DATA DESCRIPTION

TOTAL POPULATION

Analyzing this graph, we can see a constant growth until 1914 where the number of people went up reaching 6 million people, then the trend slows down for a few years, then showing continuous accelerations and breaks until the 2000s. After those years we can notice a stabilization of the total population of around 10 million people.

The graph also shows a few turning points, like for example in the early and middle of the 1900s where the line first slows down, then has rapid growth with a strong acceleration. These changes are represented with line bends, which indicates that in those years the number of people was first smaller than the number of people in the years before, and then greater than the number of people in the years before.

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/population?tab=chart&country=PRT>

POPULATION DENSITY

The graph shows a constant growth until 1950 reaching up to 90 people per km^2, after this acceleration period, it shows a more fluctuating trend that lasts until the present day, with stronger ups and downs. We also have a sort of prediction about the future density of people, characterized by a constant decreasing density, going from 115 people per km^2 in the 2000s to 95 people per km^2 in the 2100s.

Also, this graph shows a few accelerations and breaks. There are, in the early and middle 1900s, periods in which the line slows down for then giving a great acceleration upwards, represented by first a horizontal or almost horizontal line, followed by rapid increase. There are also periods in which the line is a little bit more unpredictable, from 1980 to 2020, where it goes up and down without following a path.

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/population-density?tab=chart&country=PRT>

IMMIGRATION

Starting from 1990 we always have a positive slope, stating that the number of immigrants always kept increasing until the present days, going from a little more than 400000 in 1990, to almost a million in 2020.

The trend is not linear, so there are years in which the immigration stopped or even decreased, this is the case of years between 2005 and 2010, where the trend shows a decreasing slope, affirming that the number of immigrants in those years even went down.

Then after 2010 the trend started once again to go up but not at the same pace as before 2005 and after 2015, in fact it is clear that the two portions of the line are not linear meaning that in those years the number of immigrants still went up, but after 2015 started increasing more rapidly.

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/migrant-stock-total?tab=chart&country=PRT>

POVERTY RATE

The graph tendentially show a downward sloping trend, until present days it also shows an almost linear path. In fact, from 2003 to circa 2011, the poverty rate went from 22% in 2003 to 17% in 2011. After this constant trend, we have a moment of stalemate, in which the line goes up again till reaching almost 20%, meaning that there has been something that made the poverty rate increase rapidly until 2017.

After that the trend becomes more unpredictable, going way up or way down in just a few years, like the case of the years between 2018 and 2021, where the trend makes this wavy motion, moving from 17% to 16%, then from 16% to 19% and then back to 16% in 2021.

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/share-of-population-living-in-poverty-by-national-poverty-lines?tab=chart&country=PRT>

LIFE EXPECTANCY

The tendency of the graph is always moving upwards following a linear trend. We can actually divide the graph in three different sections, the first is the smallest one and goes from 1940 to 1950, the second one goes from 1950 to1970, and the last one goes from 1970 to present days.

The first section of the graph is the most unstable one, because we start from 52 years and then instantly drop to 47 years old in 1943, then we see a rapid increase of the expectancy till reaching almost 56 years old.

The second section of the graph shows continuous ups and downs but of a small dimension but still moving upwards, stating that the expectancy was still increasing but at a really slow pace. There are still small but violent up and down but nothing that impacts the total movement of the graph.

The third and last section is the most regular one, always increasing, maybe slowing down a little bit but still moving upwards, here we don’t have even the smallest but violent impact on the linear trend, it only moves up linearly, without external movements.

<https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/life-expectancy?tab=chart&country=PRT>

INTERPRETATION

We can say that the modern history of Portugal can be divided into three major blocks: until 1970, from 1970 to 2014, from 2014 to the present day.

The first block is characterized by an underdeveloped economy, with the main activity of Portugal being agriculture, which consequently employed most of the Portuguese population. The level of industrialization was very low, limited to small factories not able to carry out large-scale production. The low revenues did not allow the development of the tertiary sector and services. These reasons and the absence of a solid banking market did not allow Portugal to make investments both domestically and abroad, further debilitating revenues.

The second block is the period in which Portugal initiated a whole series of reforms that allowed it to have constant economic growth to this day.

The Carnation Revolution (1974) put an end to the dictatorship of Estado Novo by establishing a democratic government that subsequently carried out an agrarian reform for the decentralization of agricultural land and the nationalization of services and industries; integration into the EU with the consequent adoption of the euro, has allowed Portugal to enter new markets and to develop the commercial sector, making it more stable on the same level with other member states; finally, following the global financial crisis of 2008, Portugal approved a series of reforms such as the Austerity Reforms, aimed at lowering public deficit and regaining investor confidence in the Portuguese market.

The third and last block is the one after economic reforms, thanks to which Portugal is increasingly asserting itself within the EU, its leading sectors are tourism, which attracts dozens and dozens of visitors a year, the export of their products, due to a considerable development of the infrastructures involved and necessary for trade and finally also the financial investments undertaken by governments both domestic and abroad.

Economic development and growth were accompanied by an adequate immigration policy, which was intended to efficiently manage migration flows to Portugal. The reforms that had the most significant impact were:

* the Immigration Law (1991) which provides a general framework for the regulation of immigration in Portugal, setting out the requirements and rules that foreigners must comply with in order to live on Portuguese territory.
* Law No. 23/2007 (2007) which simply updates the 1991 law by making the process of applying for residence and recognition of rights easier.
* Law 26/2016 (2016) whose aim was to protect the rights of migrants by strengthening guarantees of access to public services and fighting to break down any kind of discrimination.
* Law No. 47/2019 (2019) issued with the aim of simplifying the granting of residence permits.

Despite this, between 2005 and 2010 the number of migrants decreased: the main cause of this decrease was the global crisis of 2008, which saw Portugal forced to adopt more restrictive measures, first of all the one that made the process of obtaining a residence permit more difficult.

Economic growth has also had positive effects on improving health and education services:

* In the health sector there have been regulations in order to raise awareness and reduce mortality, these regulations include: improvement of health conditions, due to investments made in infrastructure, thus improving the quality of care; vaccinations, the government has implemented the systematic vaccination program to minimize the transmission of infectious diseases; access to health services, the most important in my opinion, which guarantees universal access to hospital facilities, thus guaranteeing assistance to all citizens; International collaboration, since through the use of international collaborations and funds, Portugal has been able to invest in and improve infrastructure.
* In the field of education, Portugal has approved a series of measures including: Law 46/1986 (1986) laid the foundations of the Portuguese education system by also establishing compulsory school attendance up to the age of 15 and, above all, free education; Law 30/2002 (2002), which introduces the teacher evaluation system, and revisiting the training criteria for school staff; and Law 7/2009 (2009) which reaffirms the rights and duties of teachers by also outlining future career opportunities.