

## Births were down 2.8% in the first quarter of 2012

### ***40% of mothers were aged 35 or over and 36% were unmarried***

In the first quarter of 2012 the figure for births in the Basque Country stood at 4,919, which was a drop of 2.8% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to Eustat data. The number of births was down in all provinces, but this decrease was not evenly distributed: in Álava the fall was 0.5%, in Gipuzkoa it was 2% and in Bizkaia it was 4.1%. Specifically, in Álava 788 babies were born, 2,454 in Bizkaia and 1,677 in Gipuzkoa.

In the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, there continued to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 year-old age group, in which 41.3% of the births took place. This group was followed by the group immediately above it (mothers aged 35-39), which accounted for 33.2% of births and was ahead of the 25-29 age group, which accounted for just 14%.

Despite the general decrease in the number of births compared to the same quarter of 2011, the number of women who were mothers aged 40 or over increased, with the number of births rising from 300 to 321 in 2012. The babies born from these women accounted for 6.5% of the total, exceeding the 5% of recent births from mothers under the age of 25.

Births outside of wedlock accounted for 36.3% of the total, a figure 2.8 percentage points up on that from the first quarter of 2011. Gipuzkoa, with 34.7%, was the only province with figures lower than the Basque Country as a whole, whilst Álava stood at 38.8% and Bizkaia at 36.6%. The maternity age of this group was lower than that for women who have had children, given that 10% of unmarried mothers were under the age of 25.

According to the order of birth for the first quarter of 2012 over half, 2646, were firstborns; 1,861 boys and girls (37.8%) arrived in families that already had another child and the percentage of third place births or above stood at 8.4%.

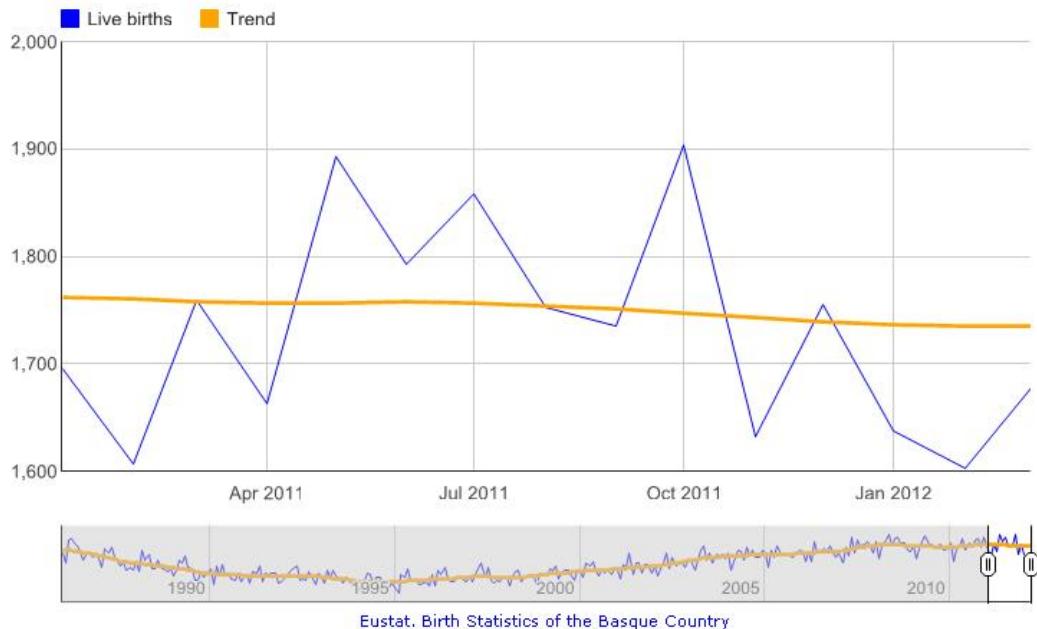
### ***17.2% of mothers were foreign nationals***

In 17.2% of births in the Basque Country during the first three months of 2012 the mother had foreign nationality, which was 2 points up on the same quarter of the previous year. This average was widely exceeded in Álava where it stood at 25.8%, compared to 16% in Bizkaia and 14.9% in Gipuzkoa.

**Table 1. Live births to mothers residing in the Basque Country. Comparative table**

	1st quarter 2012		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2011)		Same quarter the previous year (1st quarter 2011)	
	No	%	No	%	No	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>4.919</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.294</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.063</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	788	16,0	864	16,3	792	15,6
Bizkaia	2.454	49,9	2.694	50,9	2.559	50,5
Gipuzkoa	1.677	34,1	1.736	32,8	1.712	33,8
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>4.919</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.294</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.063</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	247	5,0	302	5,7	303	6,0
25 - 29 years	687	14,0	752	14,2	697	13,8
30 - 34 years	2.030	41,3	2.202	41,6	2.109	41,7
35 - 39 years	1.634	33,2	1.711	32,3	1.654	32,7
≥ 40	321	6,5	327	6,2	300	5,9
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>4.919</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.294</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.063</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	3.134	63,7	3.369	63,6	3.366	66,5
Not married	1.785	36,3	1.925	36,4	1.697	33,5
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>	<b>4.919</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.294</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.063</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Spanish	4.073	82,8	4.388	82,9	4.290	84,7
Foreign	846	17,2	906	17,1	773	15,3
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>4.919</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.294</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.063</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.646	53,8	2.976	56,2	2.706	53,4
Second	1.861	37,8	1.872	35,4	1.935	38,2
Third or posterior	412	8,4	446	8,4	422	8,3

Source: EUSTAT. Birth Statistics of the Basque Country

**Live births to mothers residing in the Basque Country and registered in the Basque Country. Monthly data**

**For further information:**

Basque Statistics Office

C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

 Tel: +34-945-01 75 00 Fax: +34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: [eustat@eustat.es](mailto:eustat@eustat.es)

Contact: Martín González Hernández

Tel: +34-945-01 75 49 Fax: +34-945-01 75 01

 Further press releases on **BIRTH STATISTICS of the Basque Country**

 Database on **BIRTH STATISTICS of the Basque Country**