



Press release 14/3/2003

MARRIAGE STATISTICS (EMAT)**Third quarter 2002**

FEWER MARRIAGES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2002 THAN IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 2001

3,536 weddings were held in July, August and September 2002.

3,536 weddings were held in July, August and September 2002 in A.C. of the Basque Country, which represents a 1.8% reduction with regard to the same quarter the previous year, according to EUSTAT data. By Provinces, 1,783 weddings were held in Bizkaia, followed by Gipuzkoa with 1,097 and Alava with 470. In the case of residents living outside the A.C. of the Basque Country, the number of weddings came to 186.

July was again the most popular month to get married

Although in 2001, and contrary to tradition, September was the month with most weddings, in 2002 July was once again the leader with 1,428 compared with 1,412 in September. In addition, August continued to be the summer month when fewest weddings were held (696).

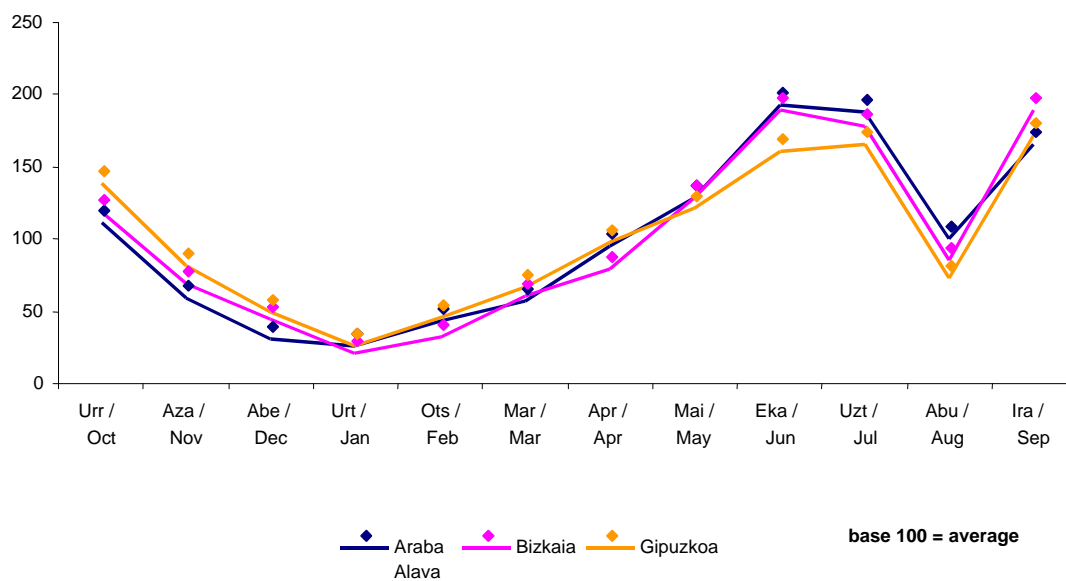
In the third quarter there was an important increase in the number of church weddings. Compared with the winter months, when over half the weddings were civil, in this period 72.4 of ceremonies were religious. In Alava church weddings represented 69.6% of the total, in Gipuzkoa it was 69.7% and in Bizkaia the figure was 73.6%.

In the 3,536 weddings in the third quarter of 2002, 3,407 men and 3,487 women resident in the A.C. of the Basque Country married. For 3,248 grooms (95.3%) this was their first marriage, while 19 widowers and 140 divorcés remarried. The percentage of first marriages for women was higher than among men: the number of single brides came to 3,352 (96.1%), 11 widows and 124 divorcées.

With regard to the distribution of marriages according to the age of spouses, 61.3% of grooms was aged over 30, while among brides this percentage fell to 31.4%.


| | 3rd quarter 2002 | | Previous quarter (2nd quarter 2002) | | Same quarter the previous year (3rd quarter 2001) | |
|------------------|------------------|------|--|------|--|------|
| | Nº | % | Nº | % | Nº | % |
| MARRIAGES | 3.536 | | 3.115 | | 4.036 | |
| Canonical | 2.561 | 72,4 | 2.086 | 67,0 | 3.065 | 75,9 |
| Civil | 975 | 27,6 | 1.029 | 33,0 | 971 | 24,1 |
| HUSBANDS | 3.407 | | 3.008 | | 3.790 | |
| Single | 3.248 | 95,3 | 2.807 | 93,3 | 3.611 | 95,3 |
| Widowers | 19 | 0,6 | 21 | 0,7 | 16 | 0,4 |
| Divorcés | 140 | 4,1 | 180 | 6,0 | 163 | 4,3 |
| WIVES | 3.487 | | 3.067 | | 3.853 | |
| Single | 3.352 | 96,1 | 2.906 | 94,8 | 3.689 | 95,7 |
| Widows | 11 | 0,3 | 7 | 0,2 | 11 | 0,3 |
| Divorcées | 124 | 3,6 | 154 | 5,0 | 153 | 4,0 |

Monthly movement in marriages



Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística |
| | C/ Donostia-San Sebastian, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz |
| | Tel:+34-945-01 75 00 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es |
| | Contact person: Martín González Hernández |
| | Tel:+34-945-01 75 49 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 |
| | Press releases on the Internet: www.eustat.es |