

The number of births fell by 5.7% in the third quarter of 2009

77.3% of the births were to mothers over 30 years old

During the third quarter of 2009, 5,163 births were registered in the Basque Country, which was down 5.7% on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. All the provinces recorded a downturn: 765 children were born in Álava, down 6.7%, while births were down by 2.2% in Bizkaia and by 10.3% in Gipuzkoa (2,688 and 1710 births, respectively)

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 43.7% of the births took place. This group is followed by the next oldest group, aged between 35-39, which accounted for 28.9% 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 6.9% of births, whereas mothers over 40 accounted for 4.7% of the total births.

The number of second and subsequent children fell by 6.7%, one percentage point over the average

In terms of the birth order, over half (2,967) were first children in the third quarter of 2009; 1,792 (35%) were born to families that already had another child and 8% were the third or subsequent child. Álava (39%) was the only province where the proportion of second or later children was lower than the average for the Basque Country (43%).

The drop in the number of second and subsequent children with respect to the same quarter of 2008 was most noticeable in Álava, with 14.8%. Gipuzkoa registered a 9.9% downturn and Bizkaia (2.1%) was the only province under the average decrease (6.7%).

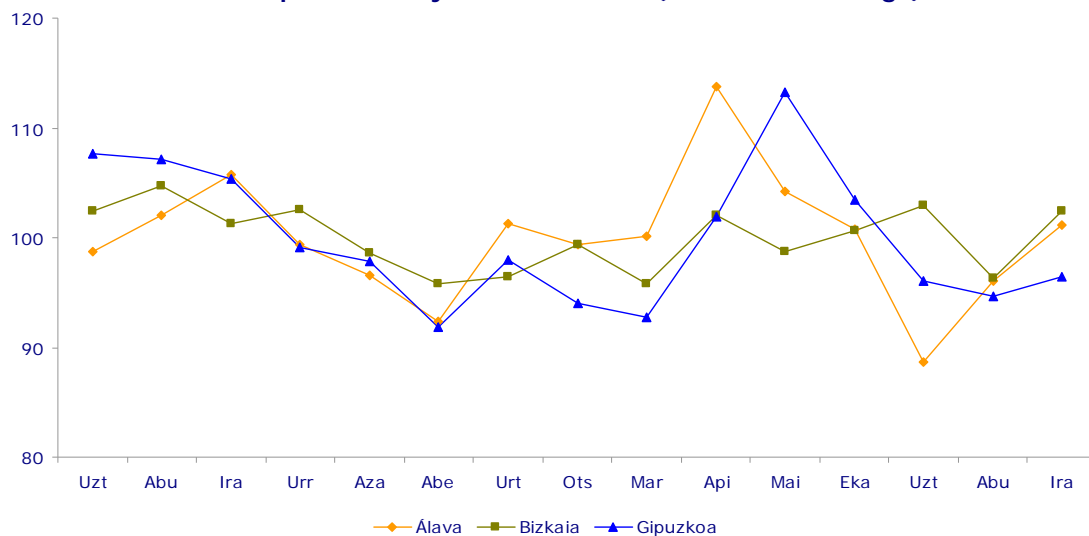
Births outside marriage accounted for 32.7% of the total. Álava (35.3%) was the only province with figures over that for the Basque Country as a whole. Single mothers have their children at an earlier age than that of mothers as a whole, as 15.4% of them were between 14 and 24 when they gave birth, while this group only accounts for 6.9% if we consider the mothers as a whole.

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

	3rd quarter 2009		Previous quarter 2nd quarter 2009)		Same quarter the previous year (3rd quarter 2008)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Basque Country	5.163	100,0	5.380	100,0	5.476	100,0
Alava	765	14,8	844	15,7	820	15,0
Bizkaia	2.688	52,1	2.657	49,4	2.749	50,2
Gipuzkoa	1.710	33,1	1.879	34,9	1.907	34,8
According to age of mother	5.163	100,0	5.380	100,0	5.476	100,0
< =24 years	357	6,9	354	6,6	381	7,0
25 - 29 years	817	15,8	861	16,0	856	15,6
30 - 34 years	2.254	43,7	2.367	44,0	2.391	43,7
35 - 39 years	1.494	28,9	1.573	29,2	1.564	28,6
>= 40	241	4,7	225	4,2	284	5,2
According to the marital status of	5.163	100,0	5.380	100,0	5.476	100,0
Married	3.476	67,3	3.770	70,1	3.836	70,1
Not married	1.687	32,7	1.610	29,9	1.640	29,9
Order of birth	5.163	100,0	5.380	100,0	5.476	100,0
First	2.967	57,5	2.913	54,1	3.122	57,0
Second	1.792	34,7	2.029	37,7	1.948	35,6
Third or posterior	404	7,8	438	8,1	406	7,4

Source: EUSTAT

Graph 1: Monthly birth movement (base 100 = average)



Source: EUSTAT

For further information:

[Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística \(Eustat\)](#)

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

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