

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%.

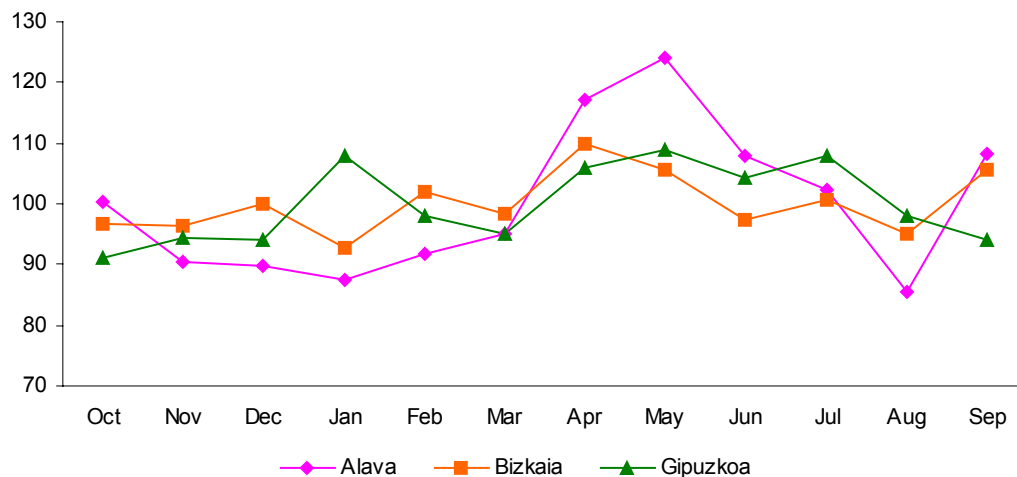
Births outside marriage account for 20% of the total, which means a rise of two percent in relation to the third quarter of 2002. Bizkaia, with 18.9%, was the only province with lower values than the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole. The age of mothers in this group was less than that of mothers 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 (2nd quarter 2003)		Same quarter previous year (3rd quarter 2002)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
A.C. of Euskadi	4.746	100,0	5.007	100,0	4.631	100,0
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
According to age of mother						
< 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
Order of birth						
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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