

56 municipalities exceeded the unemployment rates of the Basque Country in 2015 and in 37 the unemployment rate was below 10%

Almost half of people in work (47.7%) had a higher education or vocational qualification

The unemployment rate of 56 of the Basque Country's 251 municipalities exceeded the 16.1% average in 2015, and it was especially high in three municipalities in Álava: Oyón-Oion (24.7%), Zambrana (24.5%) and Moreda de Álava (24.0%), according to data prepared by Eustat. On the other hand, the unemployment rate was below 10% in the other 37 municipalities, most notably Albiztur (3.3%), Mendata (5.3%), Oresa (5.4%) and Gabiria (5.6%).

The situation for the regions was very uneven. The region with the lowest unemployment rate in the Basque Country was in Montaña Alavesa (10.5%), and the region with the highest rate was in Rioja Alavesa (19.1%), both in Álava. Other regions with an above-average unemployment rate were Markina-Ondarroa (16.5%), Gernika-Bermeo (17.0%), Gran Bilbao (17.9%) and Encartaciones (19.1%). On the other hand, almost all regions in Gipuzkoa had lower unemployment rates than the Basque Country average, except Bajo Bidasoa (17.3%).

In general, the smallest municipalities had the lowest unemployment rates. Municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants had an unemployment rate of 14.7%, those between 10,000-40,000 had 15.6% and 17.8% for those between 40,000-100,000. In the capitals the unemployment rate stood at 16.6% of the active population. Bilbao had the highest at 18.7%, compared with 15.8% in Vitoria-Gasteiz and 13.8% in Donostia-San Sebastián.

In Gipuzkoa the municipalities with the highest employment rates were in industry, in Álava in agriculture and in Bizkaia in construction and services

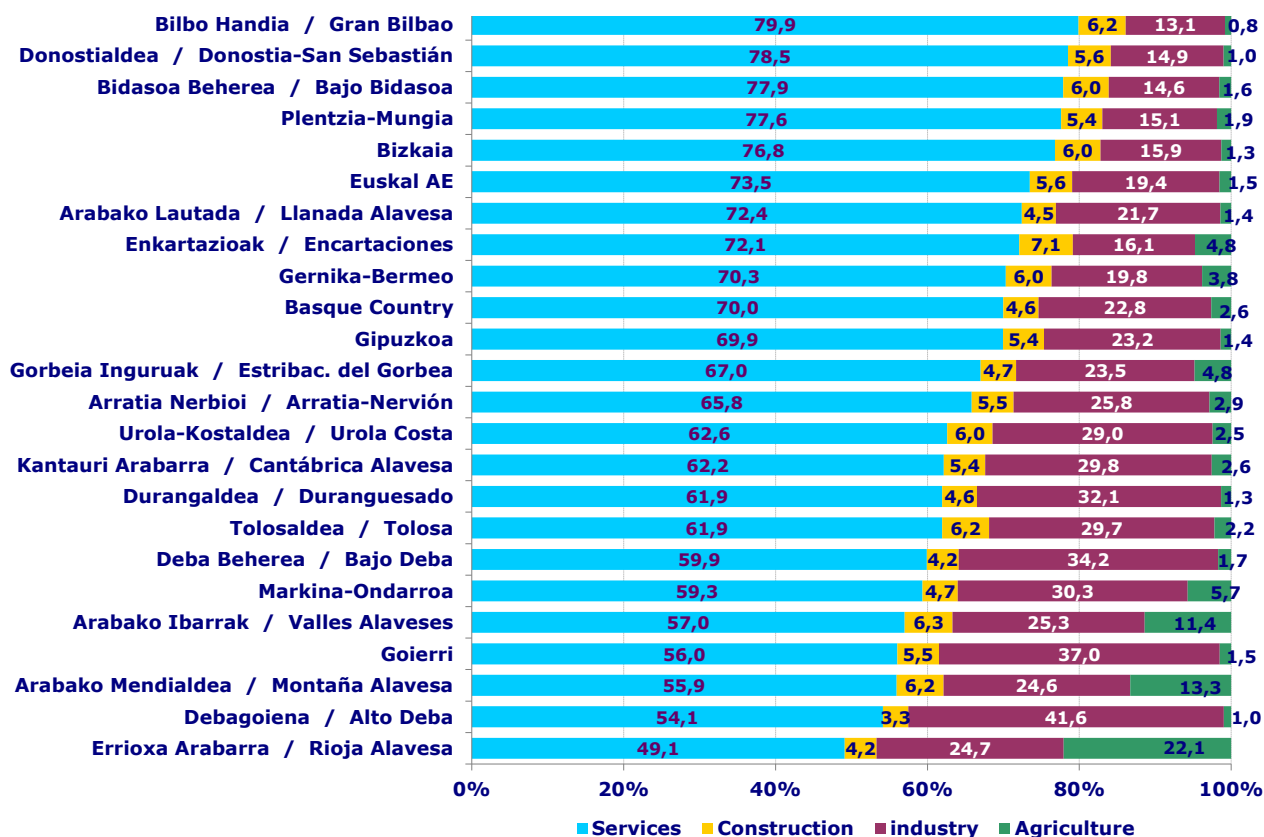
In 2015, 73.5% of the employed population worked in services, 19.4% in industry, 5.6% in construction and 1.5% in agriculture.

By province, the differences are not so pronounced. In Álava and Gipuzkoa, the population employed in the industrial sector (22.8% and 23.2% respectively) were higher than that of Bizkaia (15.9%), where the population employed in the services sector (76.8%) was the highest of the three provinces. It was around 70% in both Álava and Gipuzkoa. Furthermore, in Álava there was a greater proportion in agriculture (2.6%), compared to 1.3% in Bizkaia and 1.4% in Gipuzkoa.

In any case, the starkest differences in the population in work were between the various municipalities. While in Navaridas, Baños de Ebro/Mañueta, Yécora/Iekora, Villabuena de Álava/Eskuernaga and Elvillar/Bilar only 2 out of every 10 people were

employed in the services sector, in Getxo, Plentzia, Donostia/San Sebastián, Bilbao, Gorliz and others, this reached 8 out of every 10.

Graph 1. Employed population aged 16 and over by economic sector (%). 2015



Source: Eustat. Municipal statistics on active population

Municipalities in Gipuzkoa stood out for their high percentage of industrial employment, including Eskoriatza (48.6%), Oñati (48.1%), Antzuola (46.7%) and Aretxabaleta (45.4%), among others, compared with municipalities in Bizkaia, including Lanestosa, Barrika and Plentzia, where only 1 out of 10 people were employed in this sector.

On the other hand, the vast majority of municipalities with high employment in the agricultural sector were in Álava, notably Yécora/Iekora, Baños de Ebro/Mañueta, Elvillar/Bilar and Villabuena de Alava/Eskuernaga, where half of the population worked in this sector.

The most significant in the construction sector was Beizama, with 19.7% of people employed in this sector, followed by Belauntza (15.5%) and Artzentales (14.6%).

The differences between the activity sectors were stark in terms of the level of education of employed Basque people

In terms of the level of education of employed Basque people, the highest percentage of people in work in 2015 had a higher qualification (24.1%) in 2015, followed by those with a vocational qualification (23.6%), and thirdly by those with a primary education

(21.0%). By activity sector, the percentages changed significantly. Whereas the primary sector is dominated by workers with primary studies (40.0%), followed by those with secondary studies (20.8%), most people working in Industry had vocational training (34.0%) and primary studies (23.2%). In the construction sector, most workers had primary (35.5%) and vocational (27.4%) qualifications. Finally, the most qualified workers were concentrated in the services sector, where 27.8% had a higher qualification, 20.8% had vocational training, and 19.2% had secondary studies.

Both activity and employment were very high among the population of foreign nationals

Among the foreign population aged 16 and over, the activity rate exceeded 73% in 2015 and the unemployment rate reached 36%, with sharp differences by sex and continent of origin.

The female activity rate was 8 percentage points below that of men (68.9% compared to 77.5%) and the unemployment rate was 14 points lower (28.2% compared to 42.8%). By continent of origin, the highest unemployment rate was among people with the nationality of any country in Africa (54.8%), whereas for those from America it was more moderate (27.8%).

For further information:

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