

Slightly over half the weddings held in 2007 were civil marriages

The number of marriages was down by 1.7% with respect to the previous year

In 2007, 9613 different-sex weddings were held between residents of the Basque Country, 165 down on the previous year, according to Eustat data. The number of civil weddings has increased over recent years and has risen from 23.3% in 1990 to 51.1% in 2007, when they were up to 4,913. There were 4,689 weddings held in Catholic churches and 11 in places of worship of other faiths.

By provinces in 2007, there were more civil weddings in Bizkaia and in Gipuzkoa (both with 52%), followed by Álava (51%). The percentage of civil weddings of residents in the Basque Country only stood at 42% when they were held outside our Community.

The Basque marriage rate (4.3 weddings per thousand inhabitants) is slightly under the rate for all the countries of the European Union (4.9 per thousand) and for Spain (4.5 per thousand). June, with 1,516 weddings, was in first place as the month chosen to get married, followed by September with 1468 and July with 1404.

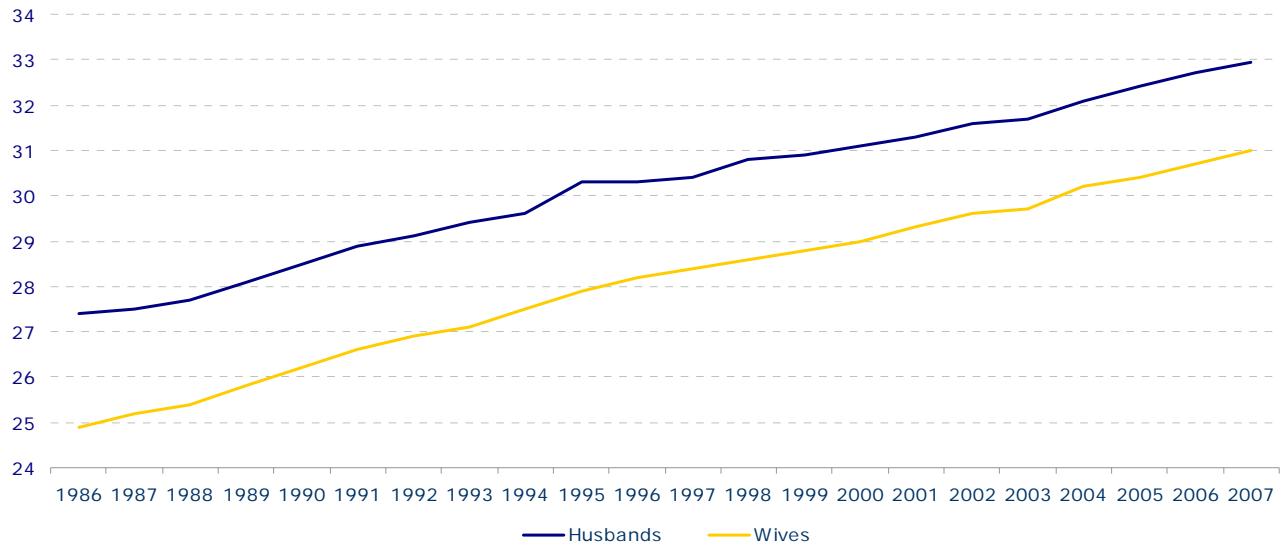
In terms of the civil status of the bride and groom prior to getting married, single men accounted for 91.7%, which was a similar figure (91.6%) for single women.

The average age of the bride and groom has risen by over five years since 1986

In line with the increase in the age when mothers give birth, the age of the bride and groom has also risen. In 2007, the average age of the single men when getting married was 33 years old and 31 years old for single women. Since 1986, the average age of the grooms is up by 5.6 years and 6.1 in the case of the brides.

The preferred destinations of the 517 couples who moved outside the Basque Country after getting married was Cantabria and Madrid. There were differences in terms of the destination between the three provinces: the couples from Álava mainly went to La Rioja, Madrid and abroad; those from Bizkaia to Cantabria and Madrid, and those from Gipuzkoa to Navarra and abroad.

As far as the geographical origin of the couples was concerned, 80.5% of the weddings were held between residents of the same municipality in the Basque Country and 6.0% lived in adjoining municipalities. These figures have changed over the last 10 years, as the percentages in 1997 stood at 57.7% and 11.2%, respectively.

Graph 1: Average age of the bride and groom when getting married


Source: EUSTAT

There were 101 same-sex marriages in 2007

On the other hand, 13 of the 101 same-sex marriages held were in Álava, 42 in Bizkaia and in Gipuzkoa and 4 outside the Basque Country. 56 of them were weddings between men and 45 between women.

For further information:

Basque Statistics Office
 C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz
 Tlf: +34-945-01 75 00 Fax: +34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es
 Contact: Martín González Hernández
 Tlf: +34-945-01 75 49 Fax: +34-945-01 75 01
 Online press releases: www.eustat.es
 Databank: www.eustat.es/bancopx/english/indice.asp