

The number of births remained stable during the second quarter of 2005

Of the 4,939 children born in the second quarter of 2005, more than half were first-born children

Birth Statistics figures, published by EUSTAT for the second quarter of 2005, put the number of births in the A.C. of the Basque Country at 4,939, practically the same figure as that registered for the same period of last year. By province, 726 children were born in Álava, 2,507 in Bizkaia and 1,706 in Gipuzkoa.

As regards the order of birth, over half, 2,797 children, were the first-born in the second quarter of 2005; 1,850 children (37.5%) were born into families where there was already one other child and 5.9% were the third or subsequent child. Bizkaia (41.2 %) was the only Province where the proportion of second or subsequent children was below the average for the A.C. of the Basque Country, which stood at 43.4%. Álava and Gipuzkoa, on the other hand, surpassed this percentage, which came to 45.5% and 45.7% respectively.

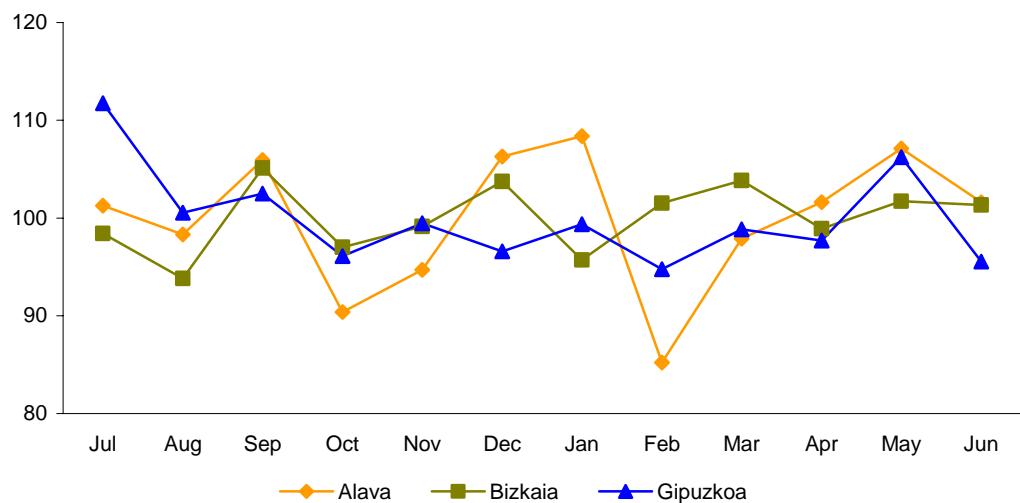
In three out of four births the mother was aged over 30

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 one immediately above, those aged 35-39, with 26.3%, outnumbering the 25-29 age bracket, which contributed 18.2%. In the groups at either end of the age range, those aged under 25 accounted for 5.6%, while those aged over 40 were responsible for a mere 3.7% of births.

Children born outside of marriage made up 21.9% of the total, an increase of almost one point with regard to the second quarter of 2004. Gipuzkoa, with 22.3%, was the only province where the rate was above that of the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole. In Álava, the percentage was the same as the overall one for the A.C. of the Basque Country and in Bizkaia it was slightly lower (21.6%). The maternity age of this group was lower than that of mothers who had already had children, given that 18.2% of unmarried mothers were aged between 14 and 24.

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

	2nd quarter 2005		Previous quarter (1st quarter 2005)		Same quarter previous year (2nd quarter 2004)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
A.C. of Euskadi	4.939	100,0	4.799	100,0	4.926	100,0
Alava	726	14,7	677	14,1	725	14,7
Bizkaia	2.507	50,8	2.471	51,5	2.552	51,8
Gipuzkoa	1.706	34,5	1.651	34,4	1.649	33,5
According to age of mother						
< 25 years	278	5,6	249	5,2	260	5,3
25 - 29 years	898	18,2	868	18,1	914	18,6
30 - 34 years	2.279	46,1	2.182	45,5	2.295	46,6
35 - 39 years	1.300	26,3	1.303	27,2	1.263	25,6
>= 40	184	3,7	197	4,1	194	3,9
Order of birth						
First	2.797	56,6	2.748	57,3	2.778	56,4
Second	1.850	37,5	1.731	36,1	1.831	37,2
Third or posterior	292	5,9	320	6,7	317	6,4

Graph 1: Monthly movement of births


Source: EUSTAT

base100 = average

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