
In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa concentrated almost half of the employed population working remotely

- In the period from April to December 2020, 15.6% of the employed population worked remotely. Among the seven NUTS 2 regions, the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa (AML) recorded the highest proportion (27.9%), concentrating 48% of the employed population in telework in the country. In the other regions, the proportion employed population working remotely was lower than the national average and was below 9% in the autonomous regions.
- The different territorial expression of telework is associated with differences in regional productive structures. Taking as a reference the nomenclature of branches of economic activity (aggregation A10), the proportion of teleworking employment was more than double the national average in three branches: *Information and Communication Activities* (66.9%), *Financial and insurance activities* (47.6%) *Consultancy, scientific, technical and similar activities; administrative and support service activities* (32.5%).
- The importance of the employed population working remotely in the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa, associated with the high commuting levels in this region and the asymmetrical structure of the commuting patterns, suggest differentiated impacts on the local economies that benefit from the territorial proximity to the usual workplaces. In this context, it should be noted that, according to the results of the last Survey on Mobility in Metropolitan Areas, more than 50% of the inter-municipal work trips of the population living in this region was to the municipality of Lisbon. In Lisbon, for every 100 inhabitants aged 15 or over, there were 53 work trips from other municipalities in the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa. Thus, in addition to the effect of the decrease in tourism decrease on the local economy, there may have been the effect of the reduction in trips due to the significant expression of telework as a result of the pandemic.

This press release presents a territorial analysis focusing on telework, benefiting from data collected in the framework of the *ad hoc* module on "Working from home" of the Labour Force Survey for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 ([see technical note at the end of the press release](#)). The strong expansion of telework was a reaction to the restrictions on mobility imposed by the pandemic and to public policy measures focusing on these areas. However, the adoption of this form of work, being conditioned by the available technologies and, above all, by its degree of suitability to the different economic activities, had a heterogeneous territorial expression.

As a consequence of the different regional expression of telework, differentiated impacts on local economies are also being observed, namely on the activities that benefit from the population employed by proximity to the workplace, particularly significant in regions where commuting movements are more expressive – both in terms of intensity and distances travelled.

The indicators on the territorial expression of the pandemic COVID-19 usually disseminated in this press release, based on municipal data released weekly by the Directorate-General of Health (DGS) and the data on deaths are updated in the [Dashboard COVID-19 | Context and Impact](#), available on the Statistics Portugal's website.

Additionally, within the framework of Statistics Portugal's [Statslab](#), this press release also presents data on population mobility provided by Facebook's "Data for Good" initiative.

In the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa, the only region to surpass the national average, 27.9% of the employed population worked remotely, corresponding to almost half of the employed telework population in the country

Figure 1 – Proportion of employed population working remotely in the total employed population, Portugal and NUTS 2, average of last three quarters of 2020

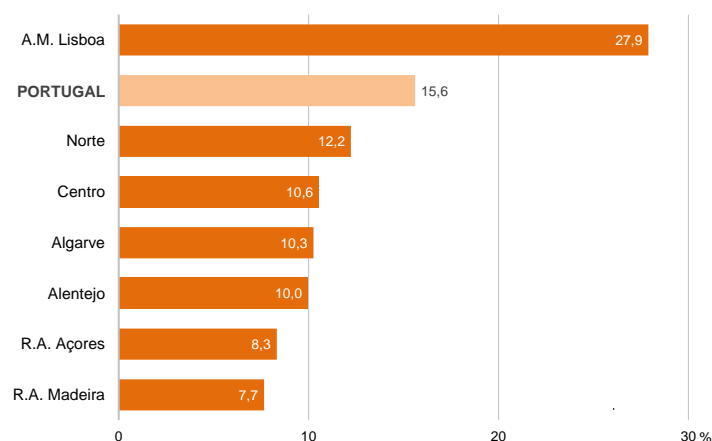
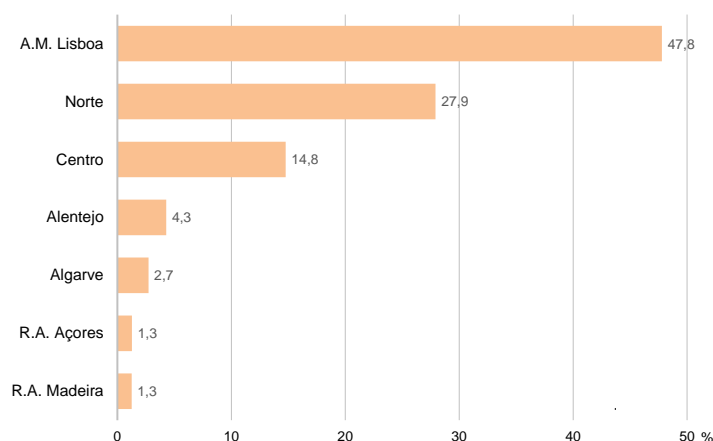


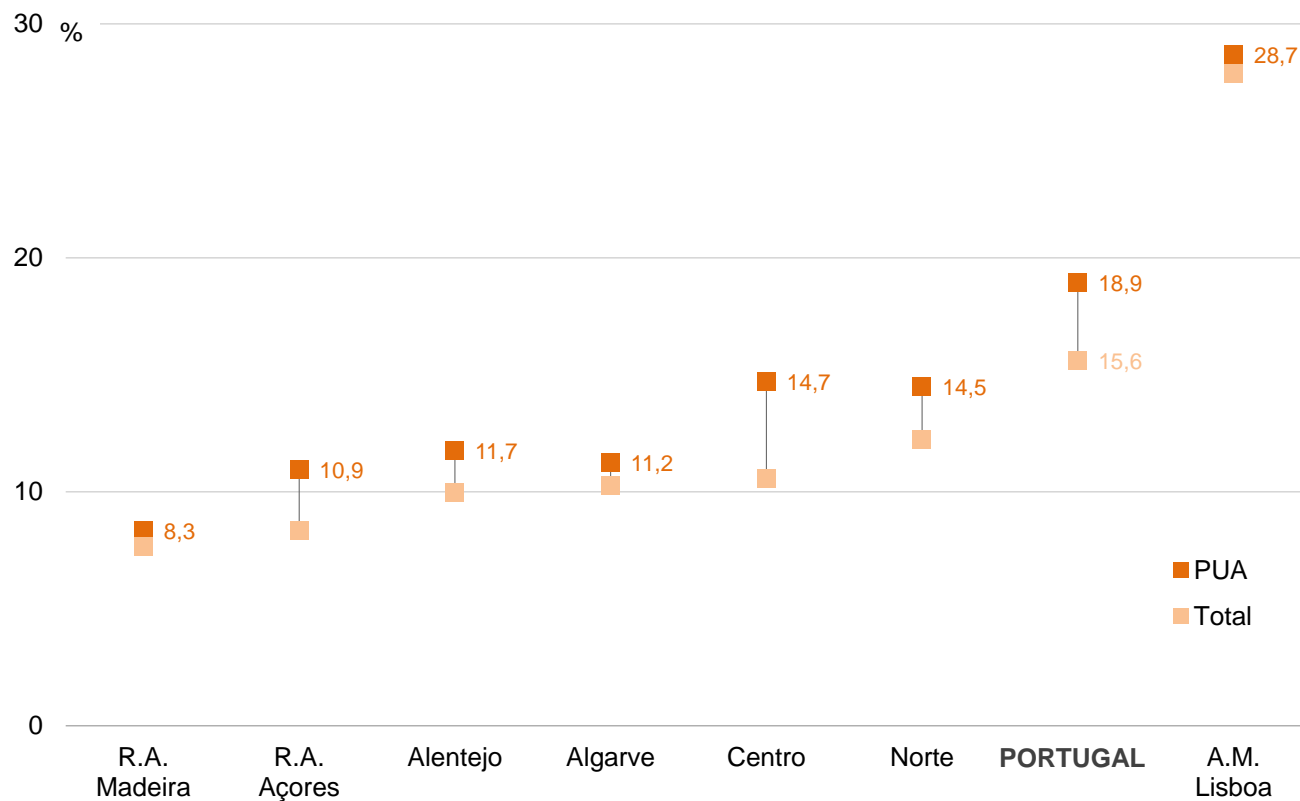
Figure 2 – Breakdown of the employed population working remotely by NUTS 2, average of the last three quarters of 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey, *ad hoc* module – Working from home.

The expression of telework was higher among the urban employed population

Figure 3 – Proportion of employed population working remotely in the total employed population (Total and Predominantly Urban Areas – PUA), Portugal and NUTS 2, average of last three quarters of 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey, *ad hoc* module – Working from home.

More than two thirds (66.9%) of the population employed in Information and Communication Activities was teleworking

Figure 4 – Proportion of employed population working remotely in total employed population by branch of economic activity (A10), Portugal, average of last three quarters of 2020

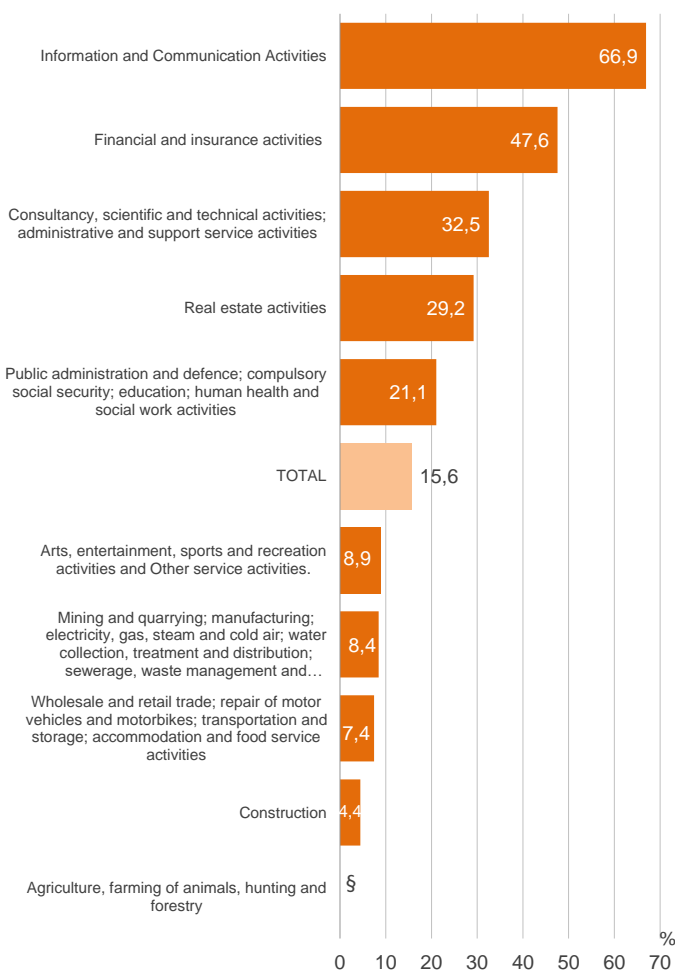
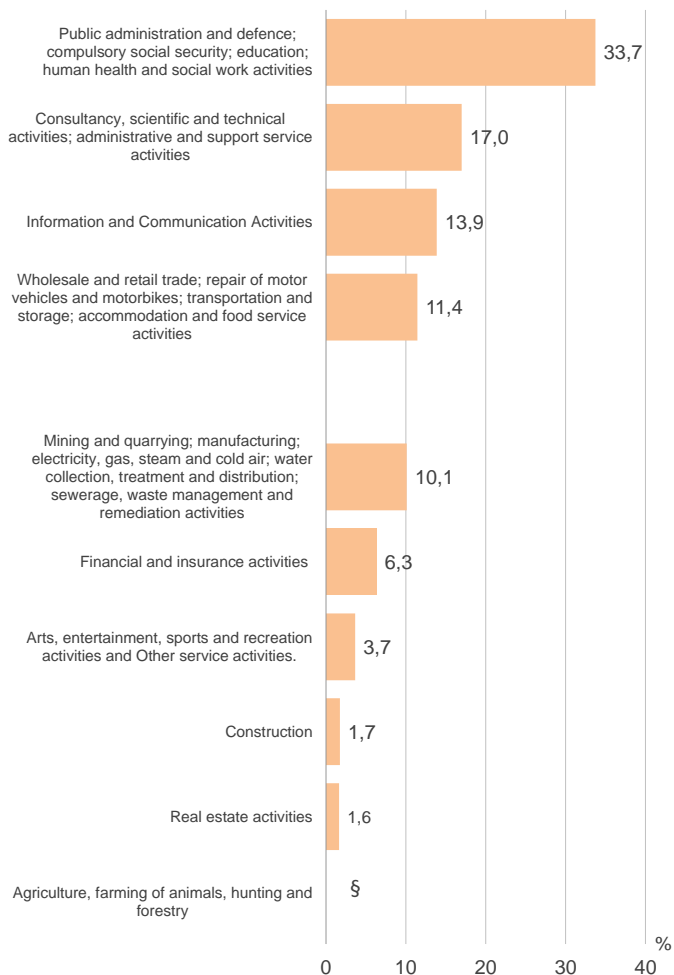


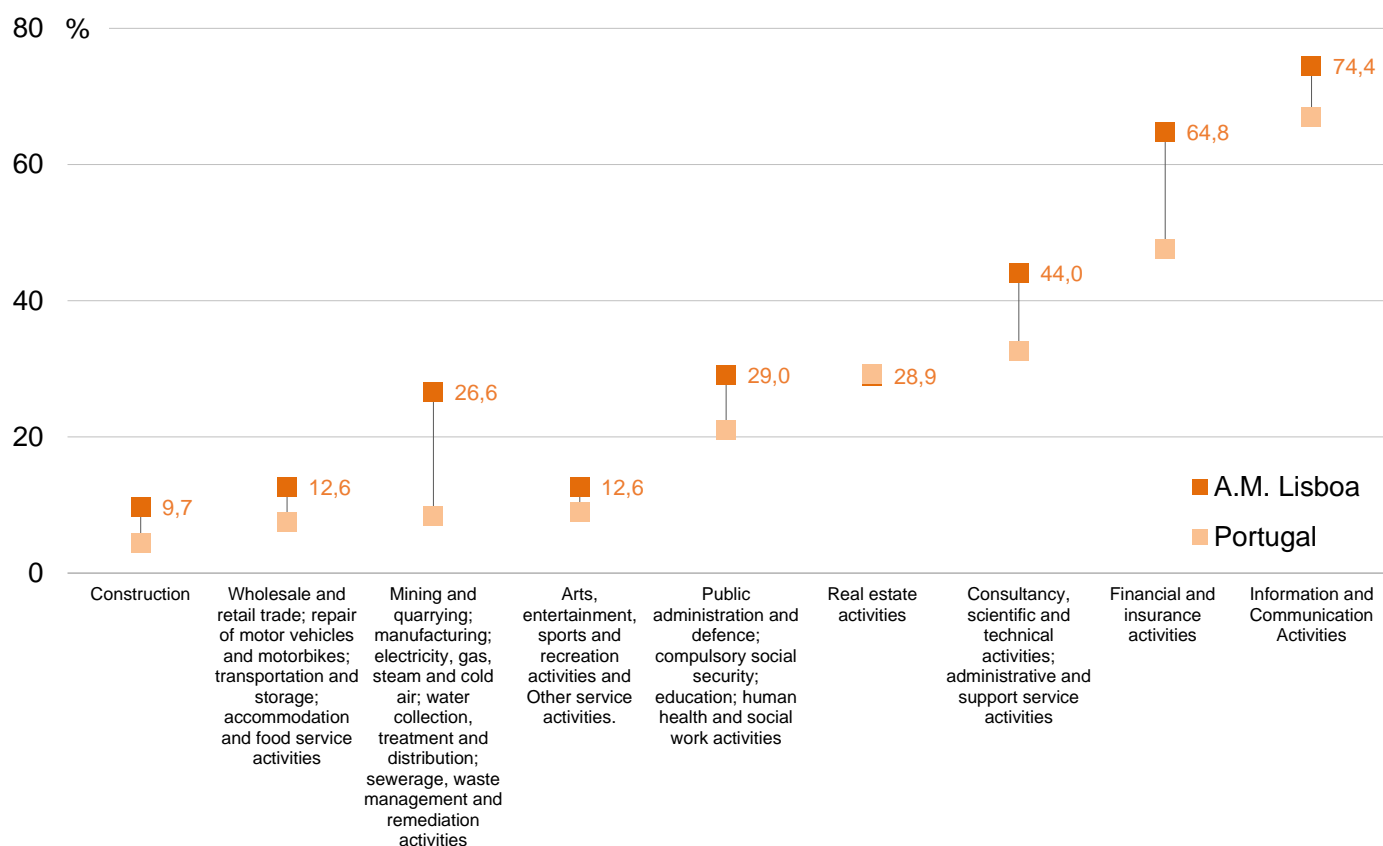
Figure 5 – Breakdown by branch of economic activity (A10) of the employed population working remotely, Portugal, average of the last three quarters of 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey, *ad hoc* module – Working from home.

Note: The results for branch 1 "Agriculture, farming of animals, forestry and fishing" have an associated sampling error of more than 20% and therefore cannot be disclosed.

Figure 6 – Proportion of employed population working remotely by branch of economic activity (A10), Portugal and Metropolitan Area of Lisboa, average of last three quarters of 2020



Source: Statistics Portugal, Labour Force Survey, *ad hoc* module – Working from home.

Note: The results for branch 1 "Agriculture, farming of animals, forestry and fishing" have an associated sampling error of more than 20% and therefore cannot be disclosed.

Figure 7 – Breakdown of work trips between municipalities by municipality of destination in the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa

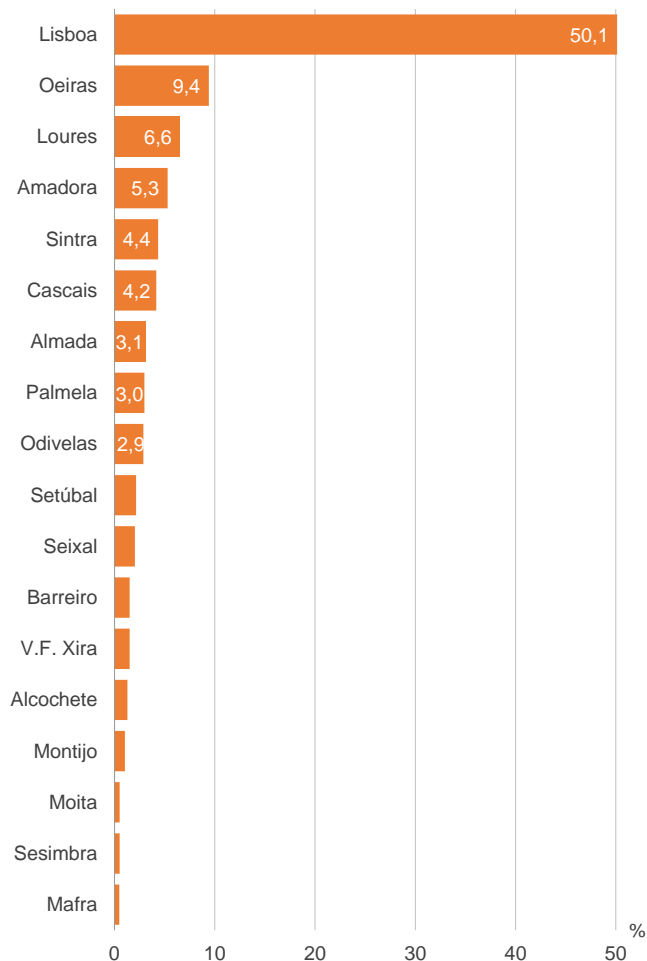
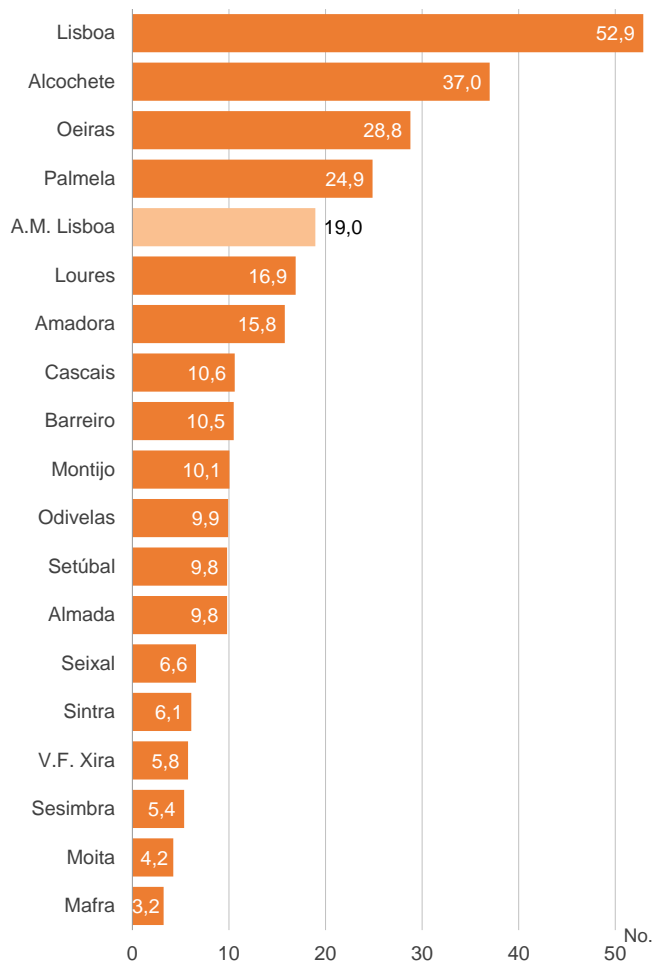


Figure 8 –Work trips between municipalities per 100 inhabitants aged 15 and over, by municipality of destination in the Metropolitan Area of Lisboa



Source: Statistics Portugal, Mobility Survey in the Metropolitan Areas of Porto and Lisboa (2017); Annual estimates of resident population, 31 December 2016.

Population mobility indicators at regional level: an analysis based on information from Facebook's "Data for Good" Initiative

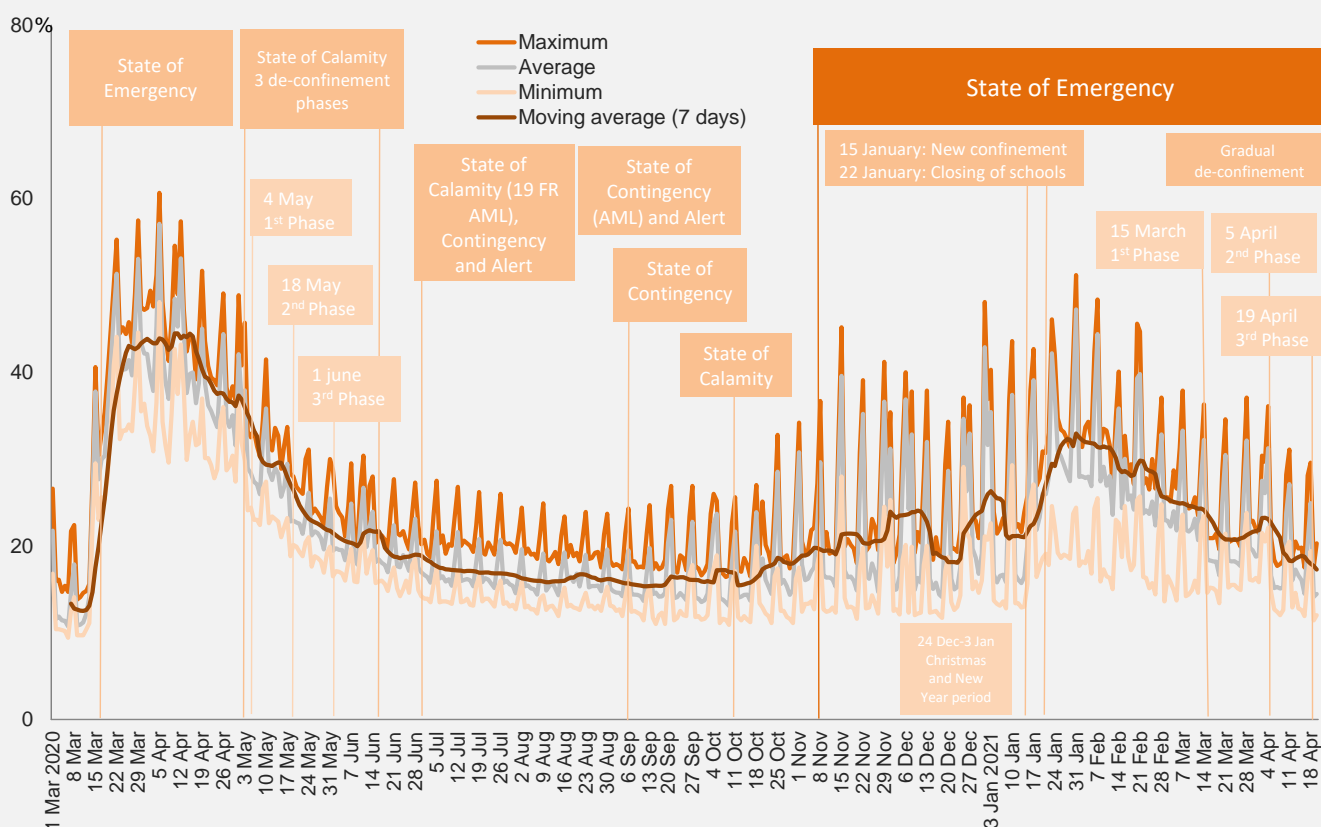
Taking advantage of Facebook's "Data for Good" initiative, the figure below shows the proportion of the population "staying put" between 1 March 2020 and 20 April 2021, namely the minimum, average and maximum values calculated based on the NUTS 3 sub-regions. The proportion of population that "stayed put" is based on the number of Facebook users associated with a single reference grid of 600mx600m during 8 am and 8 pm on day x, requiring at least three occurrences during that time period.

It is possible to observe that on Sundays there is generally less mobility of the population than on other days of the week. It is also noteworthy that after the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 and following the declaration of the first State of Emergency, there is a decrease in the mobility of the population, followed by an increase in the levels of mobility after the implementation of the de-confinement measures.

Considering the moving average of the last 7 days there has been an overall reduction in the average levels of mobility following the declaration of the State of Emergency on November 9 and subsequent renewals. In this context, the days before Christmas and after New Year are the exception, where there is an increase in mobility due to the general cancelling of measures restricting circulation. This tendency to reduce mobility is accentuated after the entry into force, on January 15, 2021, of extraordinary measures to limit the spread of the pandemic, including a new confinement period, followed by the closing of schools on January 22.

From the second week of February onwards, there is an overall upward trend in mobility levels, which is accentuated following the gradual and phased lifting of restrictive measures on 15 March (1st phase that included the reopening of schools up to the 1st cycle of basic education), on 5 April (2nd phase which included the reopening of schools to the 2nd and 3rd cycles) - there was, however, a slight increase in the proportion of the population "staying put" on the days associated with school holidays and the Easter period - and on 19 April (3rd phase which included the reopening of secondary and tertiary education).

Proportion of the population "staying put" between 1 March 2020 and 20 April 2021 – minimum, average and maximum values of NUTS 3 sub-regions



Source: Facebook's "Data for Good" Initiative. Data provided by Carnegie Mellon University. Note: The dates marked on the graph axis correspond to Sundays.