

91% of marriages celebrated in the first quarter of 2012 were civil

The number of weddings increased by 4% compared to the same period of 2011

The number of marriages in the Basque Country during the first quarter of 2012 stood at 984, 36% down on the 1538 celebrated in the fourth quarter of 2011, and 4% more than the same quarter of the previous year (947), according to Eustat data. Traditionally, the first month of the year is characterised by the low number of marriages celebrated, above all, in January and February.

As has occurred in previous years, this quarter has seen the greatest proportion of civil marriages (90.9%), a slightly lower figure than the 91.2% for the same period of the previous year. The province with the highest proportion of civil marriages was Bizkaia with 91.8%, and that with the lowest was Gipuzkoa, with 89.2%. In Álava the percentage was 91.5%.

In the 984 weddings in the first quarter of 2012, 943 men and 949 women resident in the Basque Country entered into marriage. For 806 husbands (85.5%) this was their first marriage, whilst 14 widowers and 123 divorcees remarried. The percentage of women who married for the first time was slightly higher than that for men, with 813 (85.7%) single women, 10 widows and 126 divorcees entering into marriage.

As regards the distribution of marriages according to the age of the couples, 87.4% of husbands were above the age of 30, whilst this percentage stood at 79.8% for wives. For both sexes there was a rise in the percentage of over-30s compared with the same period of the previous year, a quarter in which these percentages stood at 85.1% for men and 78.3% for women.

The percentage of foreign nationals entering into marriage was down

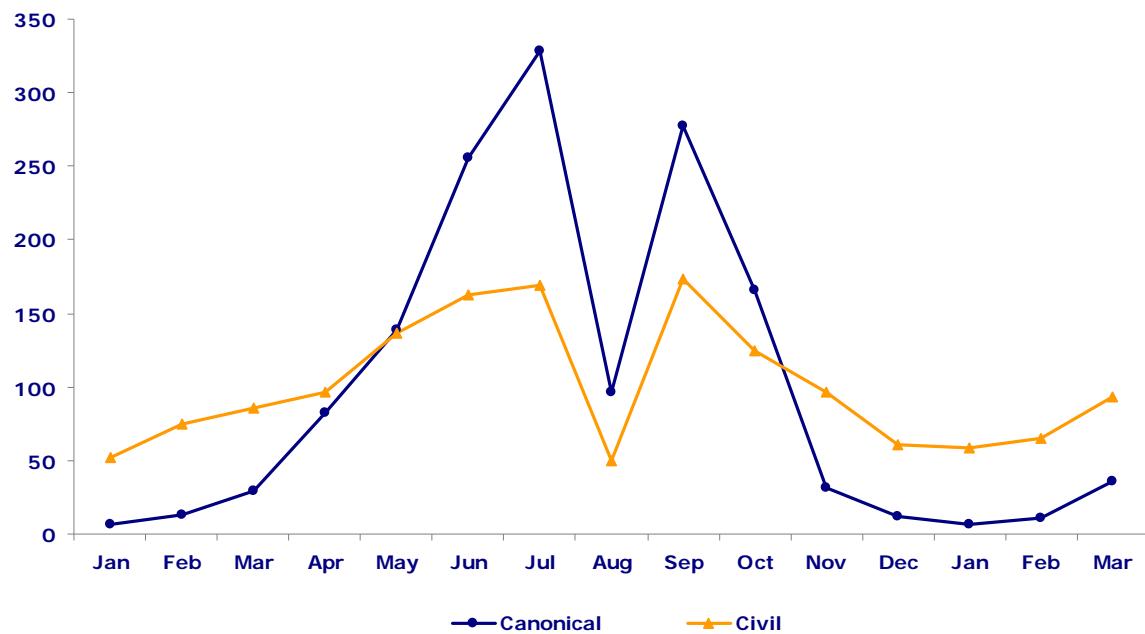
In the first quarter of 2012, 16.6% of recently married women and 11.2% of recently married men were foreign nationals. In the case of both husbands and wives, these percentages decreased in comparison with those recorded in the same period of 2011 (17.3% y 14.8%, respectively). This decrease was more pronounced in the case of men with a drop of 3.6 percentage points compared with 0.7 points for women.

On the other hand, 35 unions were celebrated between partners of the same sex, a figure that surpasses the 29 registered in the same quarter of the previous year; of these, 17 were between men and 18 between women.

	1st quarter 2012		Previous quarter (3rd quarter 2011)		Same quarter the previous year (1st quarter 2011)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
MARRIAGES	984	100,0	1.538	100,0	947	100,0
Canonical	90	9,1	359	23,3	83	8,8
Civil	894	90,9	1.179	76,7	864	91,2
HUSBANDS	943	100,0	1.489	100,0	911	100,0
Single	806	85,5	1.271	85,4	793	87,0
Widowers	14	1,5	14	0,9	9	1,0
Divorcés	123	13,0	204	13,7	109	12,0
WIVES	949	100,0	1.500	100,0	915	100,0
Single	813	85,7	1.293	86,2	773	84,5
Widows	10	1,1	13	0,9	5	0,5
Divorcées	126	13,3	194	12,9	137	15,0

Source: EUSTAT. Marriage statistics in the Basque Country

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



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For further information:

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