

## Births fell by 1.5% in the four quarter of 2008

***However, 21,173 babies were born during the year, up 3.2% on the 2007***

In the fourth quarter of 2008, 5,107 babies were born in the Basque Country, 1.5% down on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. 1,790 of the births were in October, 1,674 in November and 1,643 in December. By provinces, 771 children were born in Alava, 2643 in Bizkaia and 1693 in Gipuzkoa.

According to the birth order, over half the births (2,952 - 57.8%) were first children, 1764 babies (34.5%) were born to families that already had another child and there were 391 babies or were third or more children (7.7%).

As refers to the distribution of births according the age of the mother, there continued to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 year-old age group, in which 41% of the births took place. This group is followed by the next oldest group, aged between 35-39, which accounted for 30.4% and was ahead of the 25-29 age group, with 16.2% of births, while only 5.5% of the births were to mothers aged 20-24.

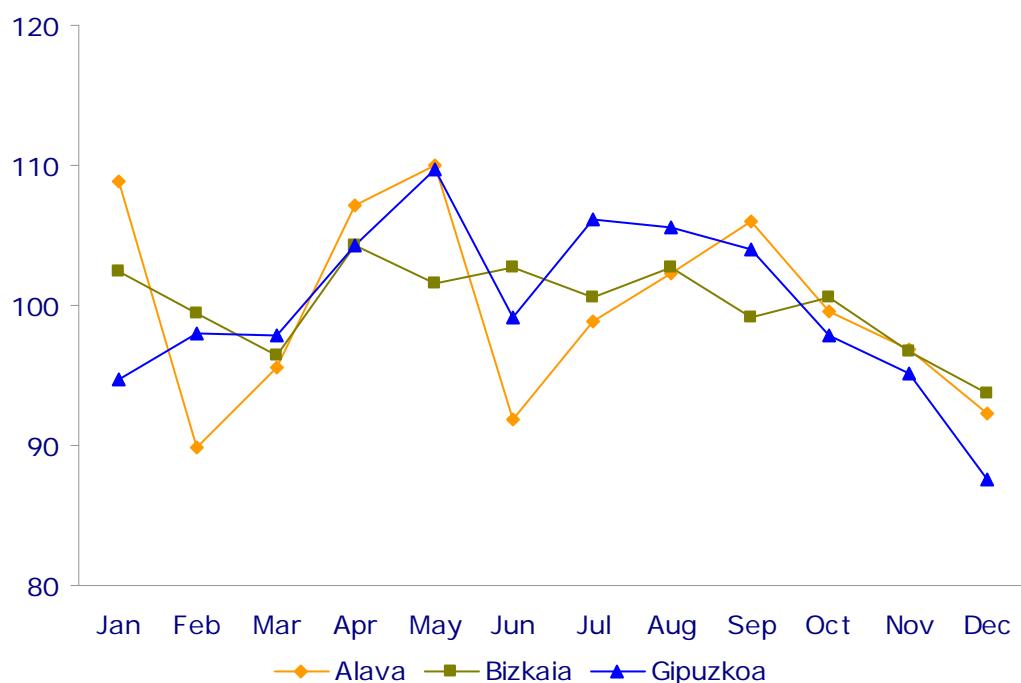
The number of mothers aged 40 and over (5.4%) was greater than women under 20 (1.5%).

### ***More single mothers***

Births outside marriage in the fourth quarter of 2008 accounted for 32.1% of the total, 3.3 percentage points over the index for the same period of 2007. By provinces, the highest percentage was in Bizkaia (32.2%), followed by Gipuzkoa (32%) and Alava with 31.8%.

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

	4th quarter 2008		Previous quarter (3rd quarter 2008)		Same quarter the previous year (4th quarter 2007)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
	<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>5.107</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.473</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.183</b>
Alava	771	15,1	820	15,0	746	14,4
Bizkaia	2.643	51,8	2.747	50,2	2.681	51,7
Gipuzkoa	1.693	33,2	1.906	34,8	1.756	33,9
<b>According to age of mother</b>						
< = 24 years	358	7,0	382	7,0	354	6,8
25 - 29 years	825	16,2	855	15,6	849	16,4
30 - 34 years	2.095	41,0	2.389	43,7	2.242	43,3
35 - 39 years	1.552	30,4	1.564	28,6	1.472	28,4
>= 40	277	5,4	283	5,2	266	5,1
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>						
Married	3.468	67,9	3.834	70,1	3.689	71,2
Not married	1.639	32,1	1.639	29,9	1.494	28,8
<b>Order of birth</b>						
First	2.952	57,8	3.120	57,0	2.954	57,0
Second	1.764	34,5	1.947	35,6	1.830	35,3
Third or posterior	391	7,7	406	7,4	399	7,7

**Graph 1. Monthly birth movement**

 Base100 = Average  
 Source: EUSTAT

**For further information:**

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