

MARRIAGE STATISTICS (EMAT) OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY, 1ST QUARTER, 2011

92% of weddings that took place during the first quarter of 2011 were civil ceremonies

The number of weddings fell by 11% in comparison with the same period in 2010

A total of 928 weddings took place in the Basque Country during the first quarter of 2011, a fall of 43% in comparison with the fourth quarter of 2010 (1,617 weddings) and 11% fewer than in the first quarter of 2010 (1,042 weddings), according to Eustat data. Traditionally, the year's first quarter is notable for a lack of weddings, particularly the months of January and February.

As in previous years, the majority (92%) of weddings during this quarter were civil ceremonies. This figure represents an increase of 4.6% in comparison with the same period in 2010. Increases were registered in each of the three Provinces, with civil ceremonies accounting for 92% of weddings in Araba/Álava, 93.2% in Bizkaia and 90.2% in Gipuzkoa.

The 928 weddings that took place during the first quarter of 2011 involved 892 male and 895 female residents of the Basque Country. A total of 775 (86.9%) men were getting married for the first time, while 9 widowers and 108 divorcees were deciding to remarry. The number of women getting married for the first time was slightly lower than the number of men, with 755 (84.4%) first-time brides, 4 widows and 136 divorcees.

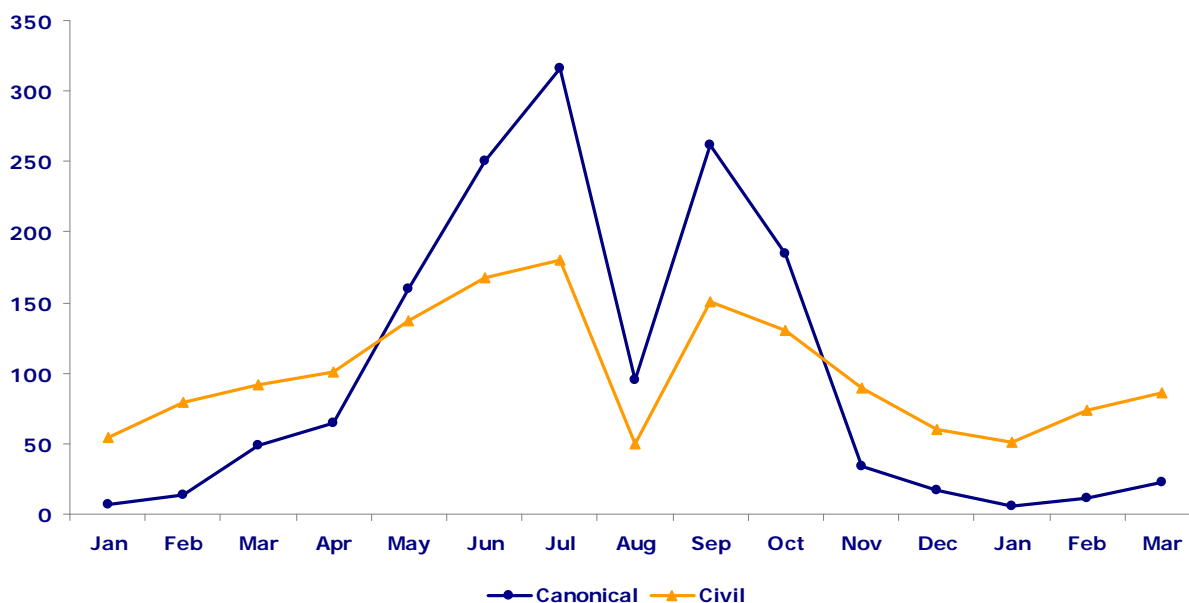
In terms of age and gender distribution, 85.2% of the men were over 30, while this figure dropped to 78.5% for women. The figure for men represents a fall of 1.5% in comparison with the same period in 2010, when 86.7% of grooms were over 30. However, the same statistic for women represents an increase of 3.7% over the same quarter last year, when 74.8% of brides were over 30.

Of the couples getting married during the first quarter of 2011, 17.2% of men and 14.7% of women were of foreign nationality. The figure for women fell in comparison with the same period in 2010, when the number of newlywed foreign women reached 18.1%, while the figure for men increased by 3.3% (11.4% in 2010).

A total of 31 same-sex weddings took place during the first quarter of 2011, exactly the same amount as in the same period in 2010. Of these weddings, 21 were between men and 10 were between women.

	1st quarter 2011		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2010)		Same quarter the previous year (1st quarter 2010)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
MARRIAGES	928	100,0	1.617	100,0	1.042	100,0
Canonical	74	8,0	454	28,1	131	12,6
Civil	854	92,0	1.163	71,9	911	87,4
HUSBANDS	892	100,0	1.570	100,0	1.003	100,0
Single	775	86,9	1.370	87,3	840	83,7
Widowers	9	1,0	6	0,4	12	1,2
Divorcés	108	12,1	194	12,4	151	15,1
WIVES	895	100,0	1.580	100,0	1.013	100,0
Single	755	84,4	1.396	88,4	880	86,9
Widows	4	0,4	10	0,6	6	0,6
Divorcées	136	15,2	174	11,0	127	12,5

Graph 1: Monthly Marriage Trends (base 100= average)



Source: EUSTAT. Marriage statistics in the Basque Country

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