

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
Basque Country	3.465	100,0	3.547	100,0	-2,3	3.470	100,0	-0,1
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
Sex								
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
AGE OF THE MOTHER								
<= 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
Marital status of the mother								
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
Nationality of the mother								
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
Order of birth								
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
Month of birth								
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

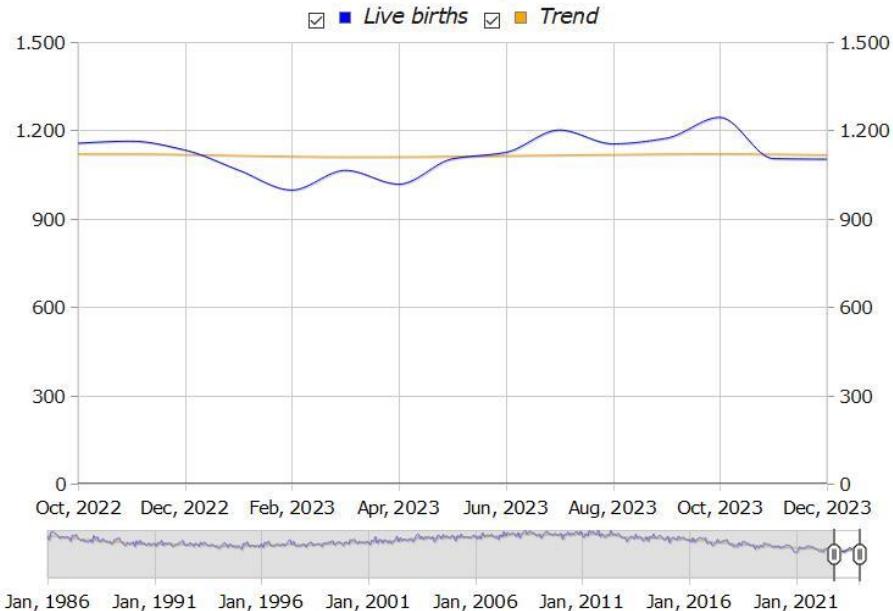
(1)The data for the current quarter is provisional. The variations are over the current quarter

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 Tel.: 945 01 75 62