

5.5% increase in births in the first quarter of 2003

Over half the births were first born

Data for the first quarter of 2003 on Birth Statistics prepared by the EUSTAT give a figure of 4,516 births in the A.C. of the Basque Country, which represents a 5.5% increase with regard to the same period the previous year. By provinces, 592 babies were born in Álava, with an average increase (5.0%), with 2,314 births in Bizkaia the percentage growth came to 3.6%, while Gipuzkoa reached a growth rate of 8.7%, with 1,610 births.

According to the order of birth, over half, 2,616 were first born in the first quarter of 2003; 1,674 (37.1%) corresponded to families which already had a child and 5% were born into families with two or more children. Bizkaia (40.8%) was the only Province where the proportion of second or subsequent born children was lower than the average for the A.C. of the Basque Country, the average being 42.1%.

Maternity age stabilizes

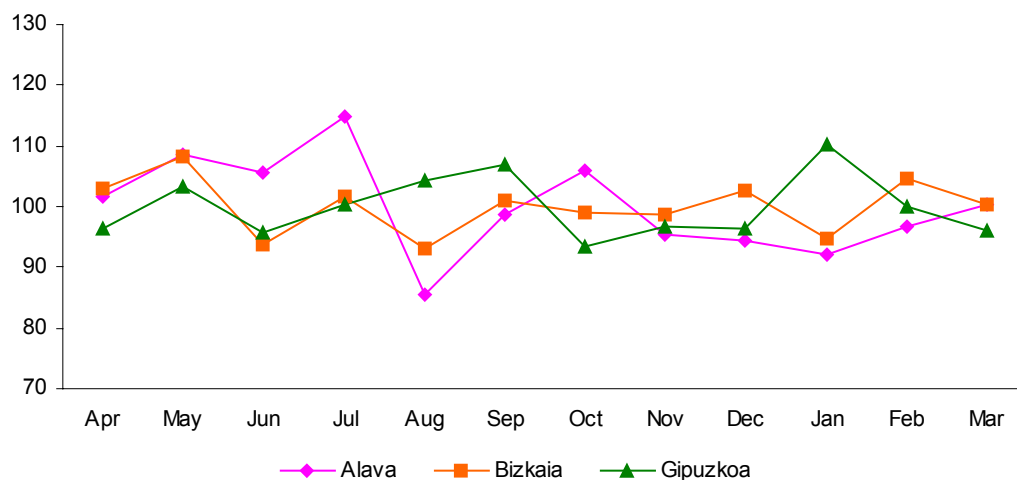
The distribution of births according to age continues the trend of a clear predominance by the group of mothers aged 30-34, to which almost half the births correspond. This group is followed by the next age group of 35-39 year-olds, with 25.8%, higher than the 25-29 year-olds who contribute 20.1%. Among the extreme age groups, the under 25 year-olds represent 5.6%, while the over 40 year-olds only contribute 3.3% of all births.

Births outside marriage represent 19.8% of the total, having increased almost two percent with regard to the first quarter of 2002. Gipuzkoa was the only province with higher values than the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country (21.1%). The maternity age for this group is lower than that of the whole of the women who gave birth, as 17.5% of unmarried mothers were aged between 15 and 24.

Table 1. Live born in the A.C. of Euskadi. Comparative table.

	1st quarter 2003		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2002)		Same quarter previous year (1st quarter 2002)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
A.C. of Euskadi	4.516	100,0	4.531	100,0	4.279	100,0
Alava	592	13,1	619	13,7	564	13,2
Bizkaia	2.314	51,2	2.373	52,4	2.234	52,2
Gipuzkoa	1.610	35,7	1.539	34,0	1.481	34,6
According to age of mother						
< 25 years	251	5,6	259	5,7	246	5,7
25 - 29 years	907	20,1	887	19,6	874	20,4
30 - 34 years	2.046	45,3	2.010	44,4	1.933	45,2
35 - 39 years	1.163	25,8	1.215	26,8	1.084	25,3
>= 40	149	3,3	160	3,5	142	3,3
Order of birth						
First	2.616	57,9	2.695	59,5	2.427	56,7
Second	1.674	37,1	1.561	34,5	1.617	37,8
Third or posterior	226	5,0	275	6,1	235	5,5

Graph 1: Monthly movement of births



Source: EUSTAT

base100 = average

For further information:

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