

## **Births fell by 3.4% in the first quarter of 2009**

### ***Over half were first children***

There were 4,961 births in the first quarter of 2009 in the Basque Country, which was down 3.4% on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. By provinces, the number of births fell in Bizkaia and in Gipuzkoa, by -4.2% and -4.6% respectively, but increased by 2.1% in Álava. Specifically, 787 children were born in Álava, 2538 in Bizkaia and 1636 in Gipuzkoa.

In terms of birth sequence, over half of the children (2787) were first children in the first quarter of 2009; 1774 children (35.8%) were born into families where there already was another child and the percentage of third or subsequent children stood at 8.1%.

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 almost half of the births took place. This group is followed by the next oldest group, aged between 35-39, which accounted for 28.2% and was ahead of the 25-29 age group, with 15.8% of births. At either end of the scale, the group of mothers under 25 accounted for 6.7% of births, whereas mothers over 40 lagged slightly behind, with 5.2% of the total births.

### ***The percentage of single mothers remained unchanged***

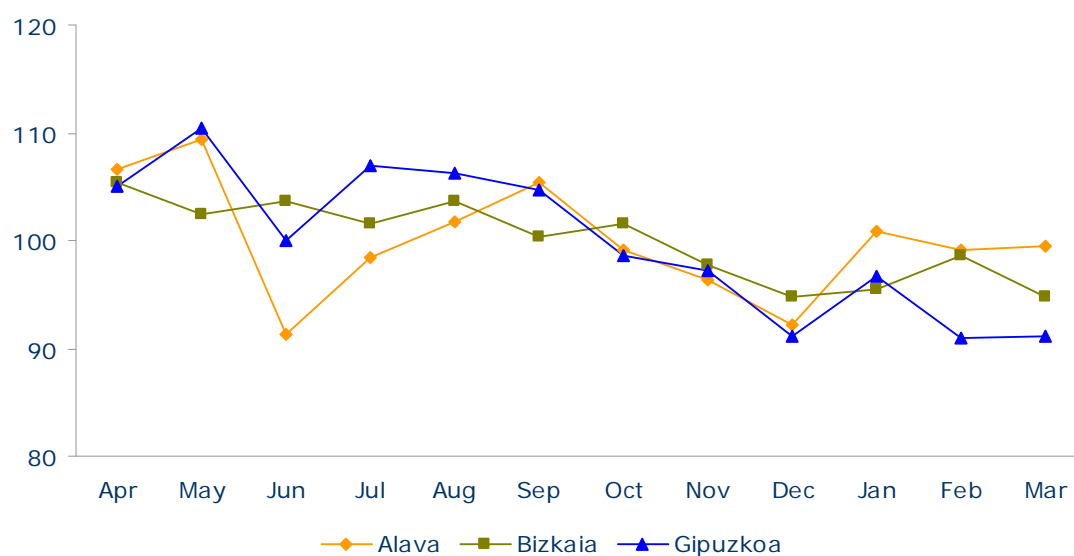
Births outside marriage accounted for 29.9% of the total, a similar percentage as the first quarter of 2008. Bizkaia (29.3%) was the only province with values under those for the Basque Country overall. Single mothers give birth when younger than the rest of women with children as a whole, as 17.8% of unmarried mothers were under 25.

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

	1st quarter 2009		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2008)		Same quarter the previous year (1st quarter 2008)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>4.961</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.137</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.135</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Alava	787	15,9	772	15,0	771	15,0
Bizkaia	2.538	51,2	2.646	51,5	2.649	51,6
Gipuzkoa	1.636	33,0	1.719	33,5	1.715	33,4
<b>According to age of mother</b>						
< =24 years	331	6,7	359	7,0	358	7,0
25 - 29 years	786	15,8	829	16,1	869	16,9
30 - 34 years	2.189	44,1	2.104	41,0	2.226	43,3
35 - 39 years	1.398	28,2	1.565	30,5	1.399	27,2
>= 40	257	5,2	280	5,5	283	5,5
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>						
Married	3.476	70,1	3.487	67,9	3.584	69,8
Not married	1.485	29,9	1.650	32,1	1.551	30,2
<b>Order of birth</b>						
First	2.787	56,2	2.970	57,8	2.864	55,8
Second	1.774	35,8	1.769	34,4	1.863	36,3
Third or posterior	400	8,1	398	7,7	408	7,9

Source: EUSTAT

**Graph 1: Monthly birth movement**



Source: EUSTAT

base 100 = average

**For further information:**

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