

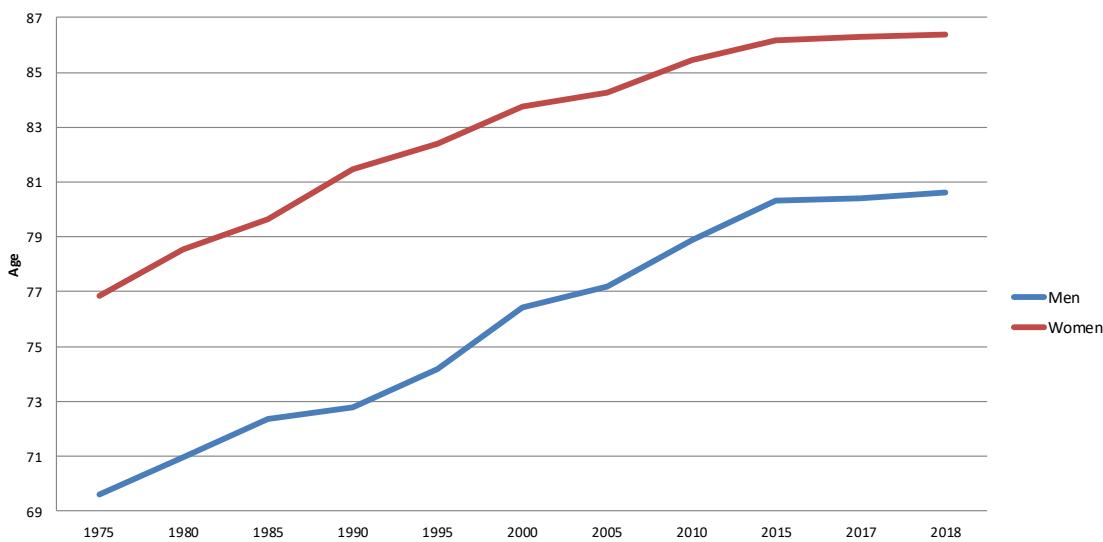
The life expectancy of men and women in the Basque Country continued to increase in 2018

Basque women are characterised by their high average maternity age which stands at 33, almost 3 years above the European Union average

According to Eustat data, the results from Indicators for analysing demographic phenomena predict that a male newborn in our region will live over 80 years and will have a 47% probability of getting married. If the newborn were female, her life expectancy would be prolonged to 86.4 years, her probability of marriage would be slightly higher than 52% and she would have only one child. In both cases, they would change their place of residence ten times in their lifetime.

Both men and women in the Basque Country have experienced a constant increase in their life expectancy. Compared to the indicators observed 42 years ago (a life expectancy of 69.6 years for men and 76.9 years for women in 1976), life expectancy has increased by 9.5 years for women and 11 years for men. Men have gained 3.1 more months of life per year, reaching 80.6 years, while women enjoy 2.7 more months per year, reaching 86.4 years. The gap between the life expectancy of the two sexes has narrowed to 5.8 years, from a maximum of 8.7 years difference 27 years earlier. In any case, very few developed countries can take pride in having such a high life expectancy, particularly for women.

Life expectancy at birth in the Basque Country by sex



Source: Eustat. Indicators for the analysis of demographic phenomena

Tumours are the main threat to the years of life expectancy. If tumours were completely eliminated, men would prolong their lives 4.2 years and women almost 3 years. However, external causes of death are less detrimental, taking 6 months from the lives of men and

3 months from women. These figures drop to just 1 month in the case of traffic accidents for men and none for women.

Virtually no women gave birth to a third or subsequent child

In the Basque Country in 2018, the average number of children per woman was 1.3, a long way from the average of 2.7 children obtained in 1975 and the 2.1 required for generation replacement. The figures were lower if compared with countries such as Sweden, where there are 1.8 births per woman, or France where it reaches 1.9. The lowest index was in Bizkaia, with 1.2 children per woman, whereas Álava and Gipuzkoa reached a rate of 1.4.

On the basis of the data, it was predicted that women would have an average of 0.7 first children, assuming that almost a third of women would have none; 0.5 second children; and one in every ten women would give birth to a third or subsequent child. In this sense, the drop in fertility in the third child or more range was 90% compared to 1975.

Another fertility characteristic of Basque women was their high average maternity age, which stands at 33 years, almost 3 years above the European Union average. This is also 4.4 years higher than it was in 1975. The average maternity age was lower in Álava, 32.7 years, than in the other two provinces, given that in Bizkaia it stood at 33.1 years and in Gipuzkoa it equalled the Basque Country average.

The average age at marriage exceeded 35 for both sexes

The percentage of first marriages according to the rates for 2018 stood at 47.2% for men and 52.2% for women, meaning a large drop compared to 2001 rates, which were 56.1% and 59.5% respectively. From the other point of view, these data meant that almost 53% of men and slightly less than half of women remained single. That was far from the situation 42 years earlier, when practically everyone got married.

An analysis of the marriage rate showed that the age for marriage continued to increase. The average age for the first marriage was 37.2 years for men (10.5 years later than in 1975) and 35.2 years for women (11 years later than in 1975).

As in the case of the fertility rate, a considerable number of marriages took place at specific ages. In just 6 years, between the ages of 29 and 35, 44.7% of men and 46.2% of women got married.

On average, an inhabitant of the Basque Country will emigrate 3.5 times in their lives

Normally, emigration is intra-provincial. In other words, the municipality of destination is in the same province as the municipality of origin. Such is the case of more than half of the migrations (1.9 out of a total of 3.5 for men and out of a total of 3.4 for women). In contrast, on average both sexes migrated 1.3 times to destinations outside of the Basque Country, however for men this represented 40% of the total number of emigrations, whereas for women it was less than 37%. Migrations between the provinces were just over 7% of the total.

By province there was quite a pronounced difference between Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, on the one hand, and Álava, on the other: Álava had a rate of 2.9 emigrations for men and 2.6 for women. Gipuzkoa had a rate of migration of 3.4 in total and Bizkaia reached 3.7 movements. These differences were due to intra-provincial mobility, because Gipuzkoa had 1.9 movements of this type and Bizkaia 2.3, whereas in Álava it scarcely reached 0.8. Álava stood out in terms of movements between provinces, with 0.4 per person, almost double those in Bizkaia (0.2) and Gipuzkoa (0.3).

Among women, as the distance covered by the emigrants increases, the average age decreases. Thus, those who moved within each Province were the youngest, 33.9 years, and those who emigrated outside of the Basque Country did so with an average age of 34.2. For men, this variation is much greater and the opposite, going from 36.1 years for those who moved outside the Autonomous Community, to 33.7 for those who moved within the Provinces.

With regards to transfers within the same municipality, the men and women of Álava show the highest mobility rate, with 7 movements on average, and those who live in Gipuzkoa the lowest.

If the number of migrations is added to changes of address, either within their municipality or outside of it, a woman will change her place of residence 9.8 times in her lifetime; in the case of a man this figure is one tenth less.

Indicators for the analysis of demographic phenomena. 2017/2018

Mortality Indicators	Basque Country	
	Men	Women
Life expectancy from birth		
Life expectancy without external causes	80,6 años	86,4 años
Life expectancy without traffic accidents	81,2 años	86,7 años
Life expectancy without tumours	80,7 años	86,4 años
	85,0 años	89,3 años

Fertility indicators	Basque Country	
	Women	
Número medio de hijos por mujer		
First children	1,34	
Second children	0,71	
Third and subsequent children	0,49	
	0,14	
Average age of maternity		32,8 years
First child		31,9 years
Second child		33,9 years
Third and subsequent children		34,0 years

Marriage indicators	Basque Country	
	Men	Women
Average number of first marriages per 100 individuals	47,2	52,2
Average age at first marriage	37,2 años	35,2 años

Emigration indicators	Basque Country	
	Men	Women
Average number of migrations		
To a destination outside the Basque Country	3,5	3,4
To a destination in the same province	1,3	1,3
To a destination in another province	1,9	1,9
Average number of changes of residence in the same municipality	0,3	0,2
	6,2	6,4
Average age at emigration total		
To a destination outside the Basque Country	34,6 años	34,2 años
To a destination in the same province	36,1 años	34,3 años
To a destination in another province	33,7 años	34,2 años
Average age at change of residence	34,2 años	33,9 años
	33,6 años	33,6 años

Source: Eustat. Indicators for the analysis of demographic phenomena

For further information:

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