

Births increased by 2.9% during the third quarter of 2006

The accumulated total of births reaches 14,894 in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country

5,023 births were recorded in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country during the third quarter of 2006, which means an increase of 2.9% with respect to the same period in the previous year, according to data from Eustat, the Basque Statistics Office. By territories, in Alava 731 children were born, meaning a 4.1% increase over last year; in Gipuzkoa, with 1,782 births the growth percentage reached 4.8%, whereas Bizkaia experienced the smallest growth index with 1.2%, or 2,510 births.

In terms of sequence, during the third quarter of 2006, over half of these births, 2,939 children, were first children. 1,760 children (35%) came to families in which they were to be the second child, whereas the percentage of children going to families already having two or more children reached 6.5%. Bizkaia (39.2%) was the only Historical Territory where the proportion of families with two or more children was below the 41.5% average of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country.

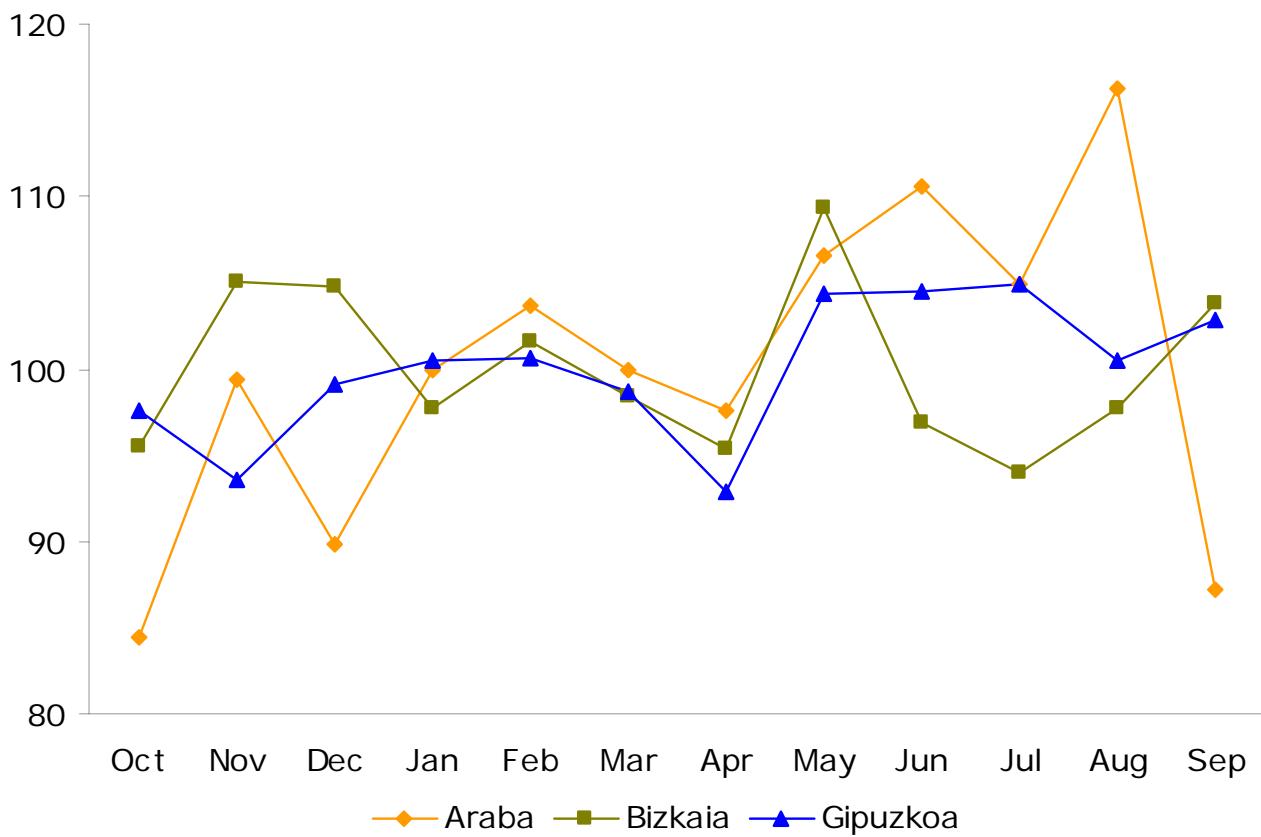
Mothers are over 30 years old in three out of every four births

As refers to the distribution of births reference to the age of the mother, there continues to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 year-old age group, in which 46% of the births take place. This group is followed by the next oldest group aged between 35-39 years with 26.3%. The 25-29 year-old group takes the third place with 17.5%. As for the two extremes, the group composed of mothers below 25 years of age had 5.8% of the births, whereas the group of mothers aged 40 or over contributed with another 4.4%.

Births from unmarried parents take 24.9% of the total, two points over the corresponding third quarter of 2005. In this sense, Gipuzkoa, with 23.3%, was the only territory with lesser statistics in the whole of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country. Mothers in this group were also younger at birth than the set of all the mothers who had children, since 15.4% of unmarried mothers were between 14 and 24 years old at the time they gave birth to their children.

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

A.C. of Euskadi	3rd quarter 2006		Previous quarter (2nd quarter 2006)		Same quarter the previous year (3rd quarter 2005)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Alava	731	14,6	737	14,7	702	14,4
Bizkaia	2.510	50,0	2.537	50,7	2.481	50,8
Gipuzkoa	1.782	35,5	1.726	34,5	1.700	34,8
According to age of mother						
< 25 years	293	5,8	289	5,8	251	5,1
25 - 29 years	881	17,5	881	17,6	864	17,7
30 - 34 years	2.310	46,0	2.310	46,3	2.220	45,5
35 - 39 years	1.319	26,3	1.319	26,4	1.336	27,4
>= 40	220	4,4	195	3,9	212	4,3
According to the marital status of the mother						
Married	3.772	75,1	3.882	77,6	3.775	77,3
Not married	1.251	24,9	1.118	22,4	1.108	22,7
Order of birth						
First	2.939	58,5	2.777	55,5	2.865	58,7
Second	1.760	35,0	1.873	37,5	1.727	35,4
Third or posterior	324	6,5	350	7,0	291	6,0

Graph 1: Monthly movement of births


Source: EUSTAT

base 100 = average

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