

## In 2020, 95.6% of the population of the Basque Country aged 16 and over held some level of official qualification

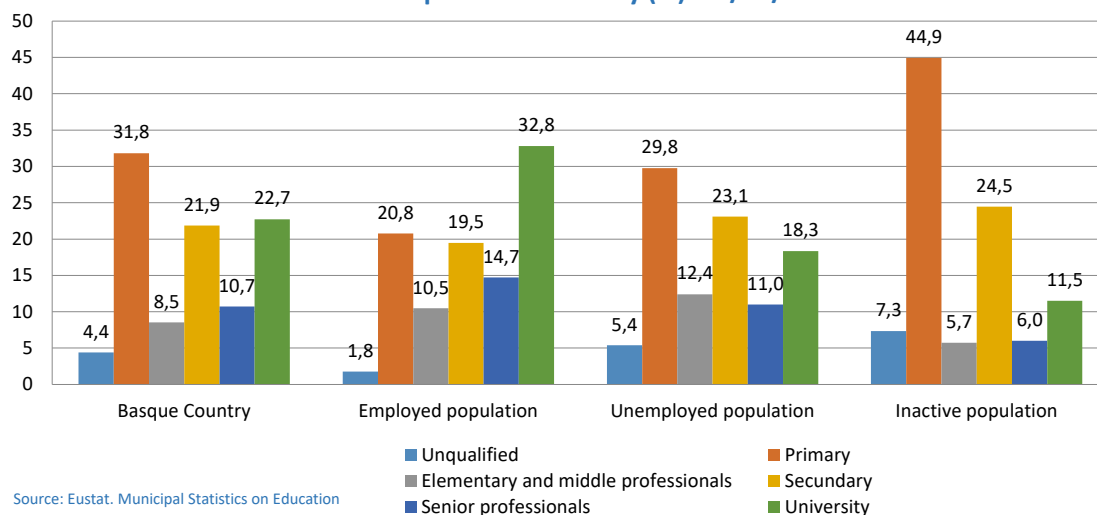
**40% of working women held a higher education qualification, compared to 26% of the male working population**

In 2020, 1,797,673 people aged 16 and over residing in the Basque Country, 95.6%, had some kind of official education qualification, according to Eustat data. In that year, the distribution of the population aged 16 and over, according to qualification level, was as follows: 31.8% of people from this collective (597,765 people) had completed primary education; 21.9% (411,075 people) had completed secondary education and 8.5% (160,239 people) held a basic and/or intermediate vocational training qualification. Lastly, as regards higher education, 22.7% had completed university studies (427,141 people) and 10.7% (201,453 people) had finished advanced vocational training.

**More women held a university qualification and more men had vocational training**

If we introduce the gender variable into the analysis, similar proportions of men and women had higher qualifications, including university qualifications and advanced vocational training (33.2% and 33.7%, respectively). However, the percentage of men with vocational training qualifications (at any level) reached 22.8%, a higher proportion than that of women, 15.9%. Likewise, university qualifications were more common among women (25.2%) than men (20.1%). Lastly, there were no differences by gender in the proportions of people with primary school qualifications (33.2% of women compared to 30.3% of men) and those with secondary school qualifications (21.1% and 22.7%, respectively).

**Population of 16 and over of the Basque Country by degree and relationship with the activity (%). 01/01/2020**



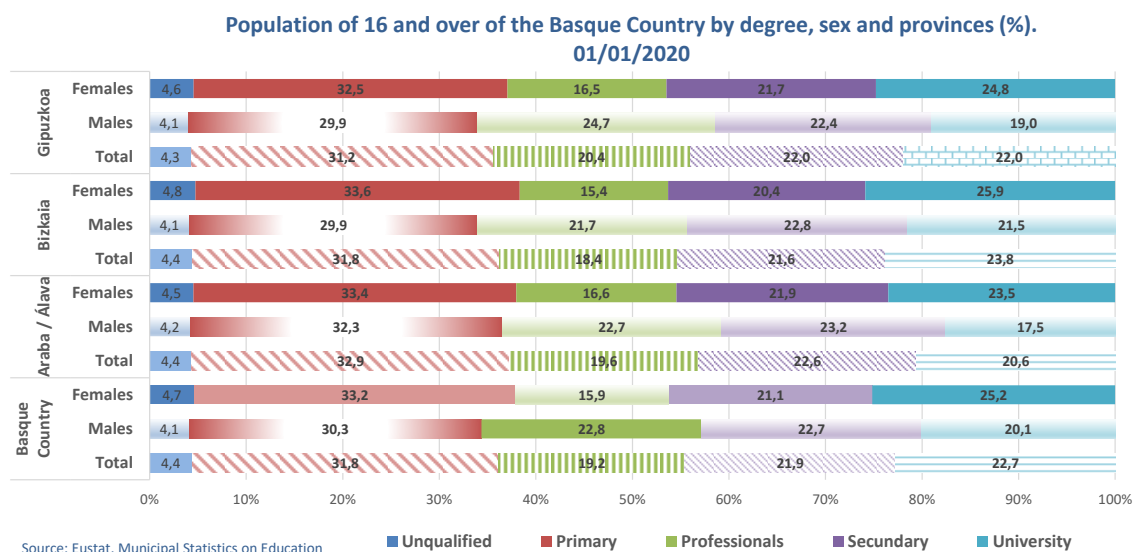
If we link the **level of qualifications to activity**, distributions can change within the employed, unemployed and inactive population. It is worth noting that, among the working population, the proportion of people with university studies was 32.8%, whereas this proportion was lower among the unemployed population, 18.3%. As regards primary education, 29.8% of the unemployed population had primary school qualifications, while this percentage fell to 20.8% among the working population.

With regard to the field of activity, there were differences between the male and female working population: more than half of the female working population (52.5%) had higher qualifications (whether a university or vocational qualification), while this proportion was only 42.9% among employed men. Likewise, among the unemployed population, the proportion of women with higher education was higher than that of men (32.4% and 25.8%, respectively).

The profile of the inactive population was different to the two previous groups, particularly because 44.9% of this population had completed primary education, which is probably a reflection of the age groups it comprises, the youngest and the oldest. Lastly, the **lack of qualifications** was more prevalent among the inactive (7.3%) and unemployed (5.4%) population than among the working population (1.8%).

***There were slight provincial differences: the greatest proportion of people with a vocational training qualification was in Gipuzkoa, with primary education in Álava and with university studies in Bizkaia***

At provincial level, a number of differences were observed in the distributions by level of qualification. Specifically, Álava presented a greater proportion of people aged 16 and over with primary school qualifications (32.9%) than Bizkaia (31.8%) and Gipuzkoa (31.2%). Bizkaia, in turn, recorded the highest proportion of the population with a university qualification (23.8%), more than three percentage points above the proportion in Álava (20.6%) and almost two above that in Gipuzkoa (22%). Lastly, considering vocational qualifications as a whole (basic, intermediate and advanced), Gipuzkoa registered a slightly higher proportion (20.4%) than Álava (19.6%) and Bizkaia (18.4%).



There tended to be a larger concentration of the population with university studies in the provincial capitals, particularly in Bilbao (27.5%) and, to a greater extent, in San Sebastián (31.4%). In Vitoria-Gasteiz, the proportion stood at 21.8%.

There were pronounced differences between the regions. In the case of university qualifications, of particular note were the regions of Plentzia-Mungia (31.6%), Donostialdea (24.8%) and Gran Bilbao (24.4%). As regards vocational qualifications, the regions that stood out were Bajo Deba (23.1%), Encartaciones (22.7%) and Alto Deba (22.6%). Finally, the highest percentages of people with primary school qualifications were concentrated in Montaña Alavesa (43.4%), Rioja Alavesa (43%) and Añana (38.7%), all pertaining to Álava.

At a municipal level, the proportion of the population with primary education was higher than 50% in six municipalities in the Basque Country, the first two of which were in Álava: Harana/Valle de Arana (58.3%) and Elvillar/Bilar (57.3%). In the case of vocational qualifications, at the top of the list were Galdames (29.9%), Irura (28.2%) and Alkiza (27.7%). In terms of secondary school qualifications, municipalities in Bizkaia headed the list: Gatika (30.1%), Laukiz and Plentzia, both with 28.6%. Municipalities in Bizkaia also registered the largest proportions of the population with university education: Getxo (41.7%), Sukarrieta (39.7%) and Ibarangelu (38%). It is also worth noting that the first 14 municipalities in this list were in Bizkaia.

A final indicator of the education level in the Basque Country is the illiteracy rate. In 2020, this indicator stood at a residual level, only affecting 0.3% of the population aged 10 and over (around 6,000 people): 0.2% in the case of men and 0.4% in the case of women. Logically, this rate was high among older people and, therefore, while the rate stood at 0.1% for the under 65s, it jumped to 0.8% for the over 65s. The illiteracy rate for women aged 65 and over was 1.1% and for men in the same age group it stood at 0.4%.

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