

## Regional Profile

## Norte

### Key facts

Population (2021): 360.998

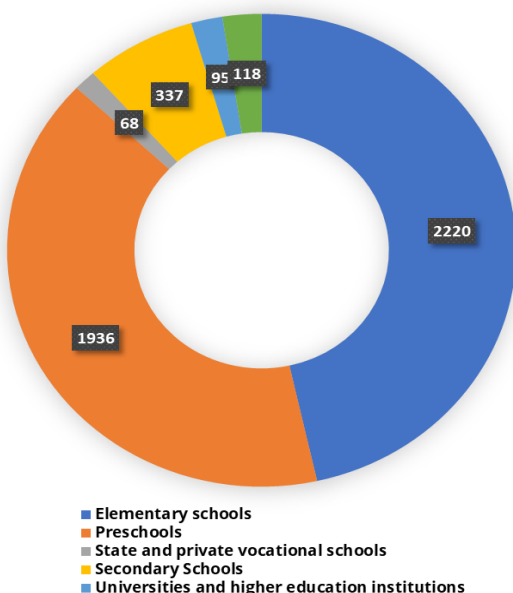
Territory (sq. km): 21.286

Regional GDP (2022) (€): 23.900

### Educational provision in Norte

The Portuguese educational system consists of **clusters of schools and non-integrated schools**. In the Norte region, non-integrated schools are usually secondary schools, while clusters of schools typically encompass several educational offerings, including **preschool (1936)** and **basic education (2220)**, and in several cases (not always), also **secondary education (337)**. **Vocational education** is provided by **specialized schools (68)**, exclusively offering vocational courses, and since 2005 has also been integrated into secondary education.

Regarding higher education, the Norte Region offers **95 universities and institutions of higher education**. Additionally, there is a network of offerings aimed at adult education through **118 centers of the Qualifica Programme**. This information is available in the circular chart below.



### Learning outcomes in Portugal

The meaning of skills and competences is largely uniform across the Portuguese territory.

**Competences and skills** are seen not only as professional tools but also **important features for active citizenship**.

**Learning outcomes** are meant to enhance **education, training, employability and enable quick requalification**.

The Bologna process, and more recently the introduction of learning outcomes at the end of compulsory schooling, and also for each subject in basic and secondary education, have led Portugal into a **new educational paradigm**, which goal is to **increase the educational system's quality and equity**.

### Socio-economic characteristics of Norte

The Norte region has an economy centred around tourism, services, science, and research. It is the **most populous Portuguese region**, home to one of the major urban centres in Portugal - the Metropolitan Area of Porto. However, it ranks second among Portuguese regions in terms of the **highest disparity in average monthly earnings (based on educational qualifications)** (INE, 2024).

Despite its economic activities, challenges persist in the Norte region. The **employability of the young population** requires improvement, and concerns remain regarding the **population at risk of poverty and social exclusion**. Additionally, the Norte region holds the distinction of having the **lowest Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** among Portuguese regions.

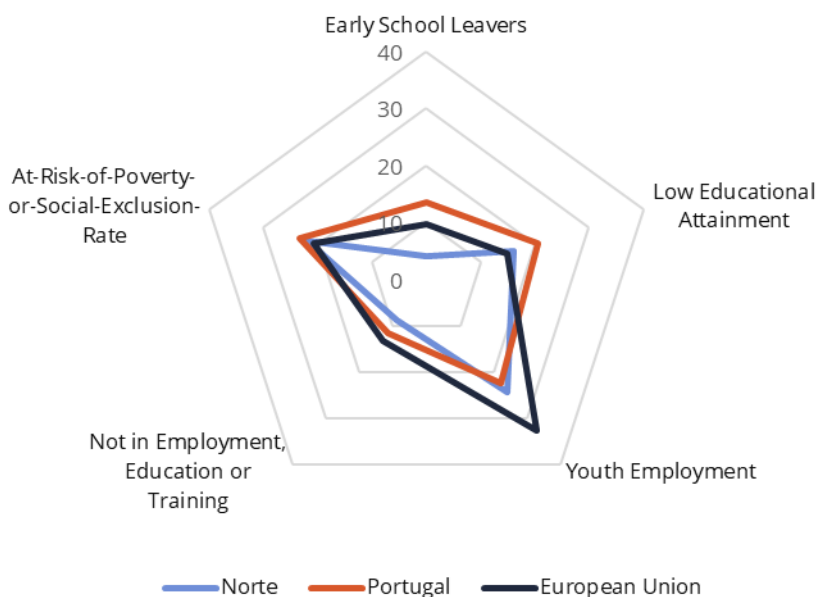
These factors underscore the need for targeted efforts to enhance employment opportunities for the youth, address issues of poverty and social exclusion, and stimulate economic growth to elevate the overall well-being of the population in the Norte region.

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## Regional performance

Economically, the Norte has the poorest regional **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** among Portuguese regions and exhibits a **risk of poverty and social exclusion** slightly above the EU27 average. Notably, 24.2% of young individuals (15-24 years) in the Norte region are employed, but challenges persist, as 8.8% of young people (15-29 years) are not engaged in education, employment, or training. Furthermore, 4.1% of young individuals in the region opt to drop out of school or training programmes.

These indicators emphasize both the strengths and challenges faced by the Norte region, highlighting the need for targeted interventions **to enhance economic opportunities and reduce poverty and social exclusion.**



Source: Eurostat, 2023

## Policy challenges



## Further reading

Fundação José Neves. (2021). *Estado da Nação Educação Emprego Competências 2021*. Fundação José Neves.

Instituto Nacional de Estatística [Statistics Portugal] (2022). *Índice Sintético de Desenvolvimento Regional 2020*. Instituto Nacional de Estatística, Portugal.



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- University of Urbino
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