

## **Births in the Basque Country fell by 0.1% in the fourth quarter of 2023**

### ***During 2023 there was a 1.6% decrease in the number of births***

In the fourth quarter of 2023 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 3,465, 0.1% down on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. It should be noted that the sharpest fall was in Bizkaia, with 1,645 births, representing 5.6% fewer than the previous year. However, in Álava and Gipuzkoa the number of births rose, with 593 and 1,227 births respectively, representing an increase of 7% in Álava and 4.5% in Gipuzkoa.

33.5% of women who gave birth in the Basque Country in the fourth quarter of 2023 were of foreign nationality, which is higher than the 30.8% recorded for the same period of 2022. Álava saw a higher percentage which reached 41.9%, followed by Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia with percentages of 33.5% and 30.5%, respectively.

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

As regards distribution of births according to age, 33.4% of mothers were aged 35-39, 33.4% of mothers were in the 30-34 age group and the 25-29 age group accounted for 14.7%. The number of mothers over the age of 40 (11.4%) exceeded those under 25 (7.1%).

The age of maternity also varied according to nationality. In fact, the average age of foreign mothers was 30.9 years old, compared to 34.6 for mothers with Spanish nationality.

### ***Unmarried mothers accounted for 51.2% of births***

Births outside marriage in the fourth quarter of 2023 accounted for 51.2% of the total, down 0.3 percentage points on the number registered for the same period in 2022.

According to the order of birth, over half (51.4%) of births, or 1,780, were first-borns; 1,228 (35.4%) were born into families that already had a child, and the number of third and subsequent children stood at 457 (13.2%).

### **Balance for 2023**

For 2023 as a whole, the provisional birth rate reached 13,421, which is equivalent to a decrease of 215 (-1.6%) compared to data from 2022. This decrease occurred in Bizkaia and Álava; there was a 3.1% drop in Bizkaia (214 fewer births); in Álava it was 2.3% (53 fewer births); and in Gipuzkoa there was an increase of 1.2% (52 more 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). 2023/IV

	Current quarter (IV/2023)		Previous quarter (IV/2023)			Same quarter of previous year (IV/2023)		
	NO.	%	NO.	%	Increase	NO.	%	Increase
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>3.465</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>3.547</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-2.3</b>	<b>3.470</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Araba / Álava	593	17,1	571	16,1	3,9	554	16,0	7,0
Bizkaia	1.645	47,5	1.801	50,8	-8,7	1.742	50,2	-5,6
Gipuzkoa	1.227	35,4	1.175	33,1	4,4	1.174	33,8	4,5
<b>Sex</b>								
Boys	1.807	52,2	1.805	50,9	0,1	1.781	51,3	1,5
Girls	1.658	47,8	1.742	49,1	-4,8	1.689	48,7	-1,8
<b>AGE OF THE MOTHER</b>								
<= 24 years	247	7,1	249	7,0	-0,8	257	7,4	-3,9
25 - 29 years	508	14,7	476	13,4	6,7	460	13,3	10,4
30 - 34 years	1.157	33,4	1.278	36,0	-9,5	1.136	32,7	1,8
35 - 39 years	1.159	33,4	1.160	32,7	-0,1	1.175	33,9	-1,4
>= 40 years	394	11,4	384	10,8	2,6	442	12,7	-10,9
<b>Marital status of the mother</b>								
Married	1.690	48,8	1.770	49,9	-4,5	1.683	48,5	0,4
Not married	1.775	51,2	1.777	50,1	-0,1	1.787	51,5	-0,7
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>								
Spanish	2.303	66,5	2.425	68,4	-5,0	2.402	69,2	-4,1
Foreign	1.162	33,5	1.122	31,6	3,6	1.068	30,8	8,8
<b>Order of birth</b>								
First	1.780	51,4	1.829	51,6	-2,7	1.750	50,4	1,7
Second	1.228	35,4	1.214	34,2	1,2	1.238	35,7	-0,8
Third or more	457	13,2	504	14,2	-9,3	482	13,9	-5,2
<b>Month of birth</b>								
October	1.251	36,1				1.162	33,5	7,7
November	1.107	31,9				1.169	33,7	-5,3
December	1.107	31,9				1.139	32,8	-2,8

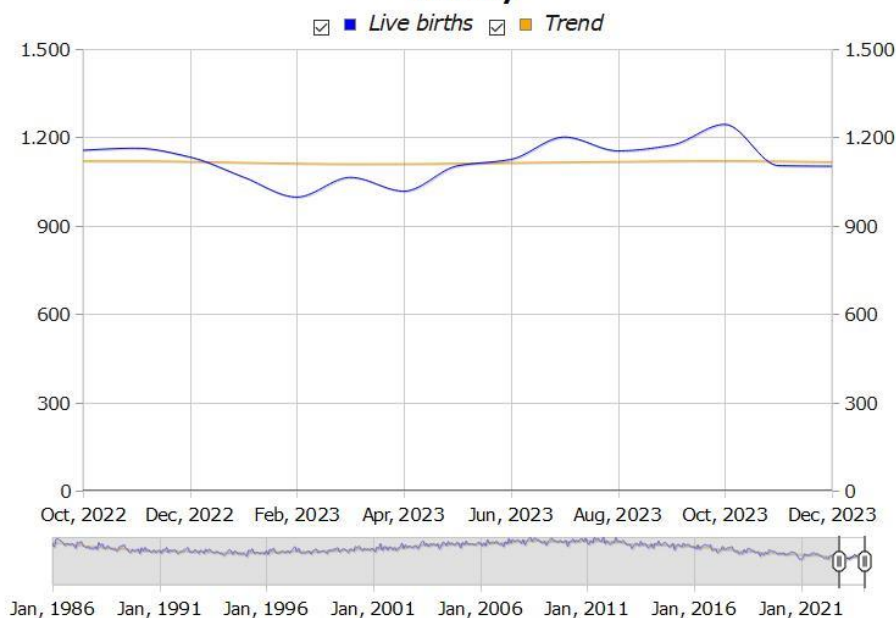
(1) The data for the current quarter is provisional. The variations are over the current quarter

Date May 6, 2024

Source: Eustat Birth statistics

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

Monthly



Source: EUSTAT Birth statistics

### For further information:

[Eustat - Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute](#)

C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

Press Service: [servicioprensa@eustat.es](mailto:servicioprensa@eustat.es) Tel.: 945 01 75 62