

## Births in the Basque Country decreased by 4.1% in the fourth quarter of 2022

***Throughout 2022 there was a 4.5% drop in the number of births***

In the fourth quarter of 2022 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 3,453, 4.1% down on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. Of note is the particularly sharp fall in Álava, which recorded 553 births, representing 12.5% fewer than the previous year. In Gipuzkoa 1,171 babies were born, a decrease of 5.1%, and the number of births was down 0.2% in Bizkaia, with 1,729 children born.

30.6% of women who gave birth in the Basque Country in the fourth quarter of 2022 were of foreign nationality, which is higher than the 29.7% recorded for the same period of 2021. Alava saw a higher percentage, reaching 40.5%, followed by Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia with percentages of 30.1% and 27.9%, respectively.

***Almost 80% of mothers were over 30 years of age***

As regards distribution of births according to age, 33.9% of mothers were aged 35-39, 32.8% of mothers were in the 30-34 age group and the 25-29 age group accounted for 13.2%. The number of mothers over the age of 40 (12.8%) exceeded those under 25 (7.3%).

The age of maternity also varied according to nationality. In fact, the average age of foreign mothers was 31.1, compared to 34.7 for mothers with Spanish nationality.

***Unmarried mothers accounted for 51.5% of births***

Births outside marriage in the fourth quarter of 2022 accounted for 51.5% of the total, up 1.3 percentage points on the number registered for the same period in 2021.

According to the order of birth, over half (50.4%) of births, or 1,739, were first-borns; 1,234 (35.7%) were born into families that already had a child, and the number of third and subsequent children stood at 480 (13.9%).

**Balance for 2022**

For 2022 as a whole, the provisional birth rate reached 13,613, which is equivalent to a decrease of 644 (-4.5%) compared to data from 2021. This decrease occurred in all three provinces: there was an 8.7% decrease in Bizkaia (428 fewer births); in Gipuzkoa it was 4.3% (102 fewer births); and in Álava it was 1.6% (114 fewer births).

## Live births in the Basque Country by historical territory of residence, sex, age, marital status and nationality of the mother, order and month of birth (1). 2022/IV

	Current quarter (IV/2022)		Previous quarter (III/2022)			Same quarter of the previous year (IV/2021)			Increase
	No.	%	No.	%	Increase	No.	%		
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>3.453</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>3.531</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>-2,2</b>	<b>3.599</b>	<b>100,0</b>		<b>-4,1</b>
Araba / Álava	553	16,0	564	16,0	-2,0	632	17,6		-12,5
Bizkaia	1.729	50,1	1.782	50,5	-3,0	1.733	48,2		-0,2
Gipuzkoa	1.171	33,9	1.185	33,6	-1,2	1.234	34,3		-5,1
<b>Sex</b>									
Boys	1.773	51,3	1.829	51,8	-3,1	1.886	52,4		-6,0
Girls	1.680	48,7	1.702	48,2	-1,3	1.713	47,6		-1,9
<b>AGE OF THE MOTHER</b>									
= 24 years	253	7,3	243	6,9	4,1	212	5,9		19,3
25 - 29 years	456	13,2	457	12,9	-0,2	503	14,0		-9,3
30 - 34 years	1.131	32,8	1.231	34,9	-8,1	1.233	34,3		-8,3
35 - 39 years	1.172	33,9	1.233	34,9	-4,9	1.226	34,1		-4,4
= 40 years	441	12,8	367	10,4	20,2	425	11,8		3,8
<b>Marital status of the mother</b>									
Married	1.674	48,5	1.783	50,5	-6,1	1.791	49,8		-6,5
Not married	1.799	51,5	1.748	49,5	1,8	1.808	50,2		-1,6
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>									
Spanish	2.395	69,4	2.434	68,9	-1,6	2.530	70,3		-5,3
Foreign	1.058	30,6	1.097	31,1	-3,6	1.069	29,7		-1,0
<b>Order of birth</b>									
First	1.739	50,4	1.731	49,0	0,5	1.785	49,6		-2,6
Second	1.234	35,7	1.314	37,2	-6,1	1.298	36,1		-4,9
Third or more	480	13,9	486	13,8	-1,2	516	14,3		-7,0
<b>Month of birth</b>									
July	1.161	33,6				1.253	34,8		-7,3
August	1.166	33,8				1.190	33,1		-2,0
September	1.126	32,6				1.156	32,1		-2,6

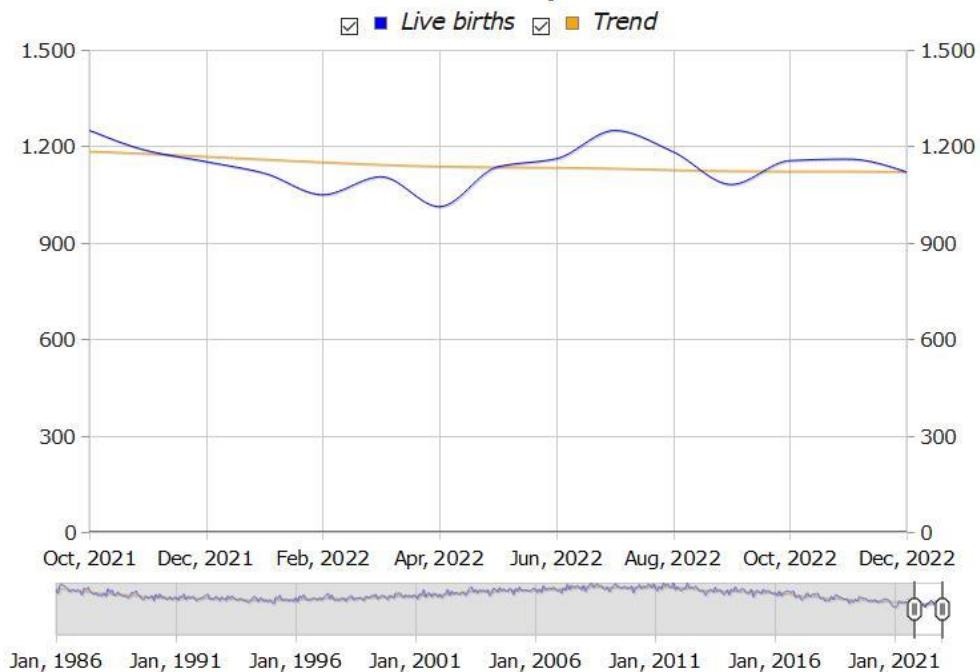
(1)The data for the current and previous quarters are provisional. The variations are over the current quarter

Date May 8, 2023

Source: Eustat Birth statistics

## Live births to mothers residing in the Basque Country and registered in the Basque Country

Monthly



Source: EUSTAT Birth statistics

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**For further information:**

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