluding unprocessed food and energy) should have registered a rate of change of 0.7% (0.6% in the previous month).

In February, regarding the month-on-month rate of change, the CPI will have had a rate of -0.5% (-0.3% in January 2021 and -0.6% in February 2020).

	Monthly rate (%) <sup>1</sup>		Annual rate (%) <sup>1</sup>	
	Jan-21	Feb-21 *	Jan-21	Feb-21 *
<b>CPI</b>				
Total	-0.30	-0.45	0.30	0.49
All items excluding housing	-0.33	-0.47	0.23	0.44
All items excluding unproc. food and energy	-0.63	-0.53	0.55	0.68
Unprocessed food	0.42	-0.26	1.70	1.38
Energy	1.92	0.06	-4.38	-3.07
<b>HICP</b>				
Total	-0.3	-0.5	0.2	0.3

<sup>1</sup> Rounded values to two and one decimals.

\* Estimated values

With regard to the Harmonised Index of Consumer Prices (HICP) - the most appropriate inflation indicator for comparisons between the different countries of the European Union, and in particular the Euro Area - Portugal should have registered a year-on-year rate of change of 0.3% in February 2021 (0.2% in the previous month).

More information available at:  
[CPI/HICP flash estimate – February 2021](#)  
(26 February 2021)

## COVID-19: monitoring the impact of the pandemic on the enterprises

Statistics Portugal and Banco de Portugal (BdP) launched last April the Fast and Exceptional Enterprise Survey (COVID-IREE), with the aim of identifying the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the activity of enterprises.

Given the evolution of restrictions on economic activity resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the questionnaire was suspended between August and October 2020, with a single edition in November 2020. As a result of the third wave of the pandemic, with the consequent mandatory lockdown imposed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, Statistics Portugal and BdP decided to conduct a new edition of the survey, with a reformulated set of questions, aimed at reassessing the situation of enterprises. The collection for this edition took place from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of February.

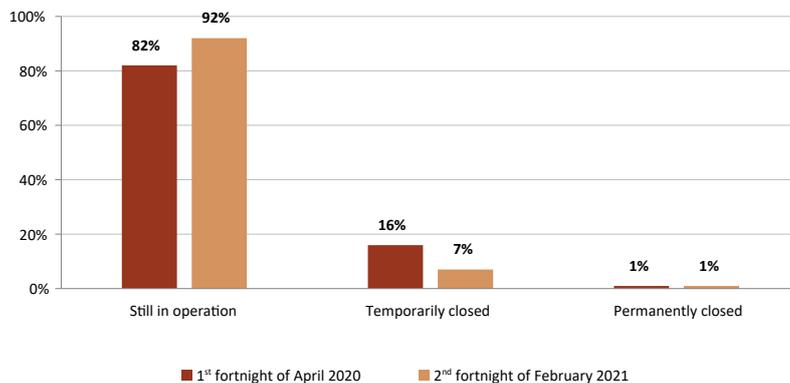
The results presented refer exclusively to the enterprises that responded to this edition of the survey (around 5.5 thousand). These enterprises are part of a representative sample used for the calculation of sectoral turnover indices published monthly by Statistics Portugal.

The survey does not include enterprises operating in the financial sector or public administration bodies

### Business situation of enterprises in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of February 2021

- 92% of the responding enterprises were in production or operating, even partially (+10 p.p. than in the first lockdown, in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of April 2020).
- The percentage of enterprises in operation was higher for larger enterprises: 86% for microenterprises and 98% for large enterprises.
- The *Accommodation and food services* sector recorded the lowest percentage of businesses in operation (62%) and had 36% of businesses closed temporarily and 2% closed permanently.

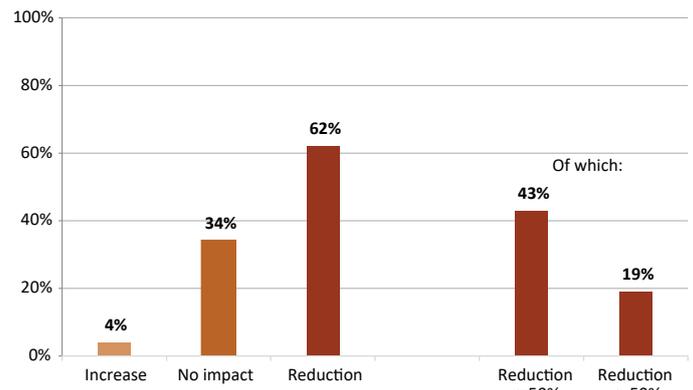
Situation of enterprises in the first fortnights of February 2021 and April 2020  
(as a % of the total responding enterprises)



## Impact of the pandemic on turnover in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of February 2021

- 62% of enterprises reported a reduction in turnover, compared to the same period of the previous year (in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of April 2020, 81% of responding enterprises were in this situation). The reduction was greater than 50% for 19% of the enterprises.
- 4% of enterprises reported an increase in turnover.
- 34% reported that this variable had remained unchanged.
- By sectors of activity:
  - » *Accommodation and food services* and *Transportation and storage* concentrated the highest percentages of enterprises with a reduction in turnover: 96% and 78%, respectively;
  - » In *Hotels and restaurants*, 55% of enterprises had reductions of more than 75%;
  - » *Construction and real estate* registered the smallest reduction in turnover: 44%.

Impact of the pandemic on turnover in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of February 2021 compared to the same period of the previous year, as a % of the total operating enterprises or temporarily closed

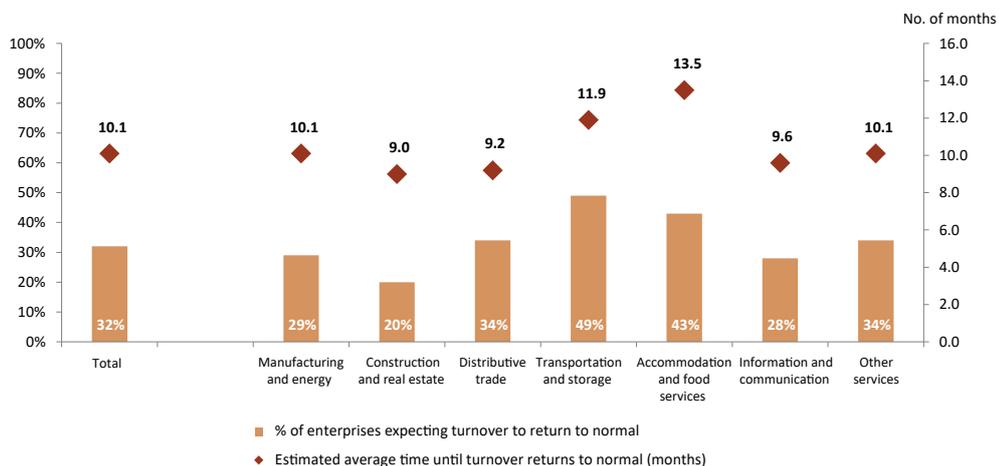


## Return of turnover to normal

In case of an effective control of the pandemic in 2021:

- 32% of enterprises estimate that their turnover will return to normal in an average interval of 10.1 months;
- 10% of enterprises do not foresee a return to normality;
- By sectors of activity:
  - » *Accommodation and food services* presents the highest percentage of enterprises (20%) that, despite remaining in business, do not expect to return to the normal level of turnover.
  - » Enterprises operating in this sector are also those that, on average, need the longest time for business to return to normal: 13.5 months.

Estimated time until the activity of enterprises that had a turnover reduction goes back to normal in case of effective control of the pandemic in 2021 (average no. of months)  
Total responding enterprises and sector of activity



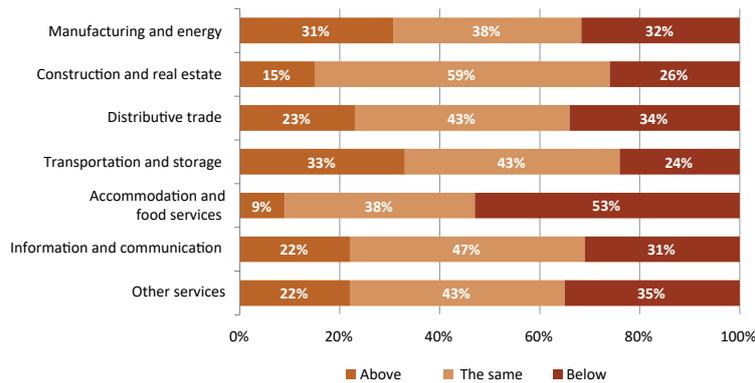
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## Comparison of turnover in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of February 2021 with that recorded during the first lockdown (1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of April 2020)

- 24% of enterprises reported a higher turnover than during the first lockdown.
- 43% of enterprises reported a turnover equal to that recorded during the first lockdown.

Turnover in the 1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of February 2021 compared to that registered during the first lockdown (1<sup>st</sup> fortnight of April 2020) as a % of the total operating enterprises or temporarily closed by sector of activity



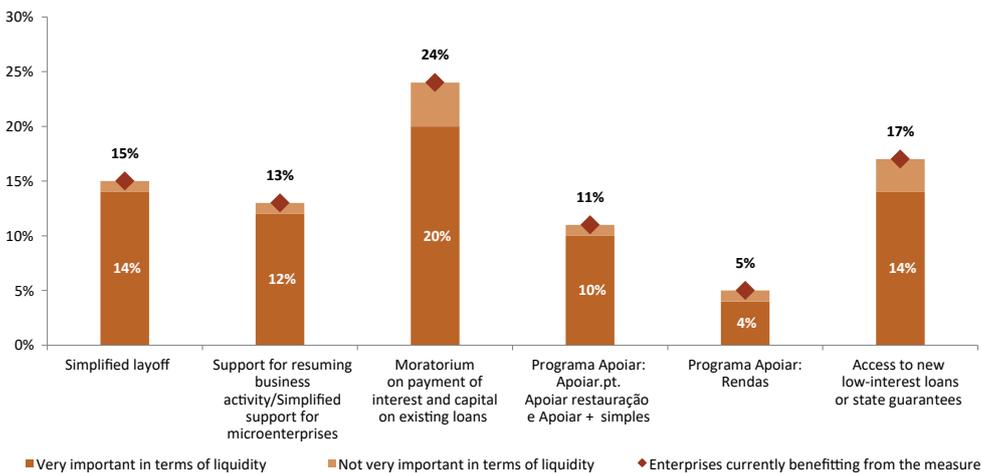
## Use of the government support measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic and assessment of their relevance for the liquidity situation of enterprises

The support measures most used by the responding enterprises are:

- Moratorium on payment of interest and capital on existing loans: 24% of enterprises;
- Access to new low-interest loans or state guarantees: 17%;
- Simplified Layoff: 15%.

Most of the enterprises benefiting from the measures considered them as very important for their liquidity situation.

Use of government support measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic and importance in terms of the liquidity of enterprises, as a % of the total operating enterprises or temporarily closed  
Total responding enterprises



Accommodation and food services is the sector with the highest percentage of enterprises currently benefiting from each of the support measures, with the emphasis on simplified layoff (65%) and "Programa Apoiar: Apoiar.pt", "Apoiari restauração" and "Apoiari + simples" (61%).

## Estimated time of survival for businesses in the absence of additional support measures

In case of no additional support measures and under the current circumstances, the enterprises estimate that they will be able to stay in business:

- For less than a month: 2%;
- Between one to two months: 11%;
- Between three to six months: 19%;
- More than six months: 68%.

In the first half of April 2020, the percentage of enterprises that reported being able to subsist for more than six months was 25%.

*Accommodation and food services* is the most affected sector, with 37% of businesses only able to subsist for a period of two months or less.

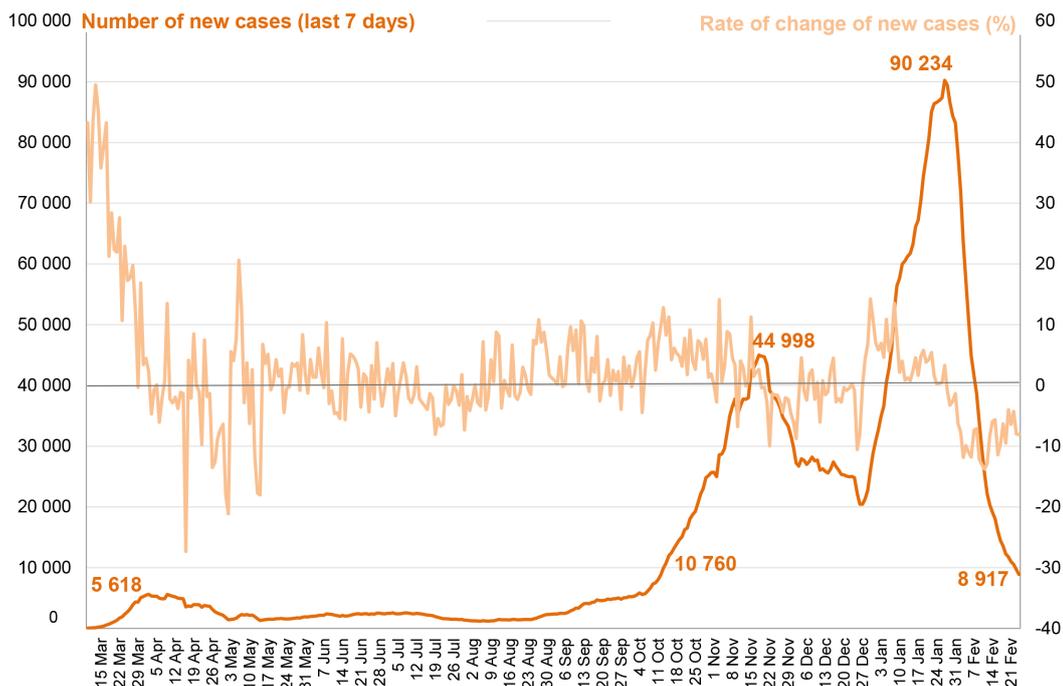
More information available at:

[Fast and exceptional enterprise survey - COVID-19 – February 2021](#)  
(26 February 2021)

## COVID-19: a territorial view on demographic context and territorial expression of the pandemic

- On the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, there were 8,917 new cases in the last 7 days, corresponding to a daily average of 1,274 new cases and also the lowest since the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020;
- Since the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, there has been a progressive decrease in the number of new confirmed cases in the last 7 days;
- The 14-day incidence rate of COVID-19 was 227 cases per 100,000 population. This rate had reached a maximum on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January (1,667);

Number of new confirmed cases (last 7 days) of infection by SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 and respective rate of change, Portugal, per day (10/3/2020 to 24/2/2021)



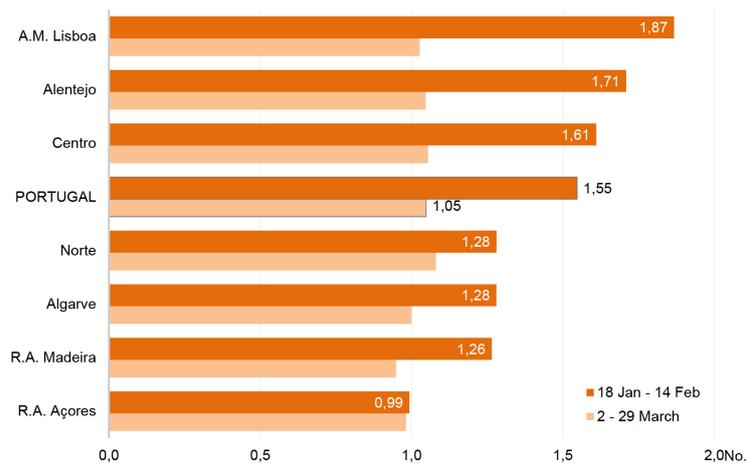
Note: The number of new cases includes the +4,375 confirmed cases resulting from the historical update released by the Directorate-General of Health in the COVID-19 Status Report made available on 16 November (data on the situation up to 15 November) with impact on the new cases in the last 7 days for the period 15-21 November. The dates marked on the graph axis correspond to Sundays.

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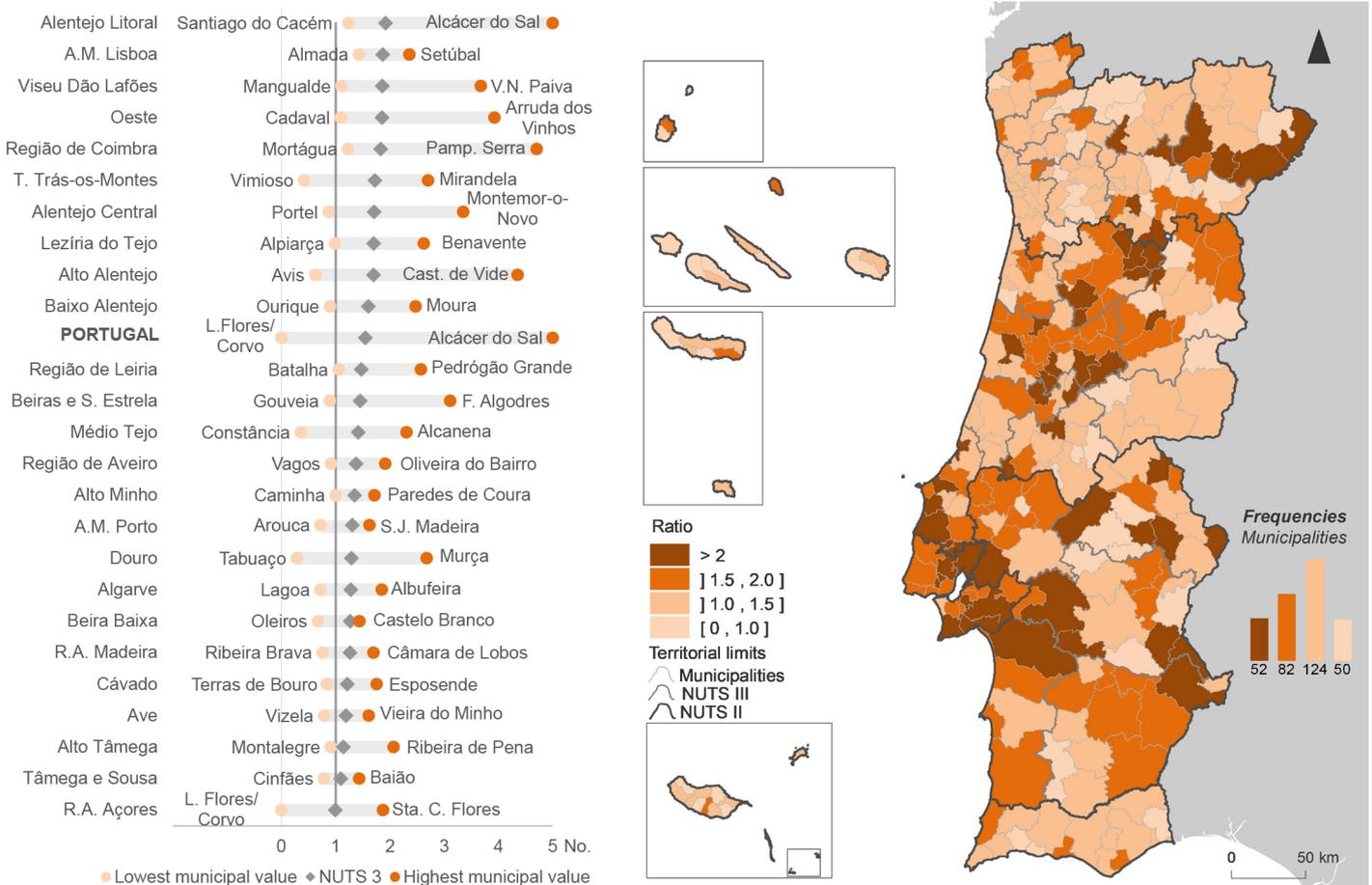
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- At the regional level, the large number of deaths in Área Metropolitana de Lisboa should be highlighted, which between the 18<sup>th</sup> of January and the 14<sup>th</sup> of February was 1.9 times higher than in the same period of the previous year;
- However, compared to the previous week (7<sup>th</sup> of February), there was a reduction in this ratio in all NUTS 2 regions of the country. In 52 municipalities the number of deaths was more than double the number of deaths recorded in the corresponding reference period (there were 69 municipalities in this situation in the previous week);

Ratio between deaths in the last four weeks and the average of deaths in the same period from 2015 to 2019, Portugal and NUTS 2, weeks 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 and 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2021



Ratio between deaths in the last four weeks (ended in the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2021) and the average of deaths in the same period from 2015 to 2019, Portugal, NUTS 3 and municipality

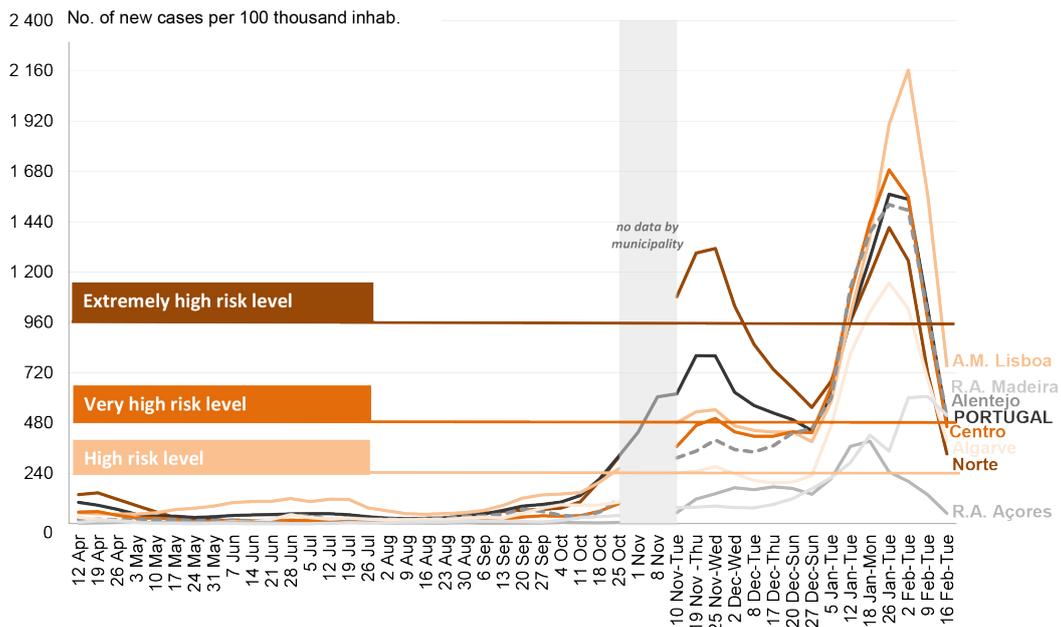


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- On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, the date of the last update of data at the county level, the national 14-day cumulative incidence rate of COVID-19 (485) was surpassed by Área Metropolitana de Lisboa (743), Região Autónoma da Madeira (517) and Alentejo (507) - new cases registered in these three regions represented 53% of the total, with Área Metropolitana de Lisboa having the highest contribution at the regional level (43%);
- Compared to the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, there was a decrease in the cumulative incidence at 14 days in all regions of the country;

14-day cumulative incidence rate of SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19, Portugal and NUTS 2



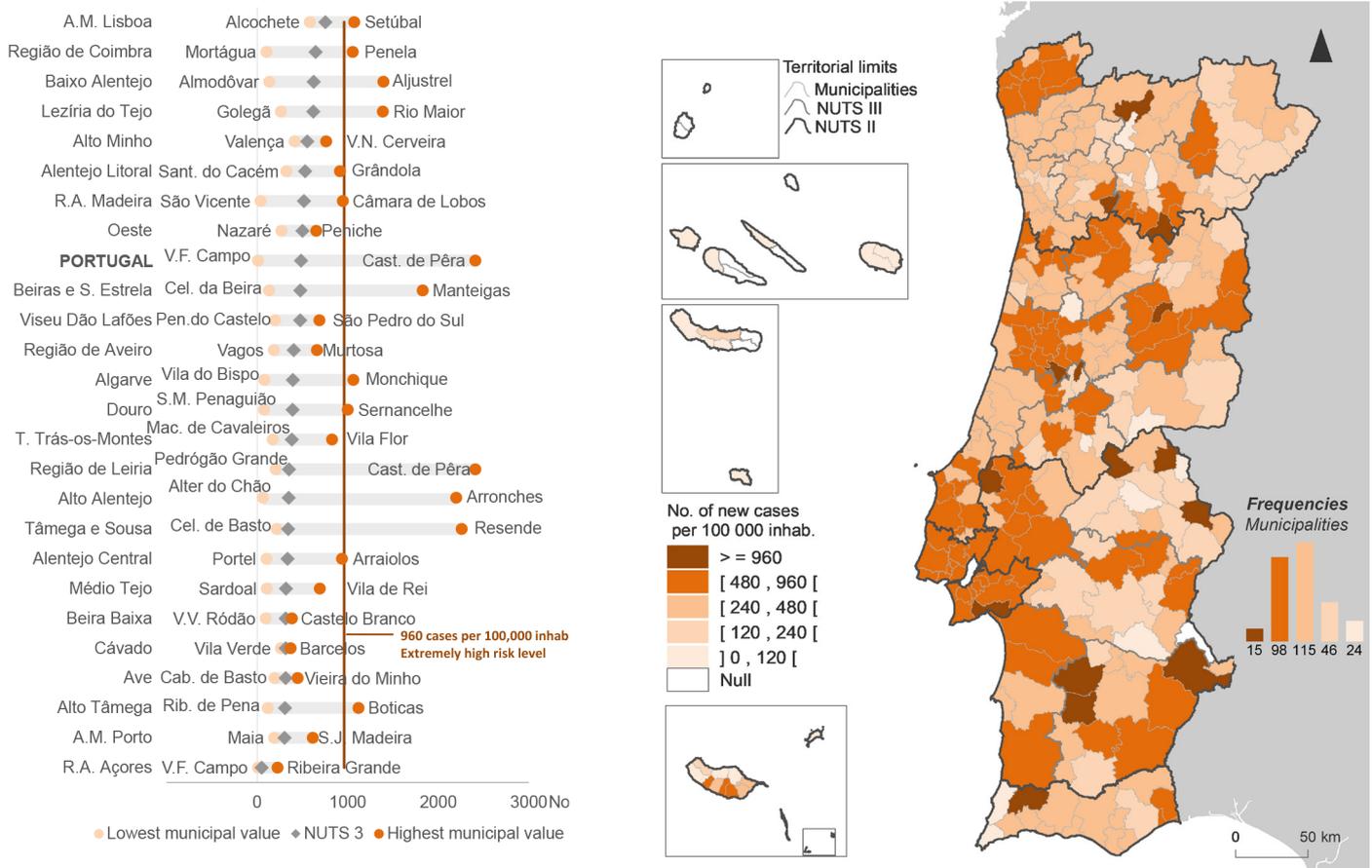
Note: The absence of values at the regional level on 1 and 8 November is due to the interruption in the dissemination of data at the municipality level in the COVID-19 Status reports. The dates marked on the graph axis correspond to Sundays until 8 November and then to the reference days associated with the 14-day cumulative incidence indicator that is now being released weekly by the Directorate-General of.

- On the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, only 15 Portuguese municipalities were at extremely high risk (119 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February);
- Compared to the previous week (9<sup>th</sup> of February), 96% of the municipalities recorded a reduction of the cumulative incidence rate, including all municipalities of Área Metropolitana de Lisboa and Área Metropolitana do Porto, and only seven municipalities recorded an increase of the 14-day cumulative incidence rate of COVID-19.

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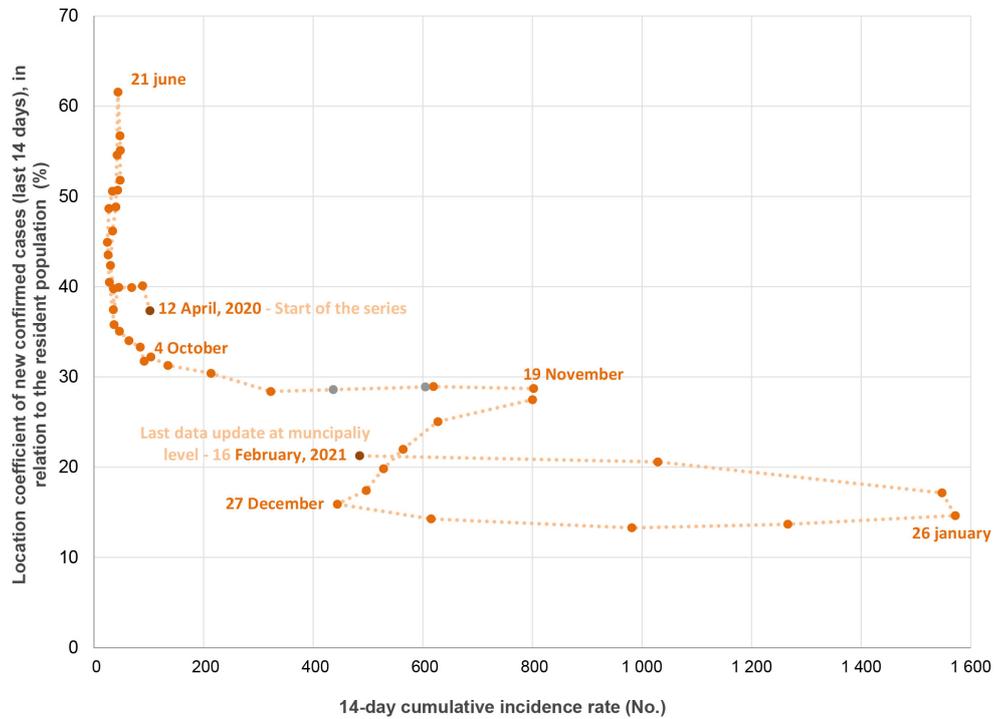
## 14-day cumulative incidence rate of infection by SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February, Portugal NUTS 3 and municipality



Note: In the graph, in NUTS 3 sub-regions with zero data status, the municipalities with the lowest value in the indicator are identified.

- The combined analysis of the location coefficient and the cumulative incidence rate at 14 days showed that in recent weeks, since the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, the results of the location coefficient indicate a slightly increasing trend in the territorial concentration of new cases (last 14 days), with the value obtained for the 16<sup>th</sup> of February (21.3%) close to the value of the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 (22.0%). Throughout this period, there was also a reduction in the 14-day cumulative incidence rate, which was accentuated since the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February.

Territorial concentration of new confirmed cases of infection by SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 (last 14 days), in relation to the resident population and 14-day cumulative incidence rate of infection by SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19, 2020-2021, Portugal



Note: For the calculation of the location coefficients zero cases were considered for the municipalities with no value in the Directorate-General of Health Status report (0 or < 3 cases). The values of the location coefficient were estimated for 1 and 8 November, due to the absence of data at the municipality level in the COVID-19 Status reports. The number of new cases includes the +4,375 confirmed cases resulting from the historical update released by the Directorate-General of Health in the COVID-19 Status Report made available on 16 November (data on the situation up to 15 November).

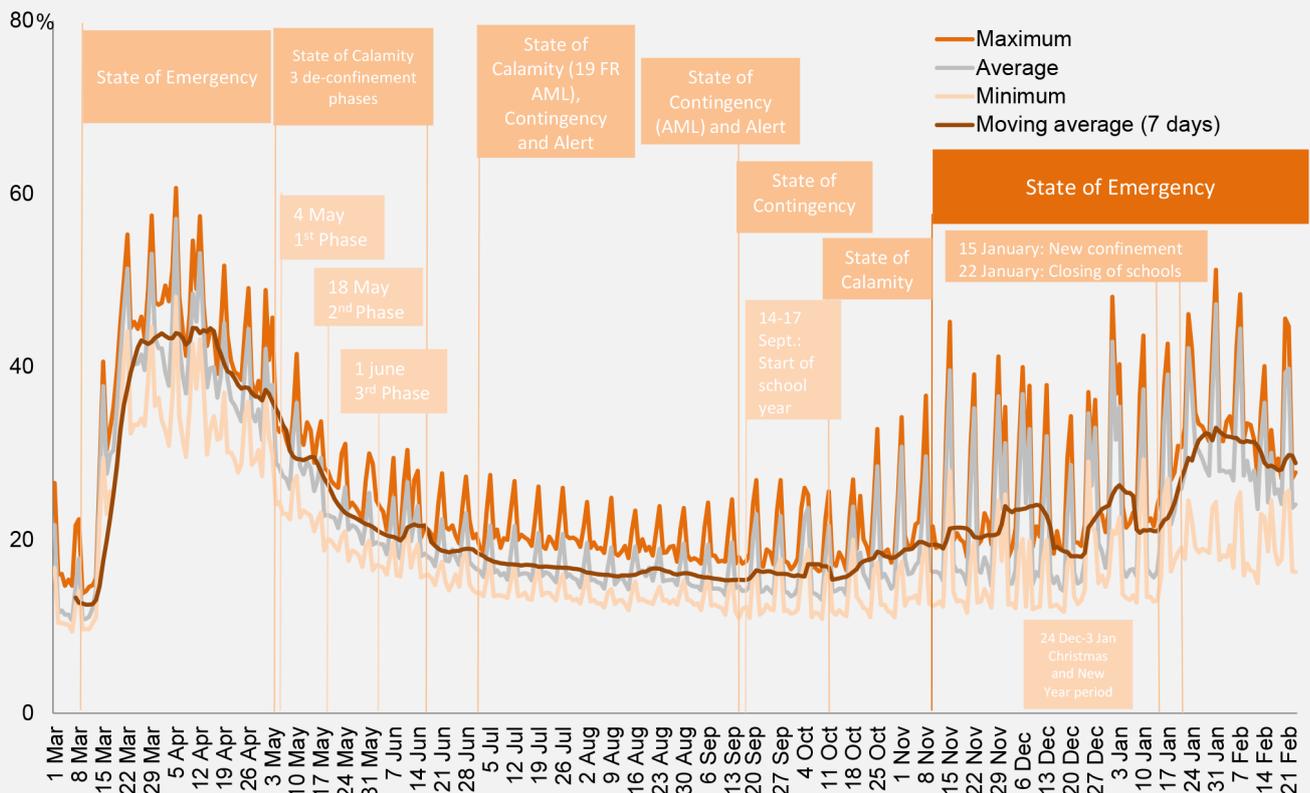
## Population mobility indicators at regional level: an analysis based on information from Facebook's "Data for Good" Initiative

Taking advantage of Facebook's "Data for Good" initiative, the figure below shows the proportion of the population "staying put" between 1 March 2020 and 23 February 2021, namely the minimum, average and maximum values calculated based on the NUTS 3 sub-regions. The proportion of population that "stayed put" is based on the number of Facebook users associated with a single reference grid of 600mx600m during 8 am and 8 pm on day x, requiring at least three occurrences during that time period.

It is possible to observe that on Sundays there is generally less mobility of the population than on other days of the week. It is also noteworthy that after the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 and following the declaration of the first State of Emergency, there is a decrease in the mobility of the population, followed by an increase in the levels of mobility after the implementation of the de-confinement measures.

Considering the moving average of the last 7 days there has been an overall reduction in the average levels of mobility following the declaration of the State of Emergency on November 9 and subsequent renewals. In this context, the days before Christmas and after New Year are the exception, where there is an increase in mobility due to the general cancelling of measures restricting circulation. This tendency to reduce mobility is accentuated after the entry into force, on January 15, 2021, of extraordinary measures to limit the spread of the pandemic, including a new confinement period, followed by the closing of schools on January 22. More recently, namely from the second week of February onwards, there has been a slight overall increase in mobility levels, even though a new renewal of the State of Emergency came into force on 15 February.

Proportion of the population "staying put" between 1 March and 23 February – minimum, average and maximum values of NUTS 3 sub-regions



Source: Facebook's "Data for Good" Initiative. Data provided by Carnegie Mellon University. Note: The dates marked on the graph axis correspond to Sundays.

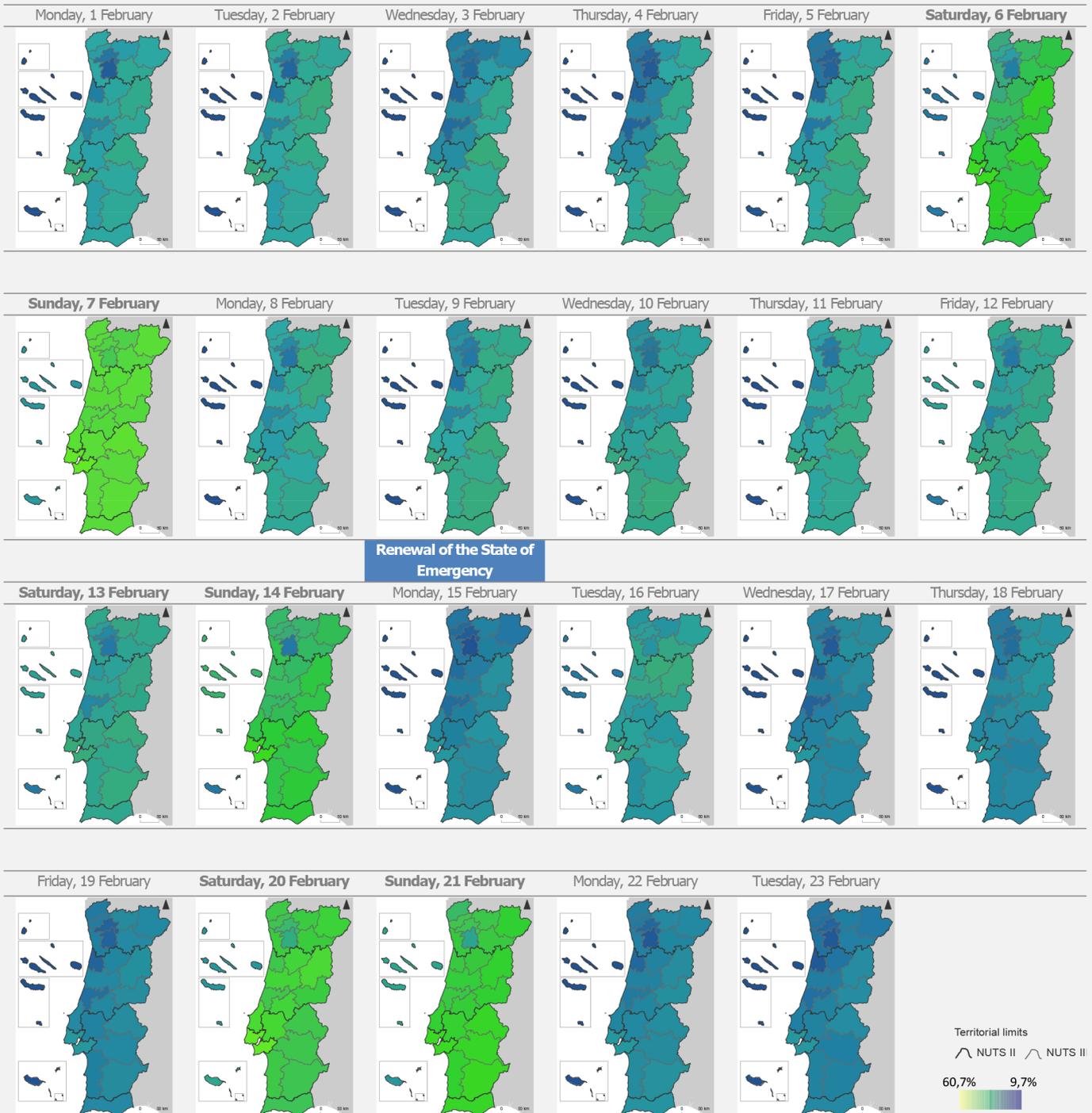
The following figure shows the mobility levels of population between 1 and 23 February 2021 for the 25 NUTS 3 sub-regions. Overall, there are lower levels of mobility at weekends, particularly on Sundays. It should also be noted that there is, globally, a tendency for an increase in the levels of mobility in the different NUTS 3 sub-regions from 15 February onwards - in comparison with the values for the same day of the immediately preceding week, particularly noteworthy is the increase in mobility verified in all the NUTS 3 sub-regions of the Mainland Portugal for 15 February (compared with 8 February) and in all the NUTS 3 sub-regions of the country on 23 February (compared with 16 February).

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Proportion of the population "staying put" between 1 and 23 February 2021 by NUTS 3



Source: Facebook's "Data for Good" Initiative. Data provided by Carnegie Mellon University.

More information available at:  
[Context indicators for the COVID-19 pandemic in Portugal](#)  
(26 February 2021)

Statistics Portugal started on 3 April 2020 the release of the “Statistics Portugal@COVID-19 Synthesis” series of highlights, aiming to provide a summary aggregation of some of the most relevant official statistical results released each week.

These reports are intended to facilitate the access to data which allow monitoring of the social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic by decision-makers from public and private entities as well as the general public.

Press releases between 01-03-2021 and 05-03-2021:

Press Releases	Reference period	Release date
Tourism activity - Flash Estimate: January 2021		01 March 2021
Business turnover, employment, wage and hours worked index in retail trade	January 2021	01 March 2021
Causes of Death	2019	01 March 2021
Industrial production index	January 2021	02 March 2021
Survey on bank evaluation on housing	January 2021	02 March 2021
Monthly Employment and Unemployment Estimates	January 2021	03 March 2021
Deaths by week - Preliminary data 2021 - Weeks 06 to 07		05 March 2021