

19<sup>th</sup> December 2025  
ENVIRONMENT STATISTICS  
2024

## STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2024

In 2024, Portugal presented an environmental overall picture undergoing transformation, marked by relevant improvements alongside persistent challenges, within a context of economic growth. The resident population increased again by 1.0% compared with 2023 – the second highest increase of the XXI century – in parallel with economic expansion, with domestic demand growing by 2.9%. Significant developments were observed in the energy transition scenario, with electricity generated from renewable sources reaching a record high of 86.2%, contributing to a reduction in energy dependency to 64.3% and to a 4.4% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, compared with 2023.

The year was, however, very hot and dry, ranking as the third warmest of the past decade, while air quality was classified predominantly as good (46.0% of days). Although the number of rural fire occurrences was the lowest of the last decade, the burned area increased, reaching the fourth highest level over this period.

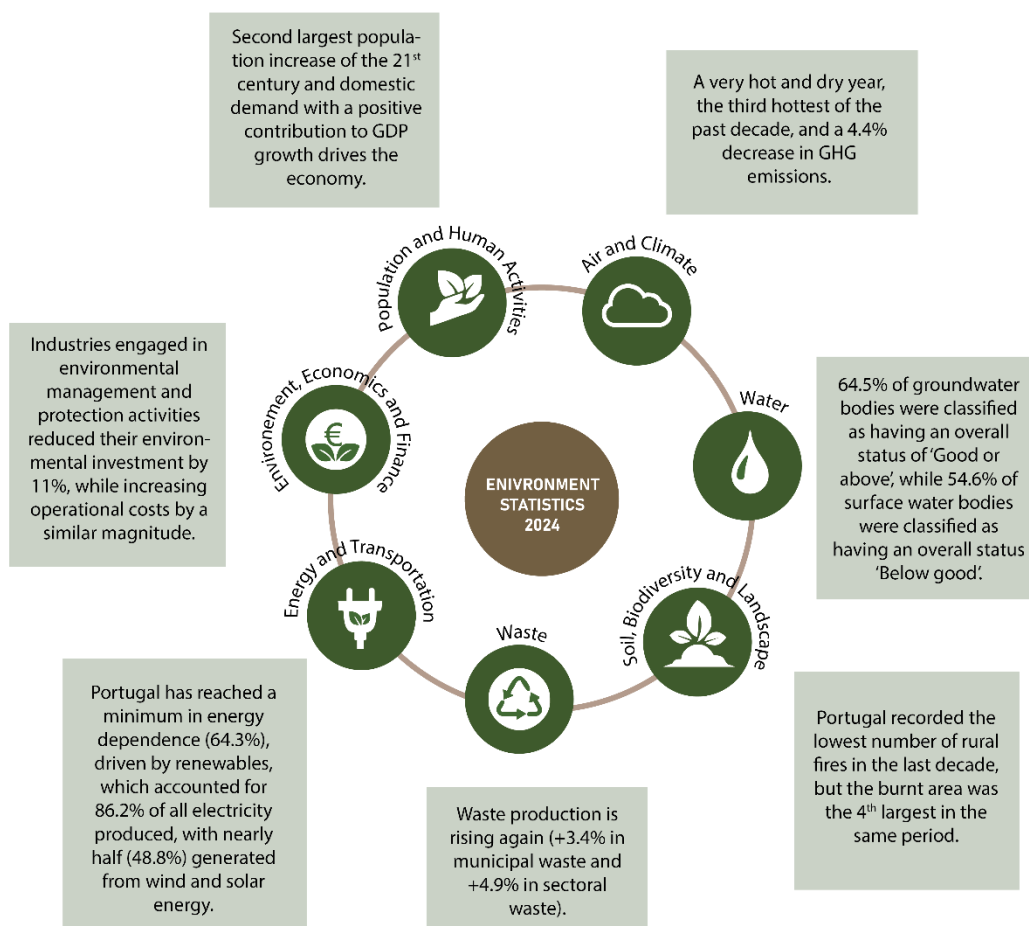
Regarding resource use, Domestic Material Consumption decreased by 5.0%, while sectoral waste generation increased by 4.9%, and municipal waste collection increased by 3.4%, compared with 2023. The rate of preparation for reuse and recycling of municipal waste reached 37%, still far from the 55% target set for 2025.

The share of industrial enterprises with environmental management and protection activities increased (+1.2 pp); however, environmental investment declined by 11%, accompanied by a comparable increase in operational costs. Environmentally related taxes amounted to €5.9 billion, representing an increase of 8.7% compared with 2023.

### INTRODUCTION

The 2025 edition of the Environment Statistics is published today. This publication is organised into seven chapters, covering the main sectors of the environmental information system.

In addition to this information, a set of supplementary data is made available on the Official Statistics Portal ([www.ine.pt](http://www.ine.pt)).



The comparison between the 2024 and 2023 results highlights the following aspects:

## POPULATION AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES

The resident population reached 10,749,635 persons, 109,909 more inhabitants than in 2023, at a positive effective growth rate of 1.0%, the second biggest growth since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Population density remained concentrated on the coast, with Amadora (7,637 people per km<sup>2</sup>) standing out as the most densely populated municipality.

Domestic demand totalled €245.0 billion (+2.9% compared to 2023), driven by private consumption, which grew by 3.0% to €148.6 billion.

Industrial Production Index increased 0.7%, following a decline of 3.1% in 2023.

Domestic Material Consumption (DMC) fell 5.0% to 153.6 million tonnes, driven by lower use of non-metallic minerals (-12.1%) and fossil energy materials (-2.1%).

## AIR AND CLIMATE

2024 was a very hot and dry year in mainland Portugal, the third hottest in the last decade and the eighth driest in the last 10 years, with an average air temperature of 16.5 °C (+0.9 °C compared to the 1981-2010 climatological normal) and total annual precipitation of 799.2 mm (95% of the 1981-2010 climatological normal).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions, excluding LULUCF, decreased by 4.4% in 2024, mainly due to a 6.5% decrease in emissions from the energy sector.

The Air Quality Index found that, on average, 31.5% of days in 2024 had "very good" air quality and 46.0% had "good" air quality (30.9% and 47.2%, respectively, in 2023).

## WATER

673 bathing waters were monitored (+6 compared to 2023), of which 161 were inland and 512 were coastal or transitional waters.

556 bathing waters received an "Excellent" rating (-19 compared to 2023), representing 58.4% of inland waters and 90.2% of coastal or transitional waters.

The assessment of the overall status of groundwater bodies classified 64.5% as "Good and above", while 45.3% of surface water bodies were classified as "Good and above" and 54.6% as "Below good".

## SOIL, BIODIVERSITY AND LANDSCAPE

The 287 ZIFs covered 2,032 thousand hectares in 2024, 22.8% of the mainland, following an increase of 11 ZIFs and 51,6 thousand hectares compared to 2023.

2024 recorded the lowest number of rural fires since 2016 (6,255 occurrences) but was the fourth year with the largest area burned (137,7 thousand hectares).

Agri-environmental measures and eco-schemes benefited 101,649 agricultural holders, with support amounting to 323 million euros (+35 million euros compared to 2023).

## WASTE

5.52 million tonnes of municipal waste were collected, an increase of 182,800 tonnes compared to 2023, associated with both residential population growth and increased tourism.

The indicator for waste preparation for reuse and recycling rose to 37% (32% in 2023), reversing two years of decline, but still 18 pp below the 55% target for 2025.

Sectoral waste generation reached 15.7 million tonnes (+4.9% compared to 2023), with emphasis on waste management and recovery sector (4.7 million tonnes; +298 thousand tonnes compared to 2023).

## ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION

Primary energy consumption registered a 1.5% reduction. Final energy consumption decreased by 0.7%, reversing the growth trend observed since 2020.

Reduction in national energy dependence to 64.3% (66.7% in 2023).

Primary and final energy intensities declined to 83.4 toe/€10<sup>6</sup> (-3.5%) and 68.5 toe/€106 (-2.8%).

Electricity generated from renewable sources reached a record of 86.2% (75.8% in 2023). Installed photovoltaic capacity increased by 45.6%, reaching 5,677 MW.

The fleet of vehicles presumed to be in circulation increased by 4.6%, but the number of fully electric passenger cars increased by 49.4%, representing 2.7% of the total fleet.

A total of 209.7 thousand new passenger cars were sold (+5.1% compared with 2023).

## ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

General government expenditure on environmental protection activities decreased in 2024, amounting to €1,610 million (€1,774 million in 2023).

19.3% of industrial companies engaged in environmental management and protection activities (+1,2 pp compared to 2023). Company's investments decreased by 11.1%, with "Protection of Ambient Air and Climate" domain leading (38.7%).

Environmental NGOs registered 234,811 members (+5.1%) and a 20.3% increase in activities carried out.

There were 32,338 firemen (+424), with volunteers accounting for 57.3% of the total.

Environmentally related taxes reached €5.9 billion (+8.7%), driven mainly by the ISP, which accounted for 77.0% of the increase due to the unfreezing of the carbon tax and the reversal of previous reductions.

Entities producing environmental goods and services had a turnover of €13.9 billion (€13.8 billion in 2023), of which €8.1 billion resulted from environmental activities within the scope of resource management.