

Births in the Basque Country fell by 4.5% in the second quarter of 2017

Babies born to unmarried mothers accounted for 44.5% of births

The number of births in the Basque Country in the second quarter of 2017 stood at 4,321, a figure 4.5% lower than that recorded in the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. There was a decrease in two of the three provinces, although to different degrees: it was higher in Gipuzkoa (-8.4%) than Bizkaia (-4.0%). In Álava, on the other hand, there was an increase of 2.2%. In figures, 742 girls and boys were born in Álava, 2,207 in Bizkaia and 1,372 in Gipuzkoa.

During April, May and June 2017 births outside marriage accounted for 44.5% of the total, a greater percentage than the 42% recorded in the same quarter of 2016. Bizkaia, with 46%, was the only province with values higher than the Basque Country average; in Álava and in Gipuzkoa the percentages were lower, 44.1% and 42.1%, respectively.

According to the order of birth in the second quarter of 2017, almost half, 2,148, were first children; 1,744 girls and boys (40.4%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter, and the percentage of third or subsequent children stood at 9.9%.

In 8 out of every 10 births the mothers were aged 30 or over

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 36.6% of births. They were closely followed by the 35-39 age group, with 35.5%. With percentages significantly lower than the previous groups were the 25-29 age group (13.8%) and the lowest and highest age groups: the under-25s, with 5.3%, and the over-40s, with 8.8% of births.

The age of maternity for single mothers was lower than that for mothers as a whole, with 8% of single mothers being under the age of 25 and 17% between the ages of 25 and 29.

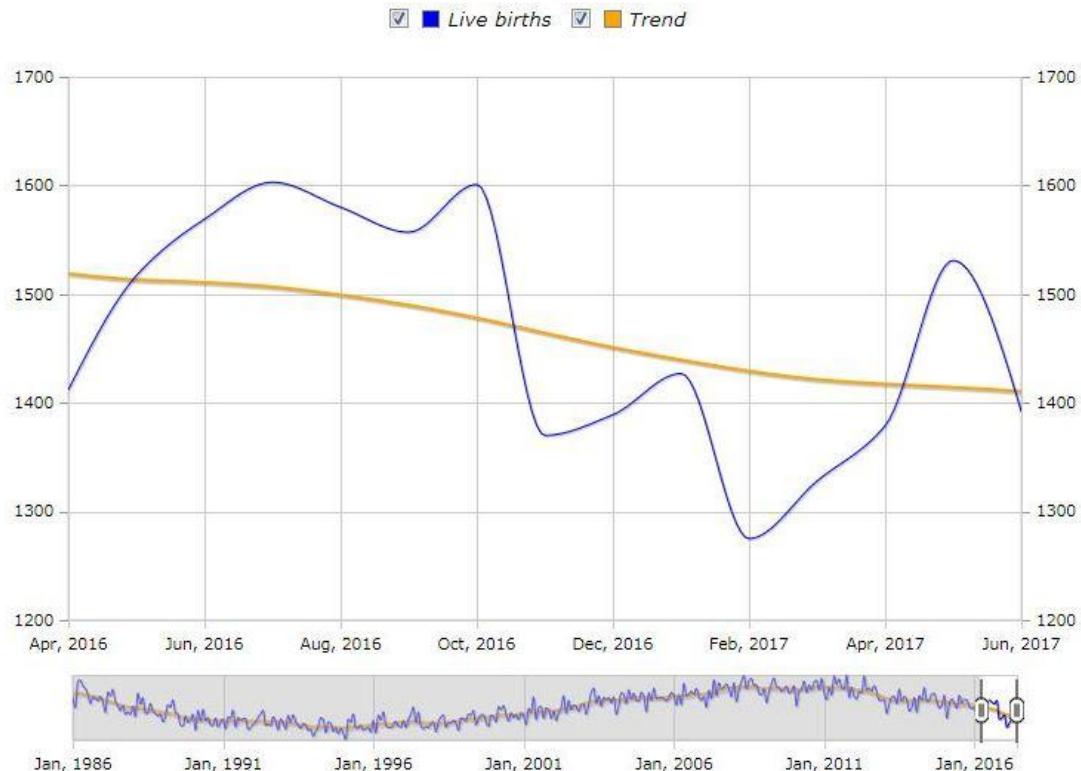
20.8% of mothers were foreign nationals

In 20.8% of births in the Basque Country during the spring months of 2017, the mother was a foreign national. This figure was higher in Álava where it stood at 27.9%, against 18.9% in Bizkaia and 19.8% in Gipuzkoa.

Table 1. Live births in the Basque Country. Comparative table

	II/2017		Previous quarter (I/2017)		Same quarter the previous year (II/2016)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Basque Country	4.321	100,0	4.054	100,0	4.523	100,0
Araba / Álava	742	17,2	713	17,6	726	16,1
Bizkaia	2.207	51,1	1.975	48,7	2.299	50,8
Gipuzkoa	1.372	31,8	1.366	33,7	1.498	33,1
Age of mother	4.321	100,0	4.054	100,0	4.523	100,0
≤ 24 years	228	5,3	240	5,9	253	5,6
25 - 29 years	598	13,8	512	12,6	635	14,0
30 - 34 years	1.581	36,6	1.387	34,2	1.670	36,9
35 - 39 years	1.533	35,5	1.491	36,8	1.541	34,1
≥ 40	381	8,8	424	10,5	424	9,4
The marital status of the mother	4.321	100,0	4.054	100,0	4.523	100,0
Married	2.400	55,5	2.259	55,7	2.622	58,0
Not married	1.921	44,5	1.795	44,3	1.901	42,0
Nationality of the mother	4.321	100,0	4.054	100,0	4.523	100,0
Spanish	3.424	79,2	3.123	77,0	3.595	79,5
Foreign	897	20,8	931	23,0	928	20,5
Order of birth	4.321	100,0	4.054	100,0	4.523	100,0
First	2.148	49,7	2.013	49,7	2.260	50,0
Second	1.744	40,4	1.590	39,2	1.815	40,1
Third or posterior	429	9,9	451	11,1	448	9,9

Source: Eustat. Birth statistics

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

For further information:

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