

The number of births rose by 1.9% in the third quarter of 2008

Second and subsequent children increased by 7%

During the third quarter of 2008, 5,417 births were registered in the Basque Country, which was up 1.9% on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. By provinces, 819 children were born in Álava, up 3.4%, which was the same growth percentage as in Bizkaia, with 2,742 births, while there was a negative fluctuation of 0.8% in Gipuzkoa, with 1,856 births.

In terms of the birth order, over half (3,085) were first children in the third quarter of 2008; 1,937 (35.8%) were born to families that already had another child and 7.3% were the third or subsequent child. Gipuzkoa (43.5%) was the only province where the proportion of second or later children was greater than the average for the Basque Country (43%).

77.5% births were to mothers over 30 years old

As regards to the distribution of births according the age of the mother, there continued to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 age group, in which 43.6% of the births took place. This group is followed by the next oldest group, aged between 35-39, which accounted for 28.6% and was ahead of the 25-29 age group, with 15.6% of births. At either end of the scale, the group of mothers under 25 accounted for 7.0% of births, whereas mothers over 40 accounted for 5.2% of the total births.

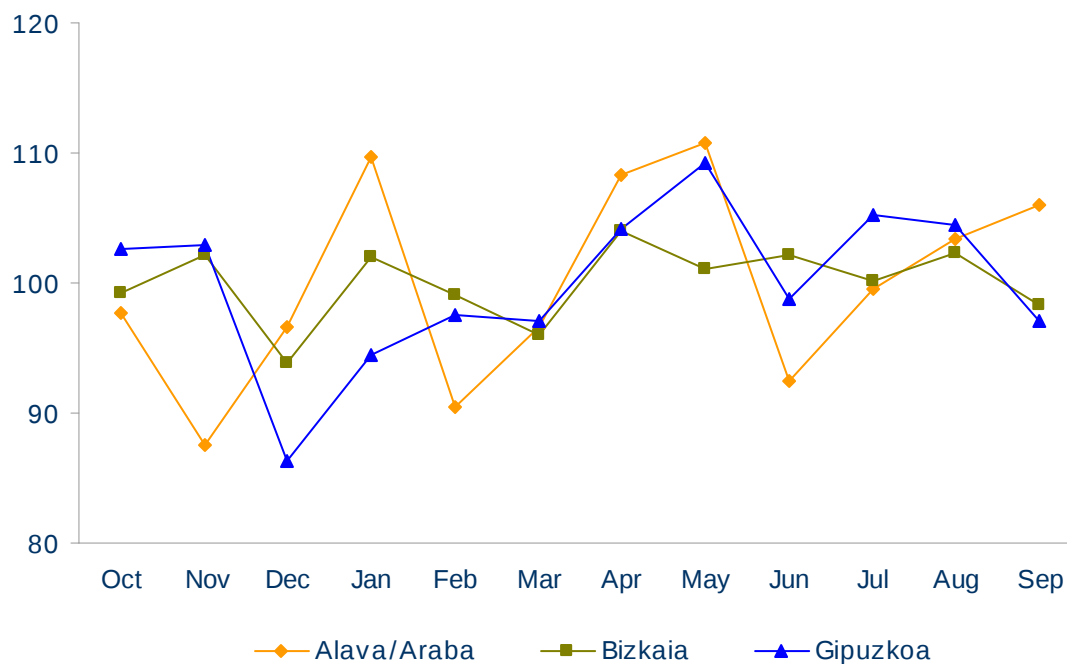
Births outside marriage accounted for 29.9% of the total. Gipuzkoa (28.7%) was the only province with figures below that for the Basque Country as a whole. The age of the women in this group is younger than the overall figure for women with children, as 16.1% of unmarried mothers were between 14 and 24 years old, while this group only accounted for 7% of the total number of mothers. .

Table 1. Children born alive in the Basque Country. Comparative Table

	3rd quarter 2008		Previous quarter (2nd quarter 2008)		Same quarter the previous year (3rd quarter 2007)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Basque Country	5.417	100,0	5.455	100,0	5.315	100,0
Alava	819	15,1	818	15,0	792	14,9
Bizkaia	2.742	50,6	2.769	50,8	2.652	49,9
Gipuzkoa	1.856	34,3	1.868	34,2	1.871	35,2
According to age of mother						
< 24 years	377	7,0	360	6,6	365	6,9
25 - 29 years	844	15,6	959	17,6	934	17,6
30 - 34 years	2.361	43,6	2.376	43,6	2.399	45,1
35 - 39 years	1.552	28,7	1.498	27,5	1.372	25,8
>= 40	283	5,2	262	4,8	245	4,6
According to the marital status of the mother						
Married	3.795	70,1	3.858	70,7	3.846	72,4
Not married	1.622	29,9	1.597	29,3	1.469	27,6
Order of birth						
First	3.085	57,0	2.956	54,2	3.135	59,0
Second	1.937	35,8	2.076	38,1	1.811	34,1
Third or posterior	395	7,3	423	7,8	369	6,9

Source: EUSTAT

Graph 1. Monthly birth movement



Base100 = Average

Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

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