

Prisons in Europe 2005-2015

Portugal Country Profile

**Marcelo F. Aebi
Léa Berger-Kolopp
Christine Burkhardt
Mélanie M. Tiago**

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This country profile on Portugal is taken from the report *Prisons in Europe 2005-2015* ([link](#)), which contains 51 profiles on the prison populations in the Prison Administrations of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe.

Prisons in Europe 2005- 2015 presents data on prison populations across Europe from 2005 to 2015. It is divided in two volumes: Volume 1 presents country profiles based on several indicators concerning prison populations, and Volume 2 includes all the data used for the report. The report has been prepared by the University of Lausanne and co-funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Each country profile includes a Table with Key Facts about the country, which are presented in the form of several indicators referring to the latest available year and to the evolution during the latest ten years, as well as the relative position of the country (low, medium or high) for each indicator compared to the 28 member States of the European Union ("EU 28") and the 47 member States of the Council of Europe ("CoE 47"). The classification in "low", "medium" and "high" is based on the comparative indicators presented in Part 2 of the study. The country profile is divided in four sections and includes 8 Figures. The four sections are the following:

- Key facts
- The country in brief: This section summarizes the trends shown in the key facts from 2005 to 2014/15. It illustrates which indicators have increased, which have decreased and which have remained stable. The indicator is considered as showing a stable trend if the variation is lower than 5%.
- The country in comparative perspective: This section compares each country to the rest of the countries included in the study.

General comments:

This section includes eight Figures, comments to these Figures and some possible explanations of the observed trends. The eight Figures are numbered from 1 to 8 within each country profile and also include, between brackets, their absolute number from 1 to 408.

The Key facts include indicators of stock and flow. The stock indicators refer to the situation on 1st September 2015. The flow indicators refer to the situation during the year 2014. On the basis of the data included in this study, we have calculated for each indicator the average for the 10 to 11 years under study. This average is presented in the fifth column of the country profiles.

Finally, the last column of the country profiles provides a graphic indicator of the trend observed when one compares the last year of the series (2014 and 2015 respectively) to the first one (2005). The arrows included in this column reflect the evolution of the indicator according to the following table:

↔	+/- 4.9%	stable
↑	+5 to +9%	slight increase
↑↑	+10 to +19%	moderate increase
↑↑↑	+20 to +49%	substantial increase
↑↑↑↑	+50% and more	huge increase
↓	-5 to -9%	slight decrease
↓↓	-10 to -19%	moderate decrease
↓↓↓	-20 to -49%	substantial decrease
↓↓↓↓	-50% and more	huge decrease

COUNTRY PROFILE		PORTUGAL		TRENDS 2005-2015		
		2014/15	Comparative	Evolution 2005-2014/15		
			CoE 47	EU 28	Average	% Change
Prison population rate (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants) on 01.09.2015	137.5	Medium	Medium	120.2		↑↑
Rate of entries into penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	51.9	Low	Low	54.9		↔
Rate of releases from penal institutions in 2014 (inmates per 100,000 inhabitants)	54.6	Low	Low	54.3		↔
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on the total number of days spent in penal institutions (in months)	31.3	High	High	26.1		↑↑
Average length of imprisonment in 2014 based on stock and flow (in months)	31.0	High	High	26.0		↑↑
Prison density on 01.09.2015 (inmates per 100 places)	113.0	High	High	103.4		↑↑
Median age of the prison population on 01.09.2015 (in years)	37.0	High	High	35.6		↔
Percentage of female inmates (01.09.2015)	6.1	High	High	6.1		↓↓
Percentage of foreign inmates (01.09.2015)	17.5	Medium	Medium	19.4		↓
<i>of which: in pre-trial detention</i>	26.7	Low	Medium	34.5		↓↓↓
Percentage of non-sentenced inmates (01.09.2015)	18.1	Medium	Medium	20.7		↓↓↓
Rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates in 2014	52.1	High	High	57.4		↓↓↓
Rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates in 2014 (n=22)	15.7	High	High	10.7		↑↑↑↑
<i>of which: % in pre-trial detention (n=NA) – Available since 2013</i>	---	---	---	---		---
Ratio of inmates per staff (number of inmates per 1 staff person)	2.3	High	High	2.1		↑↑
Percentage of custodial staff in the total staff	65.3	Medium	Medium	70.7		↓↓
Total budget spent by the prison administration (in Euro) – Available since 2011	212 941 499.0	NAP	NAP	203 305 274.3*		↑
Average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (in Euro) – Available since 2008	41.2	Medium	Medium	46.0**		↓

* Average calculated from 2011 to 2014

** Average calculated from 2008 to 2014

Portugal in brief

- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show a *decrease*: percentage of female inmates (-11%), percentage of foreign inmates (-5%), percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates (-37%), percentage of non-sentenced inmates (-23%), rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates (-14%), percentage of suicides (-6%), percentage of custodial staff (-11%), and average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate (-7%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators show an *increase*: prison population rate (+12%), average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution (+13%), average length of detention based on stock and flow (+13%), prison density (+11%), ratio of inmates per staff (+11%), and total budget spent by the prison administration (+9%).
- Comparing 2014/15 to 2005, the following indicators remain *stable*: rate of entries into penal institutions (-3%), rate of releases from penal institutions (-2%), and median age of the population (+4%).

Portugal in comparative perspective

- Compared to other European countries, in 2014/15 Portugal presents:
 - **Low**: Rate of entries into penal institutions, rate of releases from penal institutions.
 - **Medium**: Prison population rate, percentage of foreign inmates, percentage of non-sentenced inmates, percentage of custodial staff in the total staff, average amount spent per day for the detention of one inmate.
 - **High**: Average length of detention based on stock and flow, average length of detention based on the total number of days spent in penal institution, prison density, median age of the prison population, percentage of female inmates, rate of deaths per 10,000 inmates, rate of suicides per 10,000 inmates, ratio of inmates per staff.
- When the percentage of pre-trial detainees among foreign inmates is calculated, Portugal rate is low compared to the member States of the Council of Europe, but medium compared to the member States of the European Union.

General comments

Figure 1 (265)

Fig. 1: Prison population rate and flow of entries and releases from penal institutions (per 100,000 inhabitants)

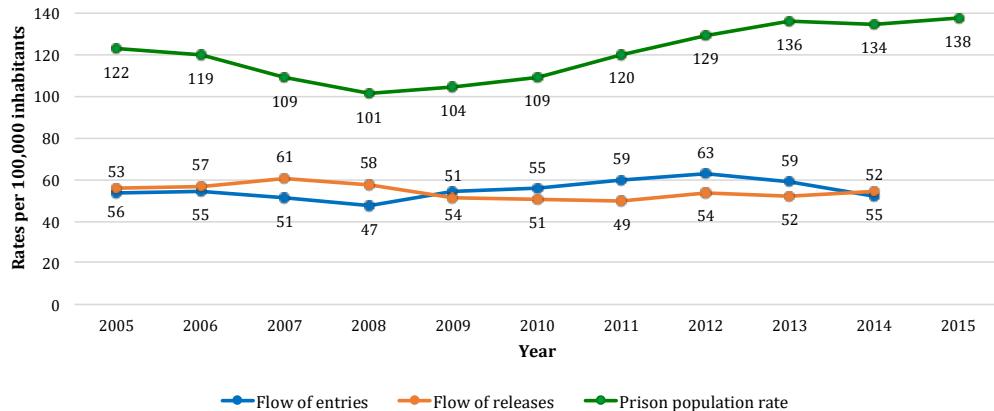


Figure 1 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison population rate of Portugal (stock) increased by 12%. In 2005, the country had 122 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 138. According to the information collected during this research, the decrease observed in 2008 could be related to the new Criminal Code, which entered into force on September 2007, and provides the possibility of extending the suspension of the imprisonment from three to five years.

From 2005 to 2014, the rate of entries (flow of entries) remained relatively stable. In 2005, there were 53 entries into penal institutions per 100,000 habitants, while in 2014 there were 52.

During the same period, the rate of releases (flow of releases) remained relatively stable. In 2005, there were 56 releases from penal institutions per 100,000 habitants, while in 2014 there were 55.

The flow of entries and the flow of releases show similar rates trends.

Figure 2 (266)

Fig. 2: Average length of imprisonment (in months)

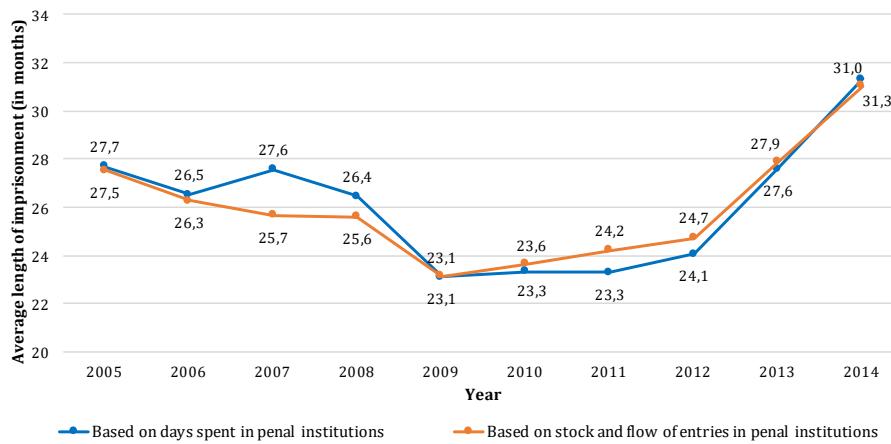


Figure 2 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the average length of imprisonment based on the number of days spent in penal institutions increased by 13%. In 2005, the average length of imprisonment was 28 months, while in 2014 it was 31 months.

During the same period, the average length of imprisonment computed on the basis of the ratio between the stock and the flow followed exactly the same trend. Consequently, it also increased by 13%, passing from 28 months in 2005 to 31 months in 2014.

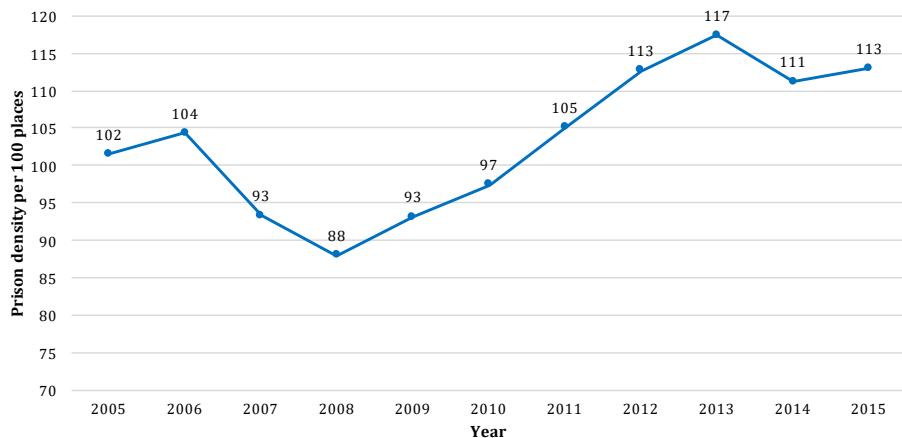
Figure 3 (267)**Fig. 3: Prison density per 100 places (Overcrowding)**

Figure 3 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the prison density of Portugal increased by 11%. In 2005, the country had 102 inmates per 100,000 inhabitants, while in 2015 it had 113.

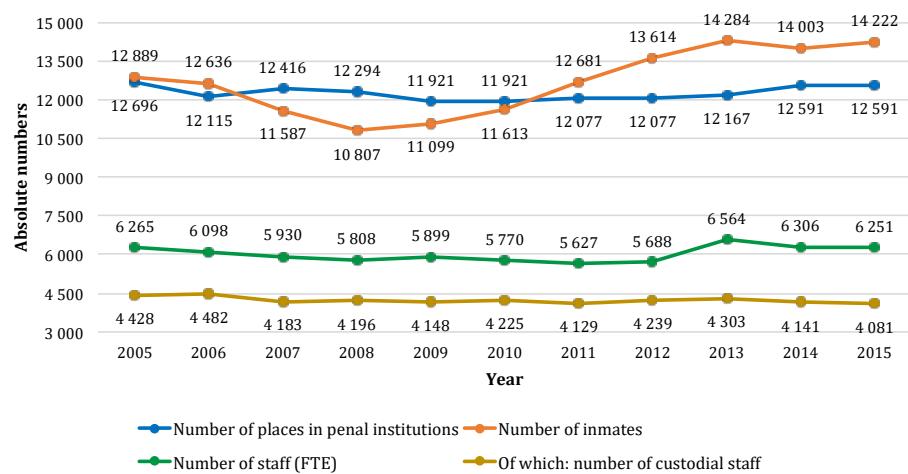
Figure 4 (268)**Fig. 4: Total capacity of penal institutions and number of inmates**

Figure 4 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the total number of places in penal institutions in Portugal remained relatively stable. In 2005, the country had 12,696 places, while in 2015 it had 12,591.

During the same period, the total number of inmates increased by 10%. In 2005, the country had 12,889 inmates, while in 2015 it had 14,222.

From 2005 to 2015, the total number of staff remained relatively stable. In 2005, Portugal had in total a staff of 6,265 persons, while in 2015 it had 6,251. According to the information provided by the SPACE national correspondent, the number of staff increased in 2013 as a result of the fusion of the Prison Service with the Probation and Insertion Service. However, the latter did not have any custodial staff, which explains the decrease in the percentage of that kind of staff. In institutions for minors, the custodial service is provided only by a private surveillance service.

During the same period, the total number of custodial staff decreased by 8%. In 2005, the total custodial staff was 4,428 persons, while in 2015 it was 4,081.

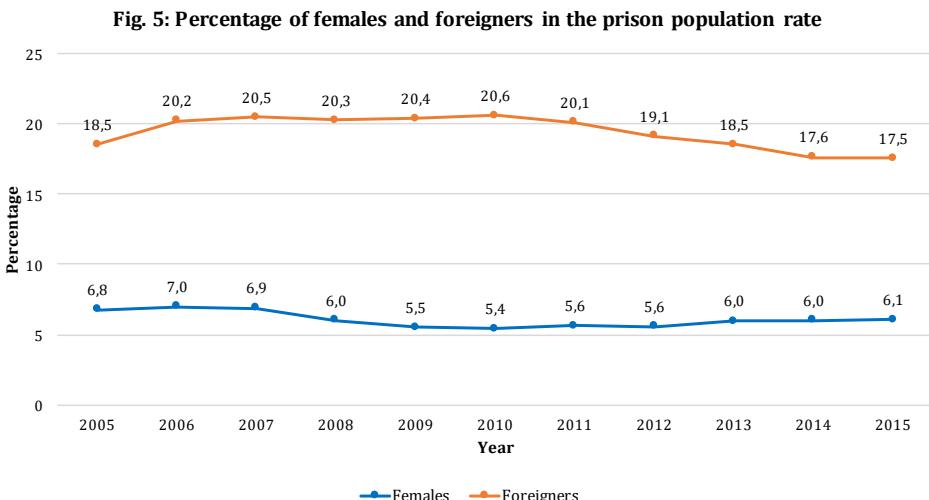
Figure 5 (269)

Figure 5 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of female inmates decreased by 11%. In 2005, 6.8% of the inmates were females, while in 2015 they represented 6.1% of the total prison population.

During the same period, the percentage of foreign inmates decreased by 5%. In 2005, 19% of the inmates were foreigners, while in 2015 they represented 18% of the total prison population. This means that, in Portugal, the decrease of the prison population rate (see Figure 1) was accompanied by a decrease in the percentage of foreign inmates (Figure 4). According to the information collected for this research, this may be due to a decrease of foreign immigration, which was a side effect of the global economic crisis that started in 2008.

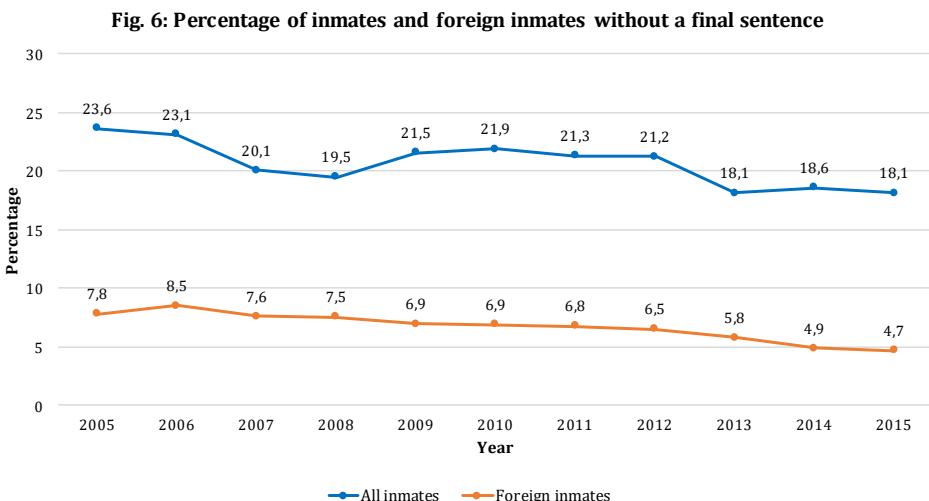
Figure 6 (270)

Figure 6 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentage of inmates without a final sentence decreased by 23%. In 2005, 24% of the inmates did not have a final sentence while, in 2015, inmates without a final sentence represented 18% of all inmates.

During the same period, the percentage of foreigners held in pre-trial detention decreased by 40%. In 2005, they represented 7.8% of the total number of inmates, while in 2015 they represented 4.7% of them.

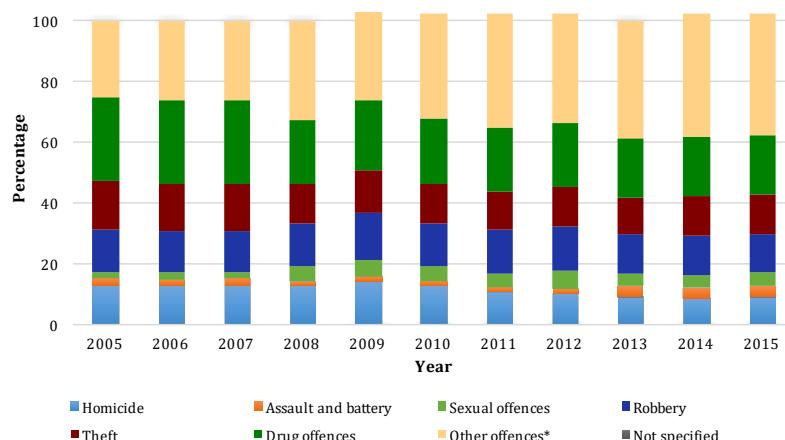
Figure 7¹²³ (271)**Fig. 7: Distribution (in percentage) of sentenced prisoners by offence**

Figure 7 shows that, from 2005 to 2015, the percentages of prisoners serving sentences for assault and battery, sexual offences, and other types of offences have increased; while the percentages of those serving sentences for homicide, robbery, theft, and drug offences have decreased.

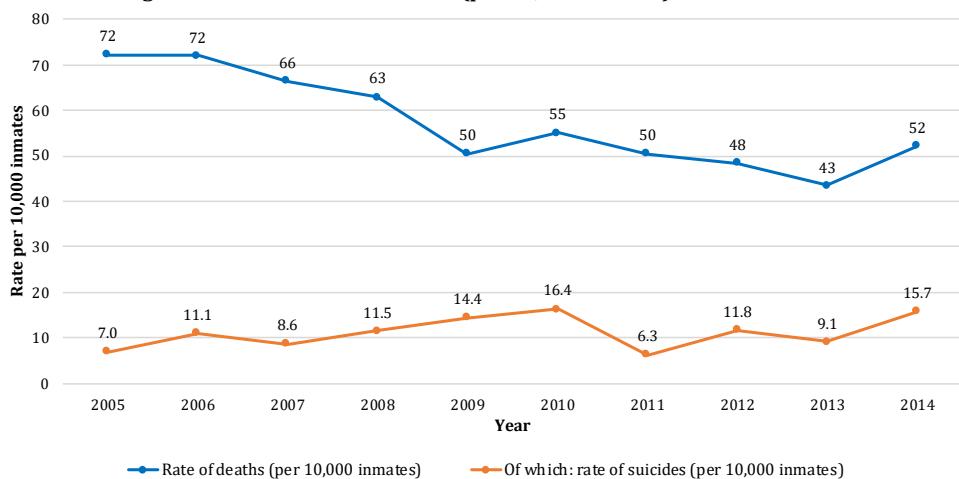
Figure 8 (272)**Fig. 8: Rate of deaths and suicides (per 10,000 inmates)**

Figure 8 shows that, from 2005 to 2014, the rate of deaths of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates decreased by 28%. In 2005, there were 72 deaths per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 52.

During the same period, the rate of suicides of inmates in penal institutions per 10,000 inmates increased by 125%. In 2005, there were 7 suicides per 10,000 inmates, while in 2014 there were 16.

¹ The figures provided by the country do not always add to 100%.

² Sexual offences include (1) rape (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005), and (2) other sexual offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008).

³ Other offences include (1) economic and financial offences (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2008); (2) terrorism (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (3) organised crime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2007); (4) cybercrime (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2014); and (5) other cases (included in the SPACE questionnaire since 2005).