

The number of deaths fell by 2.1% in the fourth quarter of 2008

160 of the deceased were aged 100 or over and 142 of those were women.

In the fourth quarter of 2008, 4,892 people died in the Basque Country, 2.1% down on the same period of 2007, according to Eustat data. By provinces, there were 583 deaths in Álava, 2,794 in Bizkaia and 1,515 in Gipuzkoa.

The provisional figure for the total number of deaths stood at 18,845, of which 9,767 were men and 9,078 women. With respect to the provisional data for the previous year, there were 230 more deaths, which was an increase of 1.2%.

30.1% (5,678) of the deaths in 2008 were due to tumours. These were followed by deaths caused by circulatory system diseases (29.8%, 5,450 deaths) and, in third place and some way behind, respiratory diseases, which accounted for 10% (1,887).

The cause of death differed according to sex, since among men tumours outnumbered circulatory system diseases by 12 points, whereas among women the main cause was cardiovascular diseases and secondly tumours.

Sixty-one of all the deaths in the first quarter of 2008 were infants under one, 32 of whom were boys and 29 girls. On the other hand, 160 people aged 100 or over died, 18 of whom were men and 142 women.

According to the 2008 provisional data, there were 2,328 more births than deaths and the natural population growth in the Basque Country was clearly positive. This sign was positive in all three provinces, with the natural population growth standing at 889 people in Álava, 371 in Bizkaia and 1068 in Gipuzkoa.

Table 1. Deaths in the Basque Country by sex, according to cause of death. Quarterly comparison.

	Previous quarter				Same quarter of the previous year	
	4th quarter 2008		(3rd quarter 2008)		(4th quarter 2007)	
	N.	%	N.	%	N.	%
DEATHS	4.892	100,0	4.259	100,0	4.997	100,0
Men	2.473	50,6	2.243	52,7	2.639	52,8
Women	2.419	49,4	2.016	47,3	2.358	47,2
CAUSE OF DEATH						
TOTAL	4.892		4.259		4.997	
Tumours	1.424	29,1	1.420	33,3	1.516	30,3
Circulatory system	1.491	30,5	1.105	25,9	1.480	29,6
Respiratory system	487	10,0	349	8,2	482	9,6
Digestive system	243	5,0	201	4,7	262	5,2
Accidents	158	3,2	145	3,4	169	3,4
Other diseases	1.089	22,3	1.039	24,4	1.088	21,8
MEN	2.473		2.243		2.639	
Tumours	884	35,7	926	41,3	950	36,0
Circulatory system	666	26,9	513	22,9	710	26,9
Respiratory system	269	10,9	200	8,9	283	10,7
Digestive system	121	4,9	100	4,5	153	5,8
Accidents	100	4,0	99	4,4	117	4,4
Other diseases	433	17,5	405	18,1	426	16,1
WOMEN	2.419		2.016		2.358	
Tumours	540	22,3	494	24,5	566	24,0
Circulatory system	825	34,1	592	29,4	770	32,7
Respiratory system	218	9,0	149	7,4	199	8,4
Digestive system	122	5,0	101	5,0	109	4,6
Accidents	58	2,4	46	2,3	52	2,2
Other diseases	656	27,1	634	31,4	662	28,1

Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

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