

The Basque Country continued to progress in eight of the nine main indicators of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2019

It more than achieved the targets set for the indicators relating to Education, but the gap was important in those relating to R&D expenditure and the population at risk of poverty or exclusion

The Basque Country improved in eight of the nine main indicators of the Europe 2020 strategy in 2019 with respect to the initial 2008 situation, according to Eustat data.

This strategy was established in order to prioritise smart, sustainable and inclusive growth in the European Union in the current decade. Objectives were established in five thematic areas and each country set individual targets in order to reflect its own reality and contribute to the common objectives.

Europe 2020 Indicators of the Basque Country

SUBJECT	Indicator	Initial situation	Current situation		EU-28 objectives	Spain's objectives
		2008	2018	2019		
Occupation	Employment rate (20 to 64 years) Total (%)	71,0	72,0	72,6	75,0	74,0
	Employment rate (20 to 64 years) Females(%)	61,9	67,6	68,5	:	:
	Employment rate (20 to 64 years) Males (%)	80,0	76,4	76,7	:	:
R&D	Gross internal expenditure on R&D (% GDP)	1,84	1,85	1,85	3,00	2,00
Climate and Energy	Greenhouse gas emissions, base year 1990=100	120,7	91,1	:	80,0	90,0
	Share of renewable energies in gross final energy consumption (%)	8,7	16,9	:	20,0	20,0
	Primary energy consumption, base year 2005=100	102,3	83,8	:	:	:
	Final energy consumption, base year 2005=100	104,4	91,7	:	:	:
Education	Education drop-out rate (18 to 24 years) Total (%)	13,9	11,3	8,8	<10	<15
	Education drop-out rate (18 to 24 years) Females (%)	10,9	9,7	8,0	:	:
	Education drop-out rate (18 to 24 years) Males (%)	16,6	12,8	9,6	:	:
	Level of higher education (30-34 years) Total (%)	38,7	49,3	48,0	40,0	44,0
	Level of higher education (30-34 years) Females (%)	47,5	56,3	53,0	:	:
	Level of higher education (30-34 years) Males (%)	29,6	41,6	42,9	:	:
Poverty	Population at risk of poverty or exclusion (combination of the following three)	17,9	20,7	:	:	:
	Population living in households with very low work intensity (%)	5,6	9,1	:	:	:
	Population at risk of poverty after receiving welfare (%)	14,8	17,7	:	:	:
	Population at risk of serious material deprivation (%)	2,7	5,6	:	:	:

Source: Eustat. Structural indicators. Europe 2020

One year from the end of the strategy, employment was at a record level, educational objectives were far exceeded and good progress was being made towards climate and energy objectives. This is not the case for R&D expenditure and poverty indicators, where there is still room for improvement but difficult to achieve, especially in a year like 2020, affected by the pandemic.

The Basque Country stands out, above all, in the indicators relating to Education, for which it has more than achieved the targets set, both for the EU-28 and for Spain.

The evolution of the employment rate also records advances since 2008, although without reaching the goals set by Spain and the European Union.

The indicator relating to R&D showed modest advances, standing a long way from the objective set for the EU (3% of GDP) and slightly closer to that set for Spain as a whole (2%).

In the area of climate and energy the four indicators present better values than the reference year, 2008, but without achieving the set objectives.

The only indicator that worsened compared to 2008 was that for established poverty, the population at risk of poverty or exclusion, although a better value was recorded (20.17%) than for Spain (25.3%) and for the EU-28 as a whole (21.4%).

Evolution of the Euskadi Europe 2020 Indicators, compared to Spain and the EU-28

SUBJECT	Indicator	Basque Country		Spain		EU-28	
		2015	2019	2015	2019	2015	2019
Occupation	Employment rate (20 to 64 years) Total (%)	67,6	72,6	62,0	68,0	70,1	73,9
	Employment rate (20 to 64 years) Females (%)	63,8	68,5	56,4	62,1	64,3	68,2
	Employment rate (20 to 64 years) Males (%)	71,5	76,7	67,6	74,0	75,9	79,6
R&D	Gross internal expenditure on R&D (% GDP)	1,86	1,85	1,22	1,24 ¹	2,03	2,11 ¹
Climate and Energy	Greenhouse gas emissions, base year 1990=100	93,0	91,1 ¹	119,8	119,7 ¹	78,3	76,8 ¹
	Share of renewable energies in gross final energy consumption (%)	13,3	16,9 ¹	16,2	17,5 ¹	16,7	18,0 ¹
	Primary energy consumption, base year 2005=100	81,8	83,8 ¹	86,9	91,3 ¹	89,3	90,2 ¹
	Final energy consumption, base year 2005=100	91,3	91,7 ¹	81,9	88,5 ¹	91,3	94,2 ¹
Education	Education drop-out rate (18 to 24 years) Total (%)	10,2	8,8	20,0	17,3	11,0	10,3
	Education drop-out rate (18 to 24 years) Females (%)	7,3	8,0	15,8	13,0	9,5	8,6
	Education drop-out rate (18 to 24 years) Males (%)	13,0	9,6	24,0	21,4	12,4	11,9
	Level of higher education (30-34 years) Total (%)	50,3	48,0	40,9	44,7	38,7	41,6
	Level of higher education (30-34 years) Females (%)	55,9	53,0	47,1	50,8	43,4	46,7
	Level of higher education (30-34 years) Males (%)	44,7	42,9	34,8	38,5	34,0	36,6
Poverty	Population at risk of poverty or exclusion (combination of the following three)	22,7	20,7 ¹	28,6	25,3	23,8	21,4
	Population living in households with very low work intensity (%)	12,0	9,1 ¹	15,4	10,8	10,7	8,5
	Population at risk of poverty after receiving welfare (%)	18,5	17,7 ¹	22,1	20,7	17,3	16,8
	Population at risk of serious material deprivation (%)	5,2	5,6 ¹	6,4	4,7	8,1	5,5

¹ 2018 Data

² 2014 Data

Source: Eustat. Structural indicators. Europe 2020

Primary energy consumption and the two education indicators also posted results for the Basque Country above the European average. On the contrary, the renewable energies quota was 1.1 percentage points higher than the EU-28 as a whole.

Relative to Spain, better values were posted for all the main indicators, except the renewable energies quota and final energy consumption, where the Basque Country values were poorer.

Methodological note:

The Europe 2020 Strategy, approved by the European Council in 2010, is the common agenda for the current decade. It prioritises intelligent, sustainable and inclusive growth as a means to overcome structural weaknesses in the European economy, to improve its competitiveness and productivity and to underpin a sustainable social market economy. Its five main **objectives** are:

- 1) 75% of the European population between the ages of 20 and 64 should be employed.
- 2) Internal expenditure on R&D should reach 3% of GDP.
- 3) The "20-20-20" objective for climate and energy should be achieved: a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, savings of 20% in energy consumption and promoting the consumption of renewable energies of up to 20%.
- 4) The school drop-out rate should be lower than 10% and at least 40% of the youngest generation should have completed higher education.
- 5) The risk of poverty in the EU should threaten 20 million fewer individuals.

The monitoring of these objectives is carried out via several main indicators, which Eustat has created and compiled for the Basque Country.

The **employment rate** is the number of people employed in a specific age group (those aged 20-64 in the Europe 2020 strategy) as a percentage of the total population in the same age group.

Gross Interior Expenditure on R&D includes expenditure on research and development in Companies, Higher Education, Public Administration and Private Non-profit Institutions.

Greenhouse gases constitute a group of gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄), which contribute to global warming and climate change. Converting these gases into Carbon dioxide (or CO₂) equivalents allows for comparisons and enables their individual and total contributions to global warming to be calculated. The indicator includes international aviation and indirect CO₂, but excludes land use, change of land use and silviculture emissions

Renewable energy sources, also called **Renewable energies**, are energy sources that are naturally replaced (or renewed), such as solar, wind and tidal energy.

Primary energy consumption measures the total energy demand in a country. It covers consumption by the energy sector itself, losses during the transformation (for example, from oil or gas to electricity) and distribution of energy, and final consumption by the end users.

Final energy consumption is the total energy consumed by the end users, such as households, industry and agriculture. It is the energy that reaches the end user directly and excludes that used by the energy sector itself

The **Education Drop-out Rate** indicator is defined as the percentage of the population aged 18-24 with, as a maximum, lower secondary education and that has not undertaken any studies or training course in the four weeks prior to completing the survey.

Level of higher education is defined as the percentage of the population aged 30-34 that has successfully completed university or equivalent education, including advanced level vocational training.

The **Population at risk of poverty or exclusion** indicator refers to people's circumstances, be they at risk of poverty, or severe material deprivation or who live in a household with a very low work intensity. The total number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion is lower than the total number of people in each one of the three forms of poverty or exclusion, given that those simultaneously affected by more than one of these circumstances are only counted once.

Population living in households with very low work intensity: Individuals who live in households with a household work intensity under the 20% threshold set.

Population at risk of poverty after receiving welfare: The poverty threshold set for this indicator is 60% of the average national median equivalised disposable income.

Population at risk of serious material deprivation: Individuals who do not have resources at their disposal to confront at least four of nine situations: 1) pay the rent and corresponding bills 2) adequately heat his or her dwelling 3) meet unforeseen expenses 4) regularly eat meat, fish or equivalent proteins (alternate days) 5) spend a week on holiday outside of the home 6) have access to a car 7) have access to a washing machine 8) have access to a colour TV, and 9) have access to a telephone.

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