

## **There were 8% more births in the second quarter of 2003 than in the same period last year**

***There was also a 10% rise in relation to the first quarter of this year***

4,980 births were registered in the second quarter of 2003, according to Eustat data, which means an 8% rise in relation to the same period last year. By province, 763 children were born in Álava, a 16.7% rise; in Bizkaia, where there were 2,504 births, the growth came to 5%, while in Gipuzkoa it was 9%, with 1,713 births.

In terms of the order of births in the second quarter of 2003, more than half of the children, 2,826 were first born; 1,877 children (37.7%) were born into families where there was already one other child and 5.6% into families with two or more children. Gipuzkoa (45.8%) was the only province where the proportion of second or subsequent children was higher than the average of the A.C. of the Basque Country, which stands at 43.3%.

***In three out of four births, the mother is over 30 years old***

As regards the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, the 30-34 age group continues to predominate, accounting for almost half of all births. This group is followed by the neighbouring 35-39 age bracket with 24.7%, and then the 25-29 year-olds who make up 18.7%. As for those groups at the far ends of the age range, 5.1% of births were to the under-25 group, while women over 40 make up only 3.7%.

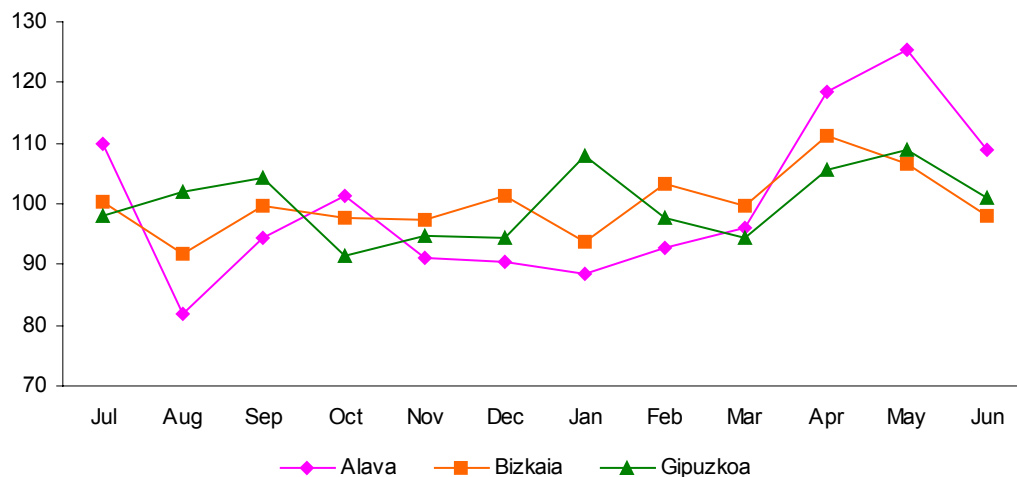
Births outside marriage account for 18.7% of the total, which means a rise of one percent in relation to the second quarter of 2002. Bizkaia, with 18.4%, was the only province with lower values than the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole. The age of mothers in this group was less than that of mothers overall, since 17.6% of unmarried mothers were between 14 and 24 years old.

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

	2nd quarter 2003		Previous quarter (1st quarter 2003)		Same quarter previous year (2nd quarter 2002)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>A.C. of Euskadi</b>	<b>4.980</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.525</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.610</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Alava	763	15,3	592	13,1	654	14,2
Bizkaia	2.504	50,3	2.320	51,3	2.385	51,7
Gipuzkoa	1.713	34,4	1.613	35,6	1.571	34,1
<b>According to age of mother</b>						
< 25 years	257	5,2	253	5,6	243	5,3
25 - 29 years	929	18,7	910	20,1	936	20,3
30 - 34 years	2.374	47,7	2.048	45,3	2.098	45,5
35 - 39 years	1.232	24,7	1.164	25,7	1.191	25,8
>= 40	188	3,8	150	3,3	142	3,1
<b>Order of birth</b>						
First	2.826	56,7	2.622	57,9	2.587	56,1
Second	1.877	37,7	1.677	37,1	1.747	37,9
Third or posterior	277	5,6	226	5,0	276	6,0

Source: EUSTAT

Graph 1: Monthly movement of births



Source: EUSTAT

base 100 = average

**For further information:**

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