

## More births in the third quarter of 2003 than in the same period of the previous year

***The accumulated figure for the year comes to 14,287 births in the A.C. of the Basque Country.***

Birth Statistics figures published by EUSTAT for the third quarter of 2003 show that there were 4,746 births in the A.C. of the Basque Country, meaning a 2.5% increase with respect to the same period of the previous year. By province, 653 children were born in Álava, a growth of 4.3%; in Bizkaia, with 2,440 births, the percentage of growth was 4.5%. On the other hand, in Gipuzkoa there was a fall of 1%, with 1,653 births.

As regards the order of births in the third quarter of 2003, more than half of the children, 2,784 were first-born; 1,653 children (34.8%) were born into families where there was already another child and 6.5% were the third or subsequent child. Bizkaia (39.6%) was the only province where the proportion of second or subsequent children was below the average of the A.C. of the Basque Country, which stands at 41.3%.

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

Regarding the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, the 30-34 age group continues to dominate, given that it accounts for almost half of all births. This group is followed by the neighbouring 35-39 age bracket with 27.2%, bettering the 25-29 age group that accounts for 17.6%. As for those groups at the far ends of the age range, 5.4% of births were to the under-25 group, while women over 40 make up 4.3%.

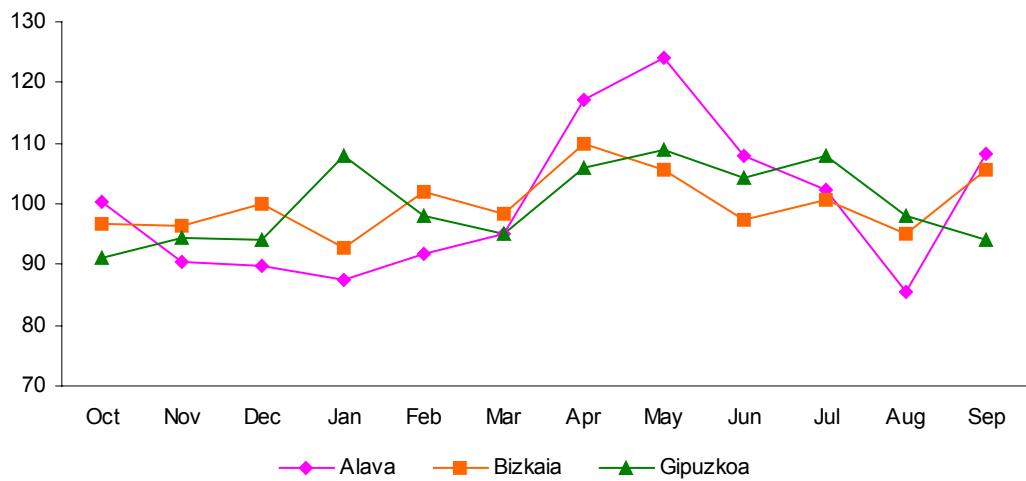
Births outside marriage account for 20% of the total, which means a rise of two percent in relation to the third quarter of 2002. Bizkaia, with 18.9%, was the only province with lower values than the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole. The age of mothers in this group was less than that of mothers overall, since 17.5% of unmarried mothers were between 14 and 24 years old.

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

|                                   | 3rd quarter 2003 |              | Previous quarter<br>(2nd quarter 2003) |              | Same quarter previous year<br>(3rd quarter 2002) |              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--|--------------|
|                                   | Nº               | %            | Nº                                     | %            | Nº   | %            |
| <b>A.C. of Euskadi</b>            | <b>4.746</b>     | <b>100,0</b> | <b>5.007</b>                           | <b>100,0</b> | <b>4.631</b>                                     | <b>100,0</b> |
| Alava                             | 653              | 13,8         | 763                                    | 15,2         | 626  | 13,5         |
| Bizkaia                           | 2.440            | 51,4         | 2.507                                  | 50,1         | 2.334  | 50,4         |
| Gipuzkoa                          | 1.653            | 34,8         | 1.737                                  | 34,7         | 1.671  | 36,1         |
| <b>According to age of mother</b> |                  |              |  |              |  |              |
| < 25 years                        | 258              | 5,4          | 259                                    | 5,2          | 258  | 5,6          |
| 25 - 29 years                     | 833              | 17,6         | 933                                    | 18,6         | 939  | 20,3         |
| 30 - 34 years                     | 2.161            | 45,5         | 2.385                                  | 47,6         | 2.138  | 46,2         |
| 35 - 39 years                     | 1.291            | 27,2         | 1.241                                  | 24,8         | 1.162  | 25,1         |
| >= 40                             | 203              | 4,3          | 189                                    | 3,8          | 134  | 2,9          |
| <b>Order of birth</b>             |                  |              |  |              |  |              |
| First                             | 2.784            | 58,7         | 2.845                                  | 56,8         | 2.775  | 59,9         |
| Second                            | 1.653            | 34,8         | 1.885                                  | 37,6         | 1.600  | 34,5         |
| Third or posterior                | 309              | 6,5          | 277                                    | 5,5          | 256  | 5,5          |

Source: EUSTAT

Graph 1: Monthly movement of births



Source: EUSTAT

base 100 = average

## For further information:

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