

Births dropped 0.7% in the third quarter of 2014

Births outside marriage accounted for 40% of the total

In the third quarter of 2014 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 4,940, which was a slight drop of 0.7% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to Eustat data. The province that experienced the biggest decrease was Bizkaia, where 2,487 boys and girls were born, down 3.6%; in Gipuzkoa, with 1,066 births, there was a decrease of 0.6%. On the other hand, Álava, with 847 births, saw an increase of 8.7%.

8 out of every 10 mothers were over the age of 30

Regarding the distribution of births according the age of the mother, there continued to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 year-old age group, in which 37.8% of the births took place. This group was followed by the group immediately above it (mothers aged 35-39), which accounted for 35.1% of births, nearly tripling that of the 25-29 age group, with 13.3% of births. Amongst the groups at the two extremes, those under the age of 25 accounted for 6.2% of births, whilst those over 39 accounted for 7.7%.

Births outside of marriage accounted for 40% of the total, which was higher than the 38% for the same period of the previous year. The average age of mothers stood at 33.2: for married mothers it stood at 33.6; for single mothers it was 32.4, for divorcees it was 35.7 and for widows, a very small group consisting of only 3 women, the average age rose to 35.3 this quarter.

Foreign mothers are 3.7 years younger than those with Spanish nationality

Of the women who became mothers in the Basque Country in July, August and September 2014, 18.8% were foreign nationals. This percentage was only higher in Álava, where it stood at 26%, whereas in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa the proportion of mothers with foreign nationality stood at 17.5% and 17.2%, respectively.

The age at which women became mothers varied according to their nationality. In fact, the average age of foreign mothers was 30.2, compared to 33.9 for mothers with Spanish nationality.

According to the order of birth, more than half (2,660 boys and girls) were first children in the summer months of 2014; 1,826 (37%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter and 9.2% were third or subsequent children.

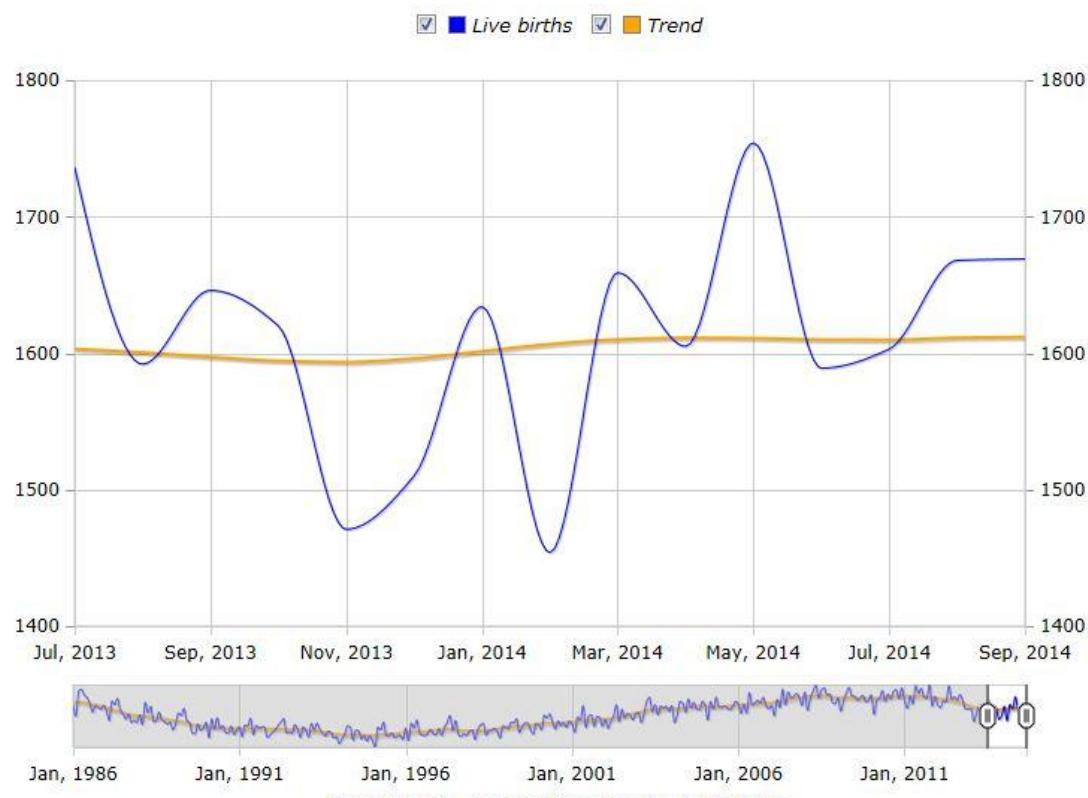
The number of first-time mothers was down 2.3%, but for women who had their second child there was an increase of 0.5%, and for women who had their third or subsequent child the increase was 4.4%, all with respect to the same quarter of 2013.

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

	3rd quarter 2014		Previous quarter (2nd quarter 2014)		Same quarter the previous year (3rd quarter 2013)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Basque Country	4.940	100,0	4.948	100,0	4.974	100,0
Araba / Álava	847	17,1	826	16,7	779	15,7
Bizkaia	2.487	50,3	2.531	51,2	2.580	51,9
Gipuzkoa	1.606	32,5	1.591	32,2	1.615	32,5
According to age of mother	4.940	100,0	4.948	100,0	4.974	100,0
≤ 24 years	304	6,2	287	5,8	267	5,4
25 - 29 years	658	13,3	694	14,0	655	13,2
30 - 34 years	1.866	37,8	1.935	39,1	1.915	38,5
35 - 39 years	1.733	35,1	1.660	33,5	1.736	34,9
≥ 40	379	7,7	372	7,5	401	8,1
According to the marital status of the mother	4.940	100,0	4.948	100,0	4.974	100,0
Married	2.965	60,0	3.043	61,5	3.085	62,0
Not married	1.975	40,0	1.905	38,5	1.889	38,0
Nationality of the mother	4.940	100,0	4.948	100,0	4.974	100,0
Spanish	4.010	81,2	4.084	82,5	4.109	82,6
Foreign	930	18,8	864	17,5	865	17,4
Order of birth	4.940	100,0	4.948	100,0	4.974	100,0
First	2.660	53,8	2.536	51,3	2.722	54,7
Second	1.826	37,0	1.947	39,3	1.817	36,5
Third or posterior	454	9,2	465	9,4	435	8,7

Source: Eustat. Birth Statistics

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



Source: Eustat. Birth statistics of the Basque Country

For further information:

Eustat - Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística

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

 Press Service: servicioprensa@eustat.eus Tlf: 945 01 75 62

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Database on birth statistics of the Basque Country