

(This press release has been revised following the detection of an error in the number of companies by Province)

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES SECTOR-ICT. 2015

The ICT sector accounted for 2.4% of value added generated in the Basque Country in 2015 and 2.1% of employed personnel

68.3% of companies in the ICT sector engaged in e-commerce compared to 26.4% of the total for all sectors

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector consisted of 2,511 businesses with 21,343 workplaces in the Basque Country in 2015, 2.1% of employed individuals in the Basque economy according to Eustat data. Furthermore, it generated 2.4% of total value added (1,505.5 million), and posted a turnover figure of 3,381.4 million euros.

Compared with the previous tax year, although the main variables of the sector performed positively, the sector made up less of the economy as a whole, which grew at the same rate in 2015 that the ICT sector did, both in terms of personnel and in value added.

In 2015 the number of employed individuals increased by 1.4% (297 more) and the number of establishments by 1.7% (42 more), maintaining the average size of 8.5 individuals per establishment, all compared to the previous year. The turnover figure also grew by 2.9% and the value added by 0.6%. However, in relation to the economy as whole, its contribution dropped one tenth in terms of both employment and value added.

Table 1: Main magnitudes for the ICT sector, by province and sector of activity (p). 2015

	Number of businesses	Number of employed	Turnover (1)	Value added (1)
Total ICT Sector	2.511	21.343	3.381,4	1.505,5
Province				
Araba/Álava	318	2.286	334,7	134,0
Bizkaia	1.515	12.645	2.188,1	991,0
Gipuzkoa	740	6.412	858,6	380,5
ITC sector				
Industria	68	4.019	470,6	172,1
Services	2.443	17.324	2.910,8	1.333,4

(1) Million euros

(p) Provisional data

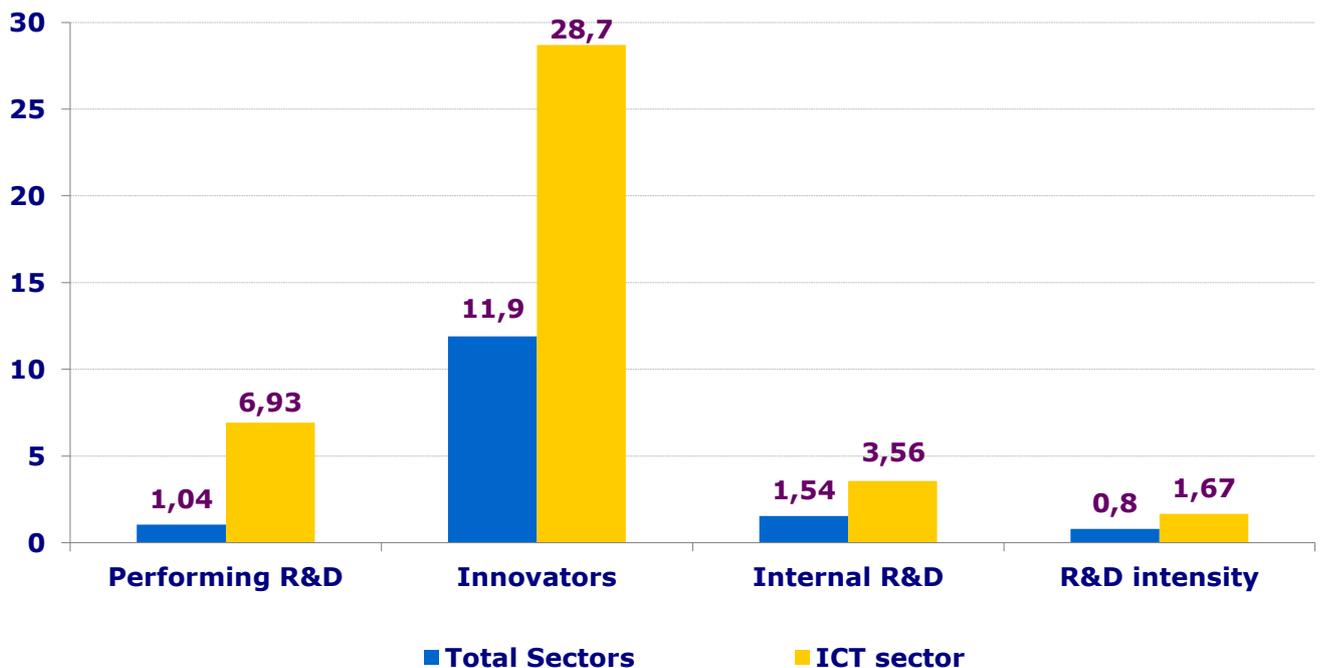
Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

Businesses in the ICT sector carried out more R&D&I activities than all the other sectors

6.9% of companies in the ICT sector carried out R&D activities, a percentage that is far higher than the 1.0% of the total for all sectors. Furthermore, this sector, which represented just 1.6% of companies, accounted for 10.9% of those carrying out R&D and, with 68.4 million euros, it spent 7.2% of total expenditure on internal R&D in the business sector. This means that the proportion of total expenditure on this sector increased from 2014 by 0.2%.

With regards to people working in R&D in this sector, the figure for people in full-time work in 2015 stood at 1,304 (325 of whom were women), and 10.0% of these positions were provided by the business sector in R&D, or 7.2% if we take into account the positions provided by all the sectors.

Graph 1. R&D and innovation in companies within the ICT sector and in all sectors for 2015. (%)



Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

Regarding innovation, as with R&D, there were significant differences between the total for all sectors and that for the ICT sector. In 2015, 28.7% of establishments in the ICT sector were innovators compared to 11.9% of the total for all sectors. If company size is taken into account, those with 10 or more employees recorded percentages of 52.0% in the first case and 28.2% for the total number of sectors.

Regarding expenditure on innovation, ICT establishments contributed 173.6 million euros, 7.1% of total company expenditure. Of this expenditure, 154.8 million corresponded to establishments of 10 or more employees, which was 7.4% of the total spent by companies of this size.

The ICT sector also allocated a greater proportion of resources towards R&D&I than the other sectors, and it is worth noting the figures spent both on innovation and on R&D with regards to the turnover figure (innovation and internal R&D intensity ratios). Specifically, innovation intensity in this sector was 3.6 compared to 1.5 over the economic sectors as a whole. In the case of internal R&D, the ratio was 1.7 for the ICT sector and 0.8 for the economy as a whole.

Table 2: Intensity of internal innovation and R&D innovation in the ICT sector, by territorial scope, activity sector and employment strata (%). 2015

	Total		10 or more employees	
	Innovation intensity (1)	Internal R&D intensity (2)	Innovation intensity (1)	Internal R&D intensity (2)
Total sectors	1,54	0,80	2,03	1,16
Total ICT sector	3,56	1,67	3,66	1,73
Province				
Araba/Álava	1,59	0,65	1,60	0,67
Bizkaia	3,29	1,32	3,44	1,45
Gipuzkoa	5,32	3,32	5,66	3,41
ITC sector				
Industria	5,39	3,89	5,54	4,00
Services	3,35	1,42	3,42	1,45

(1) Innovation Intensity: (Spending on innovation/turnover)*100

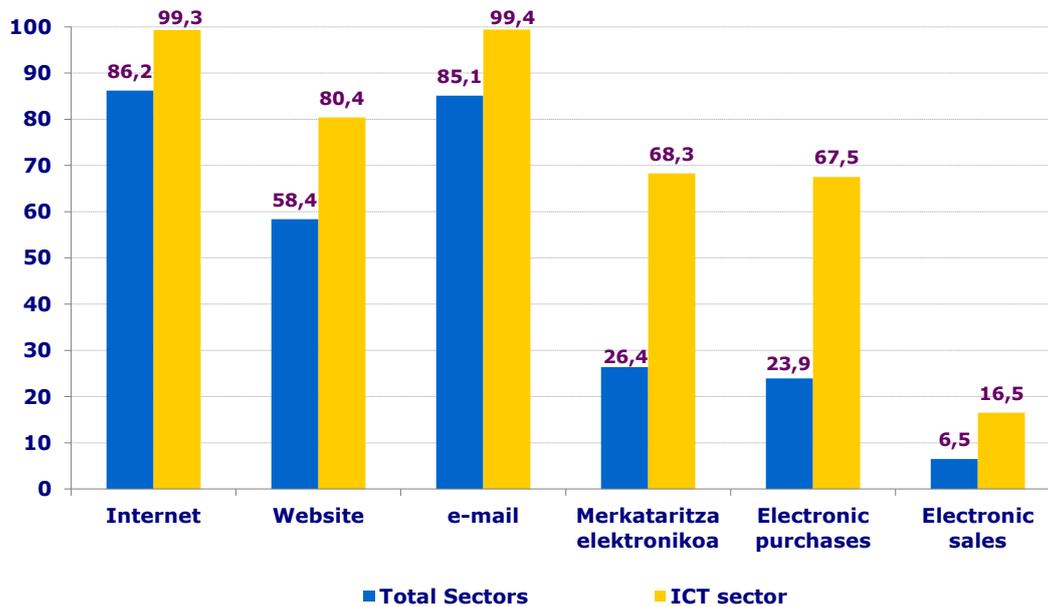
(2) Internal R&D intensity: (Spending on internal R&D/turnover)*100

Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

Both the use of ICT technology and e-commerce were more widespread in the ICT sector than in the total for all sectors

As the use of ICT technology is extremely commonplace amongst the companies in this sector, e-commerce, although more developed than in the other sectors, continued to have a modest implementation, above all in terms of sales. The establishments that made purchases via this method in the ICT sector accounted for 67.5% and those that carried out sales accounted for 16.5%, compared to 23.9% and 6.5% respectively for the total of all sectors. Hence, 68.3% of ICT establishments engage in e-commerce, whereas it represents 26.4% of the total of all sectors.

Graph 2. Use of ICT technologies in 2015 (%)

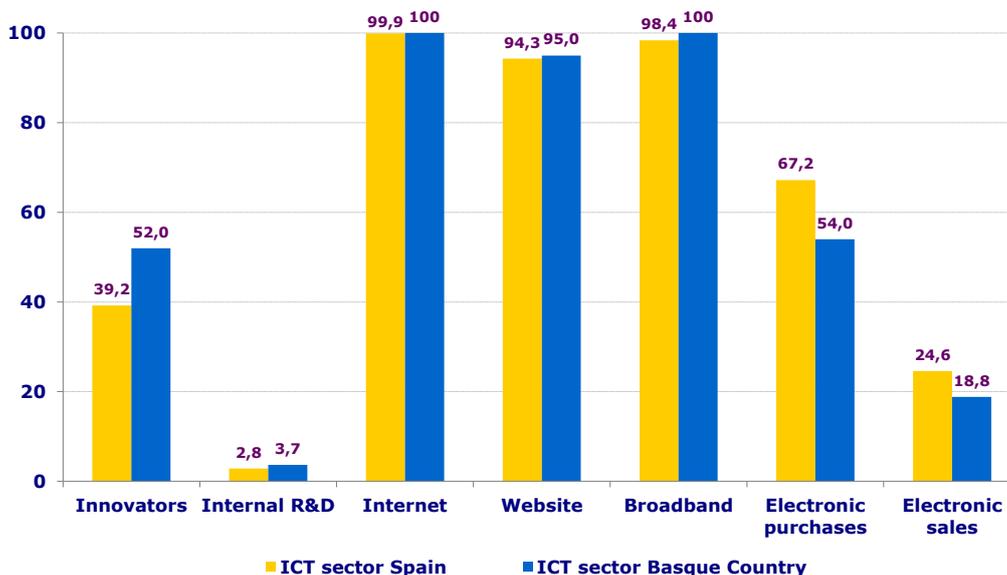


Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

On the other hand, the impact of the ICT sector on the foreign trade of goods was not very significant. Whilst exports accounted for 293.7 million euros out of a total of 21,867.8 million, imports stood at 402.0 million out of the 16,835.6 million of total imports, accounting for 1.3% and 2.4% respectively.

The most common products traded in terms of exports were *Electronic Components*, 41.5%, and *Other ICT Products*, 30.4%. In terms of imports, the most common products were, once again, *Other ICT Products*, 33.6%, *Telecommunications Equipment*, 23.4% and *Electronic Components*, 21.5%.

Graph 3. Comparison of Companies with 10 or employees in the Basque Country and in Spain as a whole (%). 2015



Source: Eustat and INE

The characteristics of the ICT sector are very similar in the Basque Country and Spain as a whole, even though Basque companies were more innovative in 2015

Lastly, if we compare ICT sector data for the Basque Country with Spain as a whole in companies with 10 or more employees, differences can be seen in the indicators observed. Whilst the percentage of innovating companies, innovation intensity, web sites and broadband was higher in the Basque Country, the percentage of companies engaging in e-commerce was higher in Spain as a whole.

Methodological note:

The ICT sector is made up of manufacturing and service sectors whose main activity is related to development, production, marketing and intensive use of Information & Communication Technologies. [Eustat website](#). [Methodology file: ICT sector](#)

For further information:

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