

In three out of four births the mother was aged over 30

Over half the number of children were first-born.

Birth Statistics data for the first quarter of 2005, published by EUSTAT, put the number of births in the A.C. of the Basque Country at 4,747, 3% higher than that registered in the same period of last year. By province, 674 children were born in Álava, with 6.4% growth, and in Bizkaia, with 2,468 births, the percentage of growth came to 4.5%. On the other hand, Gipuzkoa maintained the same figures, with 1,605 births.

As regards the order of birth, over half, 2,718, were the first-born child in the first quarter of 2005; 1,713 children (36.1%) were born into families where there was already one other child and 6.7% of children were the third or subsequent child.

As for the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, the group of mothers aged 30-34 remained by far the most numerous, accounting for almost half the number of births. This group was followed by the next one up, those aged 35-39, with 27.2%, outnumbering the 25-29 age bracket, which contributed 17.9%. In the groups at either end of the age range, those aged under 25 accounted for 5.2%, while those aged over 40 were responsible for a mere 4.1% of births.

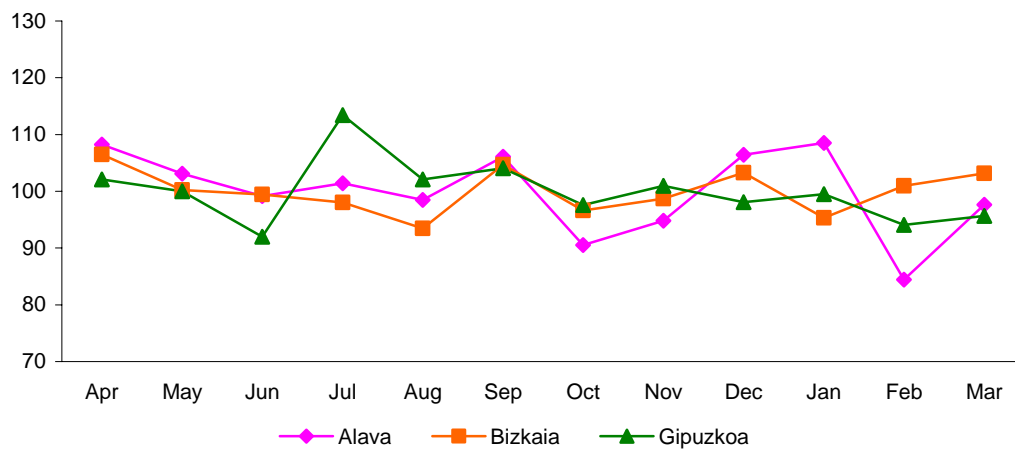
Rise in the number of single mothers

Children born outside of marriage made up 22.8% of the total, an increase of over two points with regard to the first quarter of 2004. Bizkaia, with 22%, was the only province where the rate was below that of the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole. The maternity age of this group was lower than that of mothers who had already had children, given that 15.8% of unmarried mothers were under 25 years old.

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

	1st quarter 2005		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2004)		Same quarter previous year (1st quarter 2004)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
A.C. of Euskadi	4.747	100,0	4.887	100,0	4.607	100,0
Alava	674	14,2	689	14,1	636	13,8
Bizkaia	2.468	52,0	2.517	51,5	2.361	51,2
Gipuzkoa	1.605	33,8	1.681	34,4	1.610	34,9
According to age of mother						
< 25 years	246	5,2	288	5,9	255	5,5
25 - 29 years	852	17,9	889	18,2	840	18,2
30 - 34 years	2.160	45,5	2.176	44,5	2.122	46,1
35 - 39 years	1.292	27,2	1.321	27,0	1.234	26,8
>= 40	197	4,1	213	4,4	156	3,4
Order of birth						
First	2.718	57,3	2.841	58,1	2.595	56,3
Second	1.713	36,1	1.736	35,5	1.732	37,6
Third or posterior	316	6,7	310	6,3	280	6,1

Graph 1: Monthly movement of births



Source: EUSTAT

base100 = average

For further information:

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