[Portugal]

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Introduction

Since 1960, Statistics Portugal releases data on the number of museums and visitors.

Statistics Portugal is responsible for conducting a Museums survey in all its phases and processes: design, build, collect, process, analyze and dissemination.

The last three methodological changes in the Museums survey were made in:

2000 - methodological change in the universe, data collection and data analysis.

2007 - changes in the questionnaire design with the exclusion/inclusion of some variables and categories from the universe units.

2012 - changes in the questionnaire design and in the data collection mode, by the adoption of a web based data collection.

Information from the Museums survey is obtained annually, and the data collection is made by electronic means since 2012. The type of statistical operation is census and the geographical coverage is Portugal. The Museums classified in the Class 91.02 from NACE-Rev.2 are the operating reference universe and were exhaustively surveyed. The sampling base consists of Museums that were in activity on the reference year, permanently or seasonally, with at least one exhibition room or space and with at least one employee.

The objective of this statistical operation is to obtain data that characterize Museums in what relates to their activities, physical infrastructures, human and financial resources, archive, collection and inventory, number of visitors, types of visitors (school groups and foreign visitors), admissions (free and in temporary exhibitions).

Every three years, information related to physical infrastructures (total and built environment areas, public and administrative/technical areas), technological resources, partnerships, publications, regulations, norms and plans is gathered.

Despite all Museums surveyed, **five simultaneous conditions** are applied to define the subset of museums considered for statistical and dissemination purposes (**national criteria**). The five criteria, defined in 2000 survey are the following:

- ✓ **Criterion 1**: *museums* with at least one exhibition room.
- ✓ **Criterion 2**: *museums* open to the public (permanently or seasonally).
- ✓ **Criterion 3**: *museums* with at least one curator or senior staff member (including managers).
- ✓ **Criterion 4**: *museums* with a budget (a minimum knowledge of total expenditure).
- ✓ **Criterion 5**: *museums* with an inventory (at least a summary inventory).

Definition of Museum

The definition of museum used by Statistics Portugal is in the line with ICOM (International Council of Museums) definition.

A museum is a non-profit, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purposes of education, study and enjoyment.

Existence of Museum-related Laws

Framework Law on Portuguese Museums – Law nº 47/2004 of 19 August

Categories used regarding Type of Collection

Art museums

Archaeology museums

Natural science and natural history museums

Science and technology museums

Ethnology and anthropology museums

Specialized museums

History museums

Mixed and multidisciplinary museums

Territory museums

Other museums

Categories used regarding Type of Ownership

Public museums

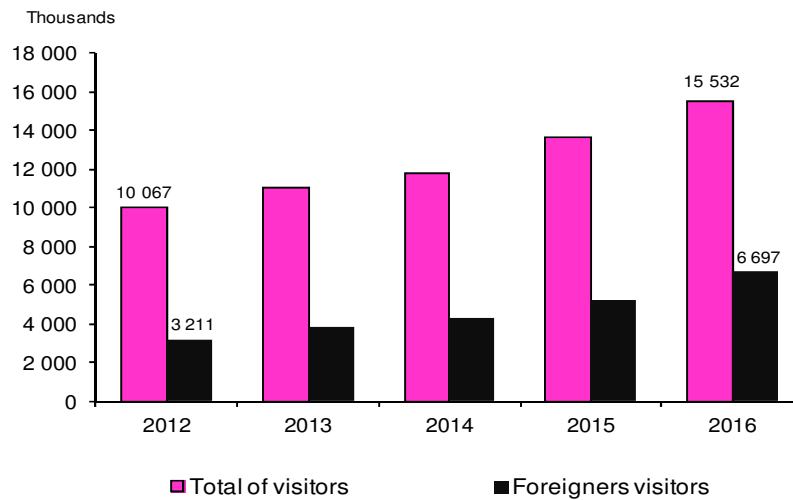Private museums

Existing Data – Basic Figures and Diagrams

Museums and visitors in 2016, by categories

2016   Unit: Number

Museums according to type of collections	Number of Museums	Visitors		
		Total	Foreigners visitors	Free admitions
Total of Museums	**405**	**15 532 379**	**6 696 930**	**5 275 691**
Art museums	84	**4 749 981**	2 179 242	2 217 236
Archaeology museums	43	**1 103 895**	603 544	422 158
Natural science and natural history museums	8	**110 798**	29 545	45 857
Science and technology museums	32	**809 451**	147 155	227 935
Ethnology and anthropology museums	56	**434 176**	65 069	237 935
Specialized museums	51	**2 340 204**	598 843	583 546
History museums	49	**3 876 391**	2 551 144	714 797
Mixed and multidisciplinary museums	60	**1 128 212**	285 056	515 571
Territory museums	17	**568 207**	124 202	297 842
Others museums	5	**411 064**	113 130	12 771

Admissions in Museums

Thousands

Museums reached 15.5 million visitors, foreign visitors were 6.7 million

In 2016, of the 727 active museums, 405 museums were considered for statistical purposes, having received 15.5 million visitors (13.7% more than in the previous year) and held 22.5 million pieces in their collections.

43.1% of total visitors were foreign (6.7 million people) and 12.5% of visitors were integrated in school groups.

Near 3/5 (57.5%) visited the museums temporary exhibitions and 34.0% entered free of charge.

By type of museum, "Art museums" (30.6%) were the most visited, followed by "History museums" (25.0%) and "Specialised museums" (15.1%).

24.5% of the 22.5 million of pieces in museums were from "bibliographic and archival" pieces and 22.5% from "archaeological" pieces. "Artistic and historical" pieces accounted for 11.7%, whereas 33.9% consisted of "other pieces", which included philatelic and photographic pieces.

36.9% of the total pieces belonged to "Science and technological museums", 16.1% to "Territory museums" and 10.2% to "Archaeology museums".

List of References

- Cultural Statistics 2016 – edition November 2016, Statistics Portugal
- Methodology of Survey of Museums, Statistics Portugal
- ICOM - International Council of Museums