

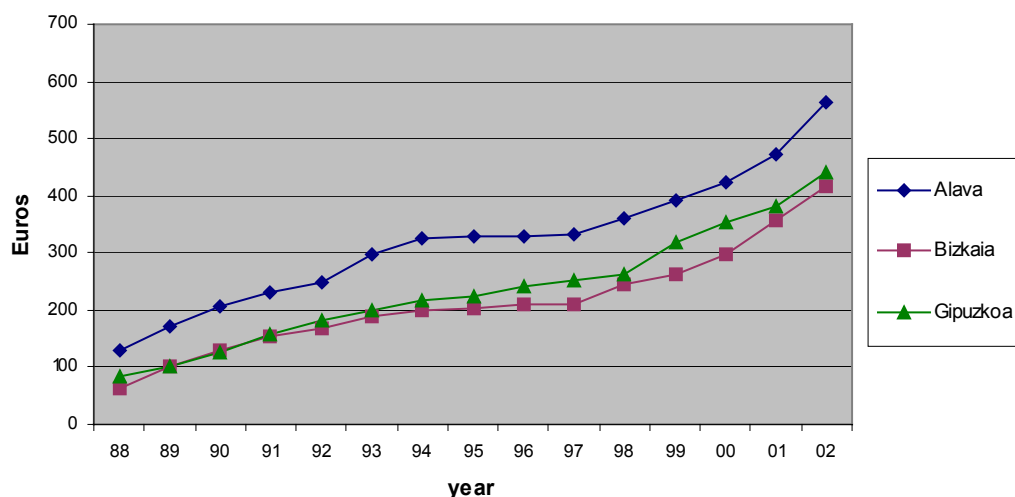
Social Services expenditure in the A.C. of the Basque Country increased by 16% in 2002

There is one place per 29 inhabitants aged 65 or over in the residential centres for the elderly

Spending on social services in the A.C. of the Basque Country reached the figure of 915 million euros in 2002, 16% more than the previous year, accounting for 2% of the Basque GDP, according to Eustat data. Average expenditure per inhabitant came to 444 euros.

By province, the increase in expenditure in 2002 was 19% in Alava, 16% in Bizkaia and 15% in Gipuzkoa. In relation to the number of inhabitants, Alava had higher expenditure than the rest, with an average per inhabitant of 562 euros, compared to the 440 euros in Gipuzkoa and 416 euros in Bizkaia.

Development of expenditure per inhabitant on Social Services



Source: EUSTAT

By item of expenditure, current expenditure assigned to the provision of services came to 672 million euros (+14%), economic provision assigned to families (Social salary, Non-contributive pensions, etc.) accounted for a total of 203 million euros (+23%) and investment in the sector came to 42 million euros (+12%).

The contribution of the various public administrations came to 642 million euros, 70% of total spending, and represented expenditure per inhabitant of 312 euros. Various sources of the private sector contributed the remaining 30%; among these, the efforts of families should be stressed, since their contribution, as payment for services, accounted for 12% (109 million euros) of total spending.

Table 1: Development of main figures

	2002	2001	Δ% 02/01
Expenditure (thousand Euros)	915.747	789.051	16,1
- Current expenditure	671.719	587.307	14,4
- Transfers to families	202.511	164.562	23,1
- Capital expenditure	41.517	37.181	11,7
Expenditure/Inhabitant (Euros)	444,5	382,1	16,3
Expenditure/GDP. (%)	2,0	1,8	11,0
Finance			
- Public finance	642.289	553.892	16,0
- Private finance	273.458	235.159	16,3
Human Resources			
Total personnel	30.621	29.258	4,7
- Own personnel	16.797	15.804	6,3
- Volunteers	13.824	13.454	2,8
Material Resources			
- No of bodies	1.224	1.159	5,6
- No of centres	2.305	2.215	4,1
- No of homes	633	603	5,0
- Places in homes	17.188	16.184	6,2

Source: EUSTAT

In 2002, the sector employed a total of 16,797 people, 1.9% of the workforce, of which 68% were women. Social services also had a volunteer force of 13,824 people who worked free of charge in the sector. Bearing in mind the 5,053 sub-contracted direct care workers – half of this staff worked in the households of the users of the home help service – the employment figure increased by 30%.

The A.C. of the Basque Country had a network of 2,305 centres where social services were provided

Among the wide variety of centres, classified by type of needs attended, the largest group (27%) was that formed by residential centres (residences, functional households, hostels, etc.), 633 in total, offering 17,188 places and employing 7,461 workers. Expenditure on these centres came to 309 million euros, 34% of total spending.

29% of spending was assigned to centres for the elderly

As regards the population groups to whom social services are directed, the elderly had a total of 1,007 centres at their disposal, on which 269 million euros was spent, accounting for 29% of total expenditure.

320 residential centres for the elderly were available, offering 13,006 places, 881 more than in 2001, meaning one place per 29 inhabitants aged 65 or over, with a volume of expenditure of 232 million euros, 13% more than the previous year, with a growing presence of the private sector, which reached 70% of residences for the elderly and 58% of places and users.

Among this group of the population, the 82 day care centres (+8%), offering 1,829 places (+14%), strengthened their position as an alternative to admission into residences. With lower figures as regards employment and expenditure, but with great social acceptance, the 336 retirement clubs and the 247 associations achieved a total of 364,463 members.

This offer was completed by other programmes and services that, while not exclusively for the elderly, accounted for expenditure of 79 million euros, half of which was used on the home help service. With these programmes, expenditure on the elderly came to around 38% of total spending.

Table2: Development and distribution of expenditure by type of population

	2002	2001	Δ% 02/01
Expenditure (thousand current Euros)	915.747	789.051	16,1
General population	338.790	286.993	18,0
- Transfers to families	198.050	161.533	22,6
Infancy-Youth	29.939	25.952	15,4
- Homes	22.417	20.044	11,8
The Aged	268.563	237.494	13,1
- Homes	232.156	205.739	12,8
Handicapped	220.325	194.613	13,2
- Homes	39.352	35.258	11,6
- Occupational Centres and C.E.E (1)	145.357	129.440	12,3
Women	5.380	4.008	34,2
Marginalized	52.750	39.991	31,9

(1) Special Job Centres

Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

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