

# MUNICIPALITY OF FIGUEIRÓ DOS VINHOS

## ABSTRACT

Located in the north of the Leiria district to which it belongs, the Municipality of Figueiró dos Vinhos is geographically located in the centre of the country (“Beira Litoral” province), and incorporates the sub-region of “Pinhal Interior Norte” (NUT III). The Municipality is made up of four parishes: Union of Figueiró dos Vinhos and Bairradas, Arega, Aguda and Campelo, and extends over 173,4 km<sup>2</sup>, with an effective population of 6169 inhabitants. Of these, 2892 are male and 3277 female.

At a demographic level, the Municipality of Figueiró dos Vinhos presents characteristics that are common to other municipalities of the country: there has been an accentuated reduction of the population during the last decades due to population movements (emigration/migration) and a reduction in the birth rate. In fact, between 1991 and 2011, the municipality lost about 1843 inhabitants and the population density also suffered a considerable reduction.

### Population Variation (1991-2011)

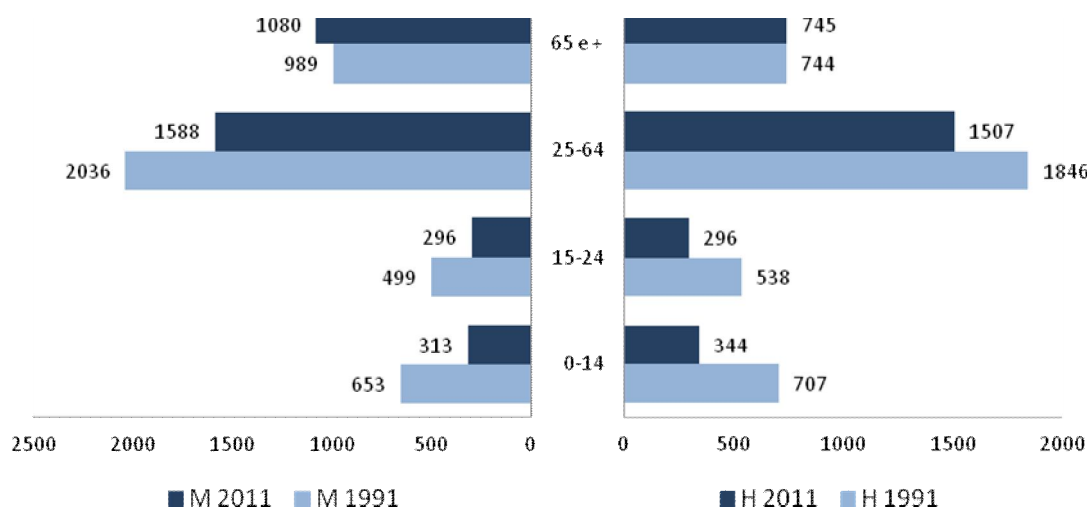
Years	Population	Variation	Population density
1991	8012	0	46,2 hab/Km <sup>2</sup>
2001	7352	-660	42,4 hab/Km <sup>2</sup>
2011	6169	-1183	35,6 hab/Km <sup>2</sup>

Source: INE (Yearbooks, Censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011)

The Municipality is equally aware of one structural problem characteristic of the demographic behavior of many regions of the country and Europe due to the ageing of the population caused by the movement of the population in the lower and intermediate age brackets to other geographic areas and also to the longer average life expectancy due to the increase in social welfare policies at a health, hygiene, public health and social assistance level.

By observing the pyramid age bracket of the Municipality of Figueiró dos Vinhos, we can thus confirm a narrowing of the pyramid base as a result of the reduction in the

proportion of young people and a widening of the top due to the increase in the ratio of the ageing population to the population of active age.



Also the reduction in the birth rate, which is considerably inferior to the mortality rate, has influenced the ageing population, causing a negative natural balance and a consequent difficulty of regeneration of the generations.

### Demographic Indicators (1992-2011)

Figueiró dos Vinhos	Birth rate	Mortality rate	Actual Growth rate	Aging index	Elderly Dependency Index	Young Dependency Index
1992	8,9	16,8	-0,78	127,4	35%	27,4%
2001	8,13	15,6	-1,02	188,6	41,8%	22,1%
2011	3,1	15,9	-1,07	279,3	49,9%	17,9%

Source: INE (Statistical Yearbooks, Censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011)

From the gender and age bracket groups between the years 1991 and 2011, we can verify the distribution of the predominance in the number of females compared to the number of males. Regarding the distribution by age bracket groups, we can see that the reduction of the population was greater in the 0-14 age bracket and that the population of 65 and over was the only one that had increased between 1991 and 2011. We can

also notice a huge reduction of the working-age population with consequences regarding to social security sustainability for further generations.

### Distribution of the Population by Sex and Age Group (1991-2011)

Years	Total Population			Age groups			
	MF	M	F	0-14	15-24	25-64	65 e +
				HM	HM	HM	HM
<b>1991</b>	8012	3835	4177	1360	1037	3882	1733
<b>2001</b>	7352	3489	3863	994	895	3588	1875
<b>2011</b>	6169	2892	3277	657	592	3095	1825

Source: INE (Statistical Yearbook 2008, Censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011)

In educational matters, illiteracy, especially when related to the elderly population and the lower school qualifications of the majority of the population of active age, has been indicated as the main problem regarding the municipality's population. However, we can verify that the illiteracy rate has decreased over the years, due especially to the change in cultural standards and the extension of obligatory schooling.

### Rate of Illiteracy

Illiteracy rate	1991 (%)	2001 (%)	2011 (%)
<b>Figueiró dos Vinhos</b>	18,8	14,6	9,24

Source: INE (Censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011)

Regarding the school level, we can see that between 1991 and 2011, although there was a reduction in the population reflected in the reduction in primary school instruction, there was a considerable increase in the population finishing preparatory instruction and other forms of education (middle and higher education), as a result of better evaluation of the education factor and the change of mentality. It's a fact that nowadays education is a key piece and is playing a very important role in people's life, due to its inclusive characteristics. It becomes more and more obvious the importance of having a ground education, which represents a basic tool for social and human development, even in rural areas such as ours.

## Resident population according to School Level

Years	Total Population			Scholl level				
				None	Primary	Preparatory	Secondary	Other forms
	MF	M	F	MF	MF	MF	MF	MF
<b>1991</b>	8012	3835	4177	1356	4031	822	1017	218
<b>2001</b>	7352	3489	3863	1319	3304	1566	733	430
<b>2011</b>	6169	2892	3277	1458	2040	1616	634	421

Source: INE (Censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011)

Concerning work, it is noted that between 1991 and 2001 there was a slight increase in the active population in the order of 5% and a consequent increase in the rate of the active population as a whole. The unemployment rate during this period showed a decrease of 1,4%. However, in 2011, there was a severe reduction of the active population and, consequently a reduction of the activity rate. The unemployment rate has tripled on the past 10 years, as a consequence of the economic crisis lived in Portugal. As a result, multiple local companies have closed down since 2001 till today and only a slow recovery is expected.

## Rate of Activity and Rate of Unemployment

Years	Active Population	Activity rate of total population	Unemployment rate of total population
<b>1991</b>	2830	35,3	6
<b>2001</b>	2987	40,6	5
<b>2011</b>	2414	39,1	15

Source: INE (Censuses 1991, 2001 and 2011)

From the economic point of view, the activities related to services and businesses, involve more than half of the active population of the Municipality of Figueiró dos Vinhos. In the business activity, although the municipality has excellent infrastructures for the setting up of enterprises, we can affirm that, at present, local businesses are made up essentially of small and medium-sized family enterprises.

Farming activities appears essentially as a complement of the main professional activity and continues as small family farm types of exploitation. Also within this context, we

highlight the importance of the forest, the main natural resource of the municipality where, although of predominantly small, fragmented and dispersed exploitation, it is an important income source for the local economy as well as for the diversity of related activities and development works. Unfortunately, year after year, huge areas of forest burns, with consequences for the economy of our families.

Another emergent economic activity is tourism due to the endogenous natural resources of the municipality and represents a higher development potential. Consequently, there is a high stake in nature tourism and active tourism in the schist village of Casal S. Simão which integrates the network of the schist villages.

### **MAJOR NEEDS OF OUR FAMILIES**

- Furniture (double beds, tables, chairs, wardrobes, kitchen cabinets, etc.);
- Kitchen, bed and bathing clothes;
- Clothes and shoes for women, man and children (in particular man's and boy's clothes and shoes, they are more difficult to reach);
- Household appliances such as fridges, freezers, micro-waves, ovens, washing machines, sewing machines, stoves, irons, etc;
- Toys;
- Educational materials (pens, pencils, school-bags, color pencils, paper, copy books, glue, sports articles, etc);
- Groceries (non-perishable articles);
- Cleaning products.

We also ask for building materials of any kind but we understand that they are difficult to transport, if you can achieve them.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP, LET'S MAKE SOME CHANGES!**