

**SURVEY ON THE POPULATION IN RELATION TO ACTIVITY (PRA) 2007-DISTRICTS**

## **The unemployment rate decreased in almost all the districts of the A.C. of the Basque Country between 2005 and 2007**

***Eustat applied a new methodology, innovative in Europe, to the Survey on the Population in Relation to Activity to obtain district-level data on the labour market***

Between 2005 and 2007 unemployment rates decreased in almost all the 20 districts into which the A.C. of the Basque Country is divided, except in the Rioja Alavesa and, to a lesser extent, in Bizkaia, where unemployment rates in districts such as Gran Bilbao, Arratia-Nervión and Gernika-Bermeo decreased by 3.5 percentage points. In Gipuzkoa there was a notable decrease in Donostialdea (two percentage points less) and, in Álava, in almost all the districts a gentle decrease can be seen, with the exception of Rioja Alavesa.

These figures were produced by Eustat applying model based small-area methodology to the Survey on the Population in Relation to Activity (PRA) to obtain the most important variables on the labour market in the districts of the A.C. of the Basque Country. This represents the application of an innovative methodology with regard to the classic estimation methods of official statistics.

This complex new methodology enables statistic data to be obtained for the 20 districts (groupings of municipalities), levels of aggregation lower than Provincial, to which the current design of the survey responds. In this way, the intention was to respond to the growing statistical demand for disaggregated data that has arisen in recent years for this survey from various social partners.

### **The unemployed population is concentrated in the districts of the capitals**

The unemployed population aged 16 and over, which is to say people seeking work, are actively looking for employment and are also available for work, was estimated at 32,500 people in 2007 in the A.C. of the Basque Country. The majority were resident in Bizkaia (20,700 people), a quarter of them in Gipuzkoa (8,500 people) and, approximately, the remaining tenth in Álava (3,400 people). Thanks to the application of small-area methodology, we can see the distribution of the unemployed population in the 20 districts of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

Logically, the unemployed population was concentrated in the districts which included the capitals of the Provinces: for Álava, in the Llanada Alavesa; for Bizkaia in Gran Bilbao and for Gipuzkoa, in Donostialdea. The other districts reported a combined group of less than 1,000 unemployed, with the exception of the districts of Duranguesado and Bajo Bidasoa.

At district level, some differences were produced as regards the unemployment rate (proportion of unemployed people out of the total employed and unemployed population) in 2007, although the range was not very broad. The unemployment rates varied between those of Gran Bilbao (4.2%) or Gernika-Bermeo (4%) and those of Alto Deba (2%) or Esteribaciones del Gorbea (1.9%), so that the values of the 20 districts fell within a space of just over two percentage points.

### **The district activity rates showed differences in 2007**

As was the case with the unemployed population, the employed population of the A.C. of the Basque Country resided, logically in the aforementioned districts that included the capitals. In Gipuzkoa, this population is relatively distributed among the districts of residence; in Álava, the employed population is more concentrated, since four of the six districts of Álava have less than 5,000 employed people. Between 2005 and 2007 the employed population increased in the majority of the districts, except in Rioja Alavesa, in Alto Deba and in Goierri.

The activity rate (the total employed and unemployed population out of the total population aged 16 and over) showed differences between the Provinces and, in particular, in the districts. The lowest activity rates were those of the Montaña Alavesa (42.2%) and Encartaciones (46.6%) and the highest those of Donostialdea (59%) and Plentzia-Mungia (58%). During the period 2005-2007 twelve of the twenty districts of the A.C. of the Basque Country showed growth in the activity rate.

**Table: Population aged 16 and over in relation to activity in the A.C. of the Basque Country. Activity and unemployment rate: estimations for 2007 (percentages) and increase 2007-2005 (percentage points); employed population: estimations for 2007 (thousands) and increase 2007-2005 (percentages)**

	Employment rate		Unemployment rate		Employed populaton	
	2007	Increase 2007-2005	2007	Increase 2007-2005	2007	Increase 2007-2005
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>54,4</b>	<b>-0,1</b>	<b>3,3</b>	<b>-2,4</b>	<b>964,8</b>	<b>+2,6</b>
<b>Araba/Alava</b>	<b>56,6</b>	<b>-0,1</b>	<b>2,3</b>	<b>-0,7</b>	<b>143,5</b>	<b>+1,9</b>
Arabako Ibarrak/Valles Alaveses	54,0	+9,0	2,1	-0,7	2,4	+26,3
Arabako Lautada/Llanada Alavesa	58,2	-0,4	2,2	-0,8	117,8	+1,5
Arabako Mendialdea/Montaña Alavesa	42,2	+1,2	2,9	-0,2	1,2	+0,0
Errioxa Arabarra/Rioja Alavesa	50,5	-4,2	2,9	+0,6	4,5	-6,3
Gorbeia Inguruak/Estribac. del Gorbea	51,7	+0,3	1,9	-1,1	3,1	+3,3
Kantauri Arabarra/Cantábrica Alavesa	49,8	+1,0	2,5	-1,1	14,5	+5,1
<b>Bizkaia</b>	<b>52,6</b>	<b>-0,2</b>	<b>4,0</b>	<b>-3,4</b>	<b>500,0</b>	<b>+3,2</b>
Arratia Nerbioi/Arratia-Nerbio	47,5	+3,9	3,5	-3,7	8,6	+13,2
Bilbo Handia/Gran Bilbao	52,8	-0,3	4,2	-3,6	387,0	+3,1
Durangaldea/Duranguesado	54,7	-0,9	2,6	-3,0	41,9	+1,2
Enkartazioak/Encartaciones	46,6	+1,8	3,7	-1,7	11,9	+6,3
Gernika-Bermeo	49,1	+0,1	4,0	-3,5	18,5	+4,5
Markina-Ondarroa	47,9	+2,2	2,4	-2,4	10,8	+8,0
Plentzia-Mungia	58,0	-1,1	3,6	-2,2	21,5	+0,5
<b>Gipuzkoa</b>	<b>56,4</b>	<b>+0,1</b>	<b>2,6</b>	<b>-1,6</b>	<b>321,3</b>	<b>+1,9</b>
Bidasoa Beherea/Bajo Bidasoa	57,5	+1,6	3,0	-1,4	34,4	+4,2
Deba Beherea/Bajo Deba	49,2	-0,2	2,6	-1,6	23,0	+1,3
Deba Garaia/Alto Deba	53,1	-4,5	2,0	-1,1	28,2	-6,9
Donostialdea/Donostia-San Sebastián	59,0	+0,2	2,7	-2,0	155,9	+2,4
Goierri	51,7	-0,7	2,6	-1,1	27,7	-0,4
Tolosaldea/Tolosa	55,2	+2,7	2,2	-1,9	20,5	+6,8
Urola-Kostaldea/Urola Costa	57,4	+1,6	2,3	-1,5	31,4	+4,3

Source: Eustat

**For further information:**

Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística  
 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](mailto:eustat@eustat.es)  
 Contact: Pilar Martínez  
 Tel:+34-945-01 75 36 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01  
 Press releases on the Internet: [www.eustat.es](http://www.eustat.es)