

**BIRTH STATISTICS OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (ENAC) 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2012**

## **Births were down by 1.9% in the second quarter of 2012**

### ***Álava was the only province to see an increase in births***

The number of births in the Basque Country in the second quarter of 2012 stood at 5,250, a figure 1.9% lower than that recorded in the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. Álava was the only province to see a rise in births, with its 855 newborns meaning an increase of 1.9%. In Bizkaia with 2,681 girls and boys the drop was 1.5% and in Gipuzkoa, with 1,714 births, the fall stood at 4.2% with regards to the second quarter of 2011.

During April, May and June 2012 births outside marriage accounted for 34.5% of the total, a greater percentage than the 32.8% recorded in the same quarter of 2011. Álava, with 35.4%, was the only province to post figures higher than the Basque Country overall. In Gipuzkoa and in Bizkaia the percentages were lower: 34.1% and 34.4% respectively.

According to the order of birth in the second quarter of 2012 more than half, 2,807, were first children; 1,997 girls and boys (38%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter, and the percentage of third or subsequent children stood at 8.5%.

### ***In 20% of births the mothers were over 30 years of age***

Regarding the distribution of births according to age, the group of mothers between the ages of 30-34 continued to be in the majority, producing 39.8% of births. They were immediately followed by the 35-39 age group, with 33.9%. With percentages significantly lower than the previous groups was the 25-29 age group (14.2%) and the extreme age groups: the under-25s, accounting for 5.7%, and the over-40s, with 6.5% of births.

The age of maternity for single mothers was lower than that for women who had children as a whole, with 11.5% of single mothers being under the age of 25 and 18.8% between the ages of 25 and 29.

### ***16% of mothers were foreign nationals***

In 16.1% of births in the Basque Country during the spring months of 2012, the mother was a foreign national. This average was significantly higher in Álava where it stood at 22.3%, against the 15.3% in Bizkaia and the 14.2% in Gipuzkoa.

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

	2nd quarter 2012		Previous quarter (1st quarter 2012)		Same quarter the previous year (2nd quarter 2011)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>5.250</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.965</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.350</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	855	16,3	799	16,1	839	15,7
Bizkaia	2.681	51,1	2.462	49,6	2.721	50,9
Gipuzkoa	1.714	32,6	1.704	34,3	1.790	33,5
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>5.250</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.965</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.350</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	297	5,7	251	5,1	297	5,6
25 - 29 years	748	14,2	694	14,0	825	15,4
30 - 34 years	2.087	39,8	2.050	41,3	2.259	42,2
35 - 39 years	1.779	33,9	1.648	33,2	1.681	31,4
≥ 40	339	6,5	322	6,5	288	5,4
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>5.250</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.965</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.350</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	3.440	65,5	3.164	63,7	3.597	67,2
Not married	1.810	34,5	1.801	36,3	1.753	32,8
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>	<b>5.250</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.965</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.350</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Spanish	4.406	83,9	4.110	82,8	4.483	83,8
Foreign	844	16,1	855	17,2	867	16,2
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>5.250</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.965</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.350</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.807	53,5	2.663	53,6	2.860	53,5
Second	1.997	38,0	1.884	37,9	2.044	38,2
Third or posterior	446	8,5	418	8,4	446	8,3

Source: EUSTAT. Birth Statistics of the Basque Country

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