

SOCIAL ACTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES STATISTICS IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY - 2008

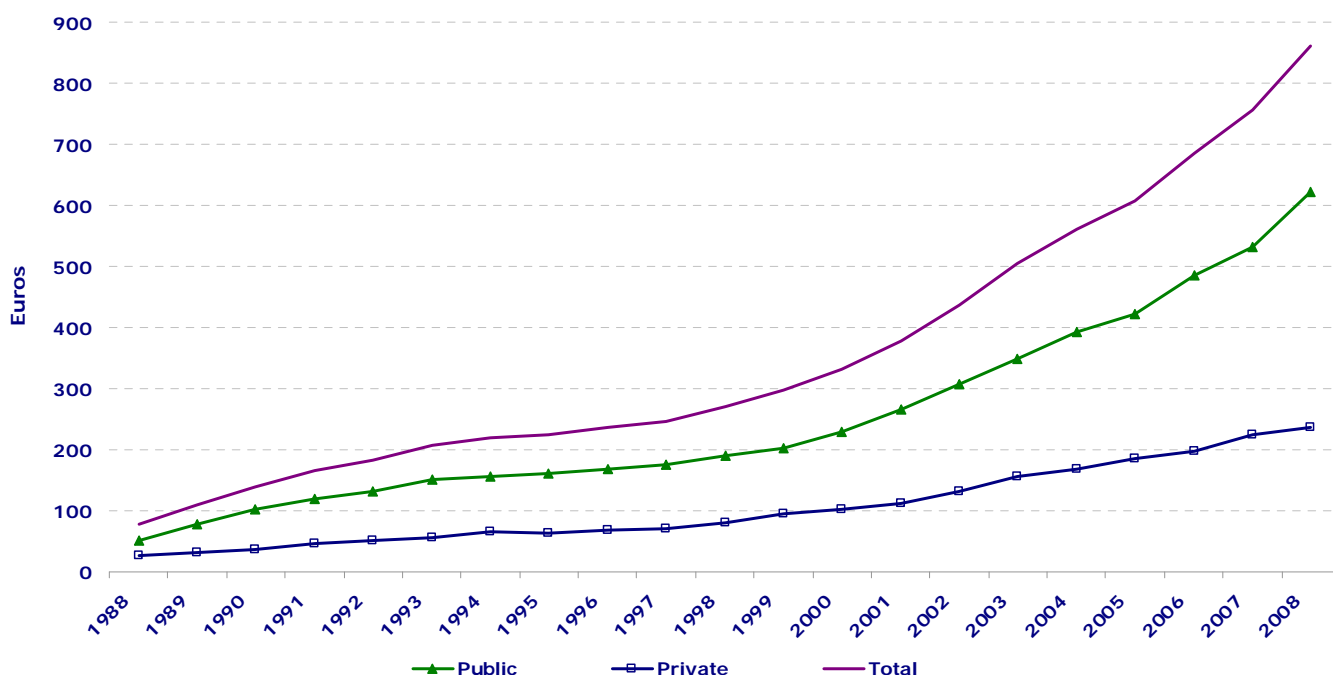
Spending on Social Services per inhabitant was up by 14% in the Basque Country in 2008

15% of the population aged 65 and over was cared for by specialist social services

Expenditure on social services in the Basque Country stood at 1,861 million euros in 2008, 15% up on the previous year, according to Eustat data. This expenditure represented 2.7% of the Basque GDP and average expenditure per inhabitant was 860 euros, 13.9% up on the previous year and 623 euros of which came from public funds.

By province, spending rose by 17% in Álava, by 15% in Bizkaia and by 13% in Gipuzkoa. In per capita terms, Álava, with an average of 995 euros per inhabitant, remained ahead of the 847 euros in Bizkaia and the 821 of Gipuzkoa.

Graph: Evolution of the expenditure per inhabitant on Social Services



Source: EUSTAT. Social Action and Social Services Statistics

The contribution from the different public authorities came to 1,347 million euros, which represented 72% of the expenditure, while the remaining 28% came from the private sector. One out of every four euros spent was financed by user contributions and other sales. The elderly in residential homes contributed 200 million euros of this total, which accounted for 46% of the current expenditure of these centres.

The sector directly employed 4.1% of working women

In 2008, social services overall generated 480 new jobs and directly employed 24,683 people (2.6% of people in employment), of which 70% were women (4.1% of women in employment). This figure does not include subcontracted workers, home helpers and direct carers, whose total hours worked were the equivalent of over 5,000 full-time jobs. Furthermore, there were 18,958 volunteers, who work free of charge for the social services, in 2008 and represented an equivalent of 1,762 full-time jobs.

Table 1: Evolution of the main variables

	2007	2008	Δ% 08/07
Expenditure (thousand Euros)	1.622.565	1.861.067	14,7
- Current expenditure	1.212.025	1.342.916	10,8
- Transfers to families	332.250	425.215	28,0
- Capital expenditure	78.289	92.936	18,7
Expenditure/Inhabitant (Euros)	755,5	860,4	13,9
Expenditure/GDP. (%)	2,44	2,72	-
Finance			
- Public finance	1.142.199	1.346.932	17,9
- Private finance	480.366	514.135	7,0
Human Resources			
Total personnel	42.965	43.641	1,6
- Own personnel	24.203	24.683	2,0
- Volunteers	18.762	18.958	1,0
Material Resources			
- No of bodies	1.348	1.370	1,6
- No of centres	2.783	2.944	5,8
- No of homes	897	994	10,8
- Places in homes	23.563	24.081	2,2

Source: EUSTAT. Social Action and Social Services Statistics

Among the diversity of the social services, the services for the population as a whole and for the elderly stand out as the areas to which the greatest amount of resources were dedicated, as they represented 68% of the expenditure between the two.

Among the resources for the population as a whole, transfers to families, particularly the Basic Income (RB), with 203 million euros (+17%) and the Social Emergency Aid (AES), with 45 million euros (+9%), were the programmes that were particularly noteworthy, due to their size and evolution. These two programmes represented spending of 115 euros per inhabitant on average in the Basque Country. Special mention should be made of their impact in Bizkaia, where 158 euros was spent per inhabitant, a figure that was much higher than the 94 euros in Álava and 53 in Gipuzkoa.

Specialist social services cared for 15% of the population aged 65 and over

Care for the elderly by the social services is mainly based on providing residential services, day-care centres, home care service and remote control care.

In 2008, there were 18,108 residential places, which meant a coverage of 4.4 places per 100 elderly persons, aged 65 and over. The authorities offered 34% of these places through publicly-funded centres and agreed a similar percentage (30%) with private institutions.

With respect to the day-care centres, the number of places came to 3,706 places (+7%). The public administration offered 86% of these places directly or by means of agreements with the private network.

The home-care service (SAD) looked after 23,905 old-aged people in their own homes (5.8% of the population aged 65 and over).

A total of 17,226 old-aged people had the remote care service in their home.

With respect to 2007, the number of SAD users increased by 11%, while the hours of care grew at a lower rate (+5%). The total expenditure of this service came to 85.8 million euros (11% up on the previous year), which was an annual average cost of 3,233 euros per user and was mainly financed by the public sector (91%).

Table 2: Evolution and distribution of the expenditure by type of population

	2007	2008	Δ% 08/07
Expenditure (thousand current Euros)	1.622.565	1.861.067	14,7
General population	586.943	715.722	21,9
- Transfers to families	328.716	421.093	28,1
Infancy-Youth	69.532	79.189	13,9
- Homes	46.093	58.869	27,7
The Aged	493.680	547.685	10,9
- Homes	424.471	456.165	7,5
Differently abled	384.213	414.423	7,9
- Homes	66.896	80.442	20,2
- Occupational Centres and C.E.E (1)	248.631	258.330	3,9
Women	11.137	15.625	40,3
Marginalized	77.060	88.423	14,7

(1) Special Employment Centres

Source: EUSTAT. Social Action and Social Services Statistics

For further information:

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