

## 159,000 companies were operating in the Basque Country at the start of 2015

***The most dynamic stratum is that of fewer than three employees, which accounted for 91.5% of openings and 90.6% of closures***

In early 2015, 158,810 companies operated in the Basque Country in various sectors of economic activity and traded in 176,384 establishments (factories, shops and offices), according to Eustat data.

By activity sector, the number of establishments increased compared to the previous year in the sectors of Public Administration, Education & Health (3.9%), Information & Communications (3.7%), Other Services (2.8%) and Professional & Auxiliary Activities (1.1%). On the other hand, there was a notable decrease in the number of establishments within the Primary sector (-7.5%), the Industrial sector (-2.3%) and the Construction sector (-2.2%). The overall balance for the establishments as a whole was down 0.3%.

### Number of Establishments by activity branch and Inter-annual rates of variation. 01/01/2015

	Basque Country		Araba/Álava		Bizkaia		Gipuzkoa	
	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%
<b>Total</b>	<b>176.384</b>	<b>-0,3</b>	<b>24.794</b>	<b>-0,6</b>	<b>91.337</b>	<b>0,0</b>	<b>60.253</b>	<b>-0,6</b>
Agriculture, livestock and fisheries	6.004	-7,5	1.810	-6,7	2.016	-3,4	2.178	-11,7
Industry, energy and sewerage	12.176	-2,3	2.072	-2,1	5.284	-3,5	4.820	-1,1
Construction	20.951	-2,2	2.699	-3,0	10.788	-0,8	7.464	-3,7
Trade, transportation and food service activities	67.519	-0,8	8.940	-1,1	36.162	-0,8	22.417	-0,7
Information and communication	3.290	3,7	379	1,1	1.884	4,8	1.027	2,7
Financial and insurance activities	4.955	-1,5	692	-3,1	2.649	-1,3	1.614	-1,2
Real estate activities	2.895	-2,2	216	-2,3	1.707	-0,9	972	-4,3
Professional activities and support services	28.317	1,1	3.858	1,3	15.063	1,0	9.396	1,3
Public Administration, education and health	17.360	3,9	2.326	5,0	9.258	3,6	5.776	3,9
Arts activities and other services	12.917	2,8	1.802	4,2	6.526	2,7	4.589	2,4

Source: Eustat. Directory of economic activities

The largest sector was Trade, Transport and Hotel Management & Catering, with 38.3% of all establishments, followed by Professional Activities and Support Services (16.1%) and Construction (11.9%).

Throughout 2014, the distribution of establishments according to their size remained very similar to the previous year. Barely 2,247 establishments, 1.3% of the total, had 50 or more employees, despite accounting for 38.9% of the total. On the other hand,

132,023 establishments, almost three-quarters of the total, employed less than 3 people and accounted for just 19.3% of all individuals in work.

As regards the average size of the establishments by branch of activity, the greatest concentration of employed individuals was recorded in Industry, Energy and Sewerage, both in terms of the Basque Country overall, with an average size of 14.1 employees per establishment, and at provincial level, with Álava standing out with 17.9, and the average size in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa being 12.6 and 14.0 employees per establishment, respectively. The average size of the establishments in the Public Administration, Education and Health sector was also noteworthy, standing at 14.6 in Álava, 10.2 in Bizkaia and 10.7 in Gipuzkoa.

## COMPANIES

Of the total of companies, legal units that provide support for the establishments' activities, 97.7% were based in the Basque Country and 3,689 in the rest of the State. Bizkaia, with 80,321 companies, contributed just over half; Gipuzkoa 53,497 (33.6%) and Álava 21,303 (13.4%).

The average size of companies in the Basque Country remained stable, with 5.3 employees per company and 4.8 per establishment. The analysis by legal status reveals, however, noticeable differences. Companies under individual ownership only had 1.4 employees, both per company and establishment, whereas for the other legal forms these averages reached 11.0 and 8.9 employees per company and establishment, respectively.

## BUSINESS DEMOGRAPHICS

The greatest rotation was seen in the branches of Trade, Transportation and Hotel Management & Catering, with 31.0% of new openings and 33.6% of closures; 17.0% of new openings and 19.4% of closures in Construction; and Professional Activities and Support Services, with figures of 18.8% and 16.2%, respectively. All of this gave a negative total net balance of 495 establishments.

### Establishment demographics. The Basque Country. 01/01/2015

	New entries	Cancelled entries		New entries	Cancelled entries
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.040</b>	<b>16.535</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>16.040</b>	<b>16.535</b>
Agriculture, livestock and fisheries	590	1.076	<b>Individual holder</b>	10.687	11.165
Industry, energy and sewerage	729	983	Partnership	311	728
Construction	2.729	3.204	Limited company	3.613	3.445
Trade, transportation and food service activities	4.980	5.551	Other companies and associations	1.384	1.159
Information and communication	513	377	Other legal forms	45	38
Financial and insurance activities	416	501	Other legal forms		
Real estate activities	262	300			
Professional activities and support services	3.023	2.673			
Public Administration, education and health	1.639	1.029			
Arts activities and other services	1.159	841			

Source: Eustat. Company start-up and failure statistics

In the analysis of demography by legal status, the establishments created under the individual ownership formula stand out for having generated 66.6% of new openings and 67.5% of closures.

In terms of individuals employed, individually-owned establishments accounted for 43.1% of jobs created and 38.7% of jobs lost. Following these, Limited Companies accounted for 30.1% of jobs created and 32.4% of jobs lost.

In terms of establishment size, the most dynamic stratum was that of 2 employees or under, as has become the norm. This stratum alone accounted for 91.5% of all registrations and 90.6% of all closures.

On the contrary, the stratum of Large Stores, those with 50 or more employees, only accounted for 0.1% of all establishments opened and the 0.2% all closures. On the other hand, it accounted for 8.5% of all jobs created and 13.3% of all jobs lost.

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**For further information:**

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*Further press releases on the Economic activities directory in the Basque Country*

*Database on the Economic activities directory in the Basque Country*