

The number of deaths rose by 3.1% in the fourth quarter of 2003

There were 4,650 deaths in the A.C. of the Basque Country during the fourth quarter of 2003, bringing the total for the year to 18,558.

4,650 people died in the A.C. of the Basque Country during the fourth quarter of 2003, 3.1% more than in the fourth quarter of 2002, according to Eustat data. By province, there were 596 deaths in Alava, 2,589 in Bizkaia and 1,465 in Gipuzkoa.

The provisional number of deaths for 2003 came to 18,558, of which 9,631 were men and 8,927 women. In the absence of data concerning deaths of residents of the A.C. of the Basque Country occurring elsewhere, 521 more deaths were registered than in 2002, meaning a 2.9% increase.

30.2% of the deaths that took place during 2003, which is to say 5,605, were caused by circulatory system illnesses. The next most common cause was tumours, with 29% (5,375 deaths) and thirdly, and further behind, were respiratory illnesses, which accounted for 10.7% (1,987 deaths).

The cause of death differed according to sex, since among men, tumours were more common, followed by circulatory system illnesses, whereas among women, the main causes were cardiovascular illnesses and secondly, tumours.

The number of people to die aged 100 or over continues to increase

Among the deaths to take place during 2003, 56 corresponded to children aged less than one year old, 29 boys and 27 girls. Elsewhere, there was a substantial rise in the number of people to die aged 100 or over, going from 56 in 1990 to 134 (23 men and 111 women).

With the provisional data for 2003, births outweighed deaths by 631 and the natural population growth of the A.C. of the Basque Country took an upward turn. By Province, there was a positive balance in Alava and Gipuzkoa, which increased their populations by 432 and 736 inhabitants respectively. In the case of Bizkaia, on the other hand, the number of deaths surpassed the number of births (-537).

Table 1. Deaths in the A.C. of Euskadi by sex, according to cause of death . Quarterly comparison.

	4th quarter 2003		Previous quarter (3rd quarter 2003)		Same quarter of the previous year (4th quarter 2002)	
	N.	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
DEATHS	4.650		4.459		4.510	
Men	2.416	52,0	2.276	51,0	2.398	53,2
Women	2.234	48,0	2.183	49,0	2.112	46,8
CAUSE OF DEATH						
TOTAL	4.650		4.459		4.510	
Tumours	1.341	28,8	1.317	29,5	1.348	29,9
Circulatory system	1.402	30,2	1.220	27,4	1.420	31,5
Respiratory system	503	10,8	472	10,6	421	9,3
Digestive system	236	5,1	214	4,8	241	5,3
Accidents	182	3,9	168	3,8	161	3,6
Other diseases	986	21,2	1.068	24,0	919	20,4
MEN	2.416		2.276		2.398	
Tumours	868	35,9	822	36,1	839	35,0
Circulatory system	623	25,8	538	23,6	685	28,6
Respiratory system	266	11,0	265	11,6	256	10,7
Digestive system	144	6,0	124	5,4	127	5,3
Accidents	117	4,8	117	5,1	101	4,2
Other diseases	398	16,5	410	18,0	390	16,3
WOMEN	2.234		2.183		2.112	
Tumours	473	21,2	495	22,7	509	24,1
Circulatory system	779	34,9	682	31,2	735	34,8
Respiratory system	237	10,6	207	9,5	165	7,8
Digestive system	92	4,1	90	4,1	114	5,4
Accidents	65	2,9	51	2,3	60	2,8
Other diseases	588	26,3	658	30,1	529	25,0

Source: EUSTAT

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