

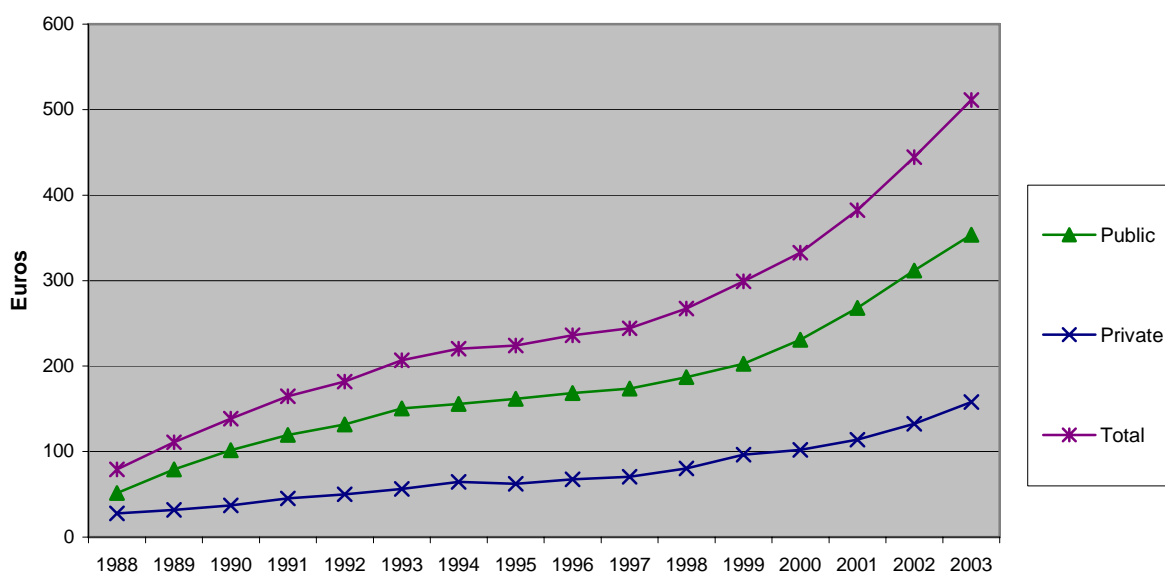
Social Services expenditure rose above 15% reaching a thousand million euros

The contribution of the Public Administration represents 69% of expenditure

According to Eustat data expenditure on social services in the A.C. of Euskadi reached 1,073 million euros in 2003, 17% more than the previous year, representing 2.3% of the Basque GDP. The average expenditure per inhabitant was 511 euros, of which 353 came from public funds.

The provincial breakdown reveals that the increase in expenditure was 18% in Alava and Bizkaia and 16% in Gipuzkoa. In per capita terms, Alava's expenditure is the highest, with expenditure per inhabitant standing at 649 euros, compared to 500 in Gipuzkoa 482 in Bizkaia.

Graph: Changes in Social Services expenditure per inhabitant



Source: EUSTAT

Public spending effort by the various administrations in this area reached 742 million euros, 69% of total expenditure, with the private sector contributing the remaining 31%. An important feature of the spending is the 136 million euros contributed by users in exchange for services, representing 17% of current expenditure.

Table 1: Development of main figures

	2003	2002	Δ% 03/02
Expenditure (thousand Euros)	1.073.054	915.747	17,2
- Current expenditure	786.287	671.719	17,1
- Transfers to families	232.086	202.511	14,6
- Capital expenditure	54.681	41.517	31,7
Expenditure/Inhabitant (Euros)	511,2	444,5	15,0
Expenditure/GDP. (%)	2,3	2,0	11,4
Finance			
- Public finance	741.894	642.289	15,5
- Private finance	331.160	273.458	21,1
Human Resources			
Total personnel	32.657	30.621	6,6
- Own personnel	18.855	16.797	12,3
- Volunteers	13.802	13.824	-0,2
Material Resources			
- No of bodies	1.266	1.224	3,4
- No of centres	2.388	2.305	3,6
- No of homes	666	633	5,2
- Places in homes	18.750	17.188	9,1

Source: EUSTAT

In 2003 the A.C of Euskadi had a network of 2,388 social service centres directly employing 18,855 people (2.1% of employed persons)

Among the different types of centres, the largest group (27%) was made up of centres of residence (residences, sheltered housing, hostels for people of no fixed abode, etc.), 666 in total, providing 18,750 beds. These centres employed 8,610 workers and spent 373 million euros accounting for 46% and 35% of total social services employment and expenditure respectively.

Examination of the population groups which benefit from social services reveals that the most significant areas of care with regard to expenditure were homes for the elderly and financial subsidies for families, which together accounted for more than half of expenditure.

Expenditure on care for the elderly rose by 25.1% in 2003

Three kinds of care, homes for the elderly, day centre care and domestic care, formed the nucleus of social services action for the elderly, a population group which is increasing in number and consequently with ever increasing problems and disabilities with which to confront daily life independently. These services reached 9% of the over 65's.

With 14,123 places available in residences and community housing, a level of cover of 3.7 places per 100 elderly people was reached. In the last five years the number of places available has increased by 4% annually (+2,535) and by 11% in expenditure (+114 million euros). Also worth mentioning is the increase in services supplied by the private sector with the help of agreements and the ever-increasing contribution of the end-users.

As the majority of elderly people live at home, there are alternatives aimed at enabling them to continue living at home, such as the 427 places in temporary residences and sheltered apartments. The daycentres, with 2,313 places, increased in number over the last 5 years by 83% (13% inter-annual).

The domestic care service assisted 17,000 elderly in their own home. In the last five years this service, 90% financed by the administration, increased in the number of users by an annual average of 8%.

Aimed at the more independent elderly people, on the other hand, are the associations and retired persons clubs, which although they account for lower employment and expenditure figures, have a great social significance with more than half of the over 65's being member of a club of this kind.

In 2003, 336 million euros were spent on centres for the elderly, accounting for 31% of total expenditure. If resources directed at the elderly from other programmes, such as the Social Welfare Fund, domestic help, and tele-alarm are taken into account, expenditure on the elderly reaches around 40% of the total.

Table2: Development and distribution of expenditure by type of population

	2003	2002	Δ% 03/02
Expenditure (thousand current Euros)	1.073.054	915.747	17,2
General population	388.093	338.790	14,6
- Transfers to families	227.127	198.050	14,7
Infancy-Youth	34.003	29.939	13,6
- Homes	25.567	22.417	14,1
The Aged	335.921	268.563	25,1
- Homes	287.724	232.156	23,9
Differently abled	253.904	220.325	15,2
- Homes	42.345	39.352	7,6
- Occupational Centres and C.E.E (1)	162.335	145.357	11,7
Women	5.817	5.380	8,1
Marginalized	55.317	52.750	4,9

(1) Special Job Centres

Source: EUSTAT

Further information:

Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute

C/ Donostia-San Sebastian, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

Tel:+34-945-01 75 00 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es

Contact: Maite Ugarte

Tel:+34-945-01 75 47 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01

Press releases on the Internet: www.eustat.es

Databank: www.eustat.es/bancopx/spanish/indice.asp