

## Births fell by 4.9% in the second quarter of 2010

### ***One out of every three births in this quarter was outside marriage***

5,163 babies were born in the Basque Country in the second quarter of 2010, according to Eustat data, down 4.9% on the figure for the same period of the previous year. By provinces, 876 children were born in Álava, which was up 3.8% on the number in births for the second quarter of 2009. In Bizkaia, where 2,579 children were born, births fell by 2.9%, while there were 1,708 births in Gipuzkoa, down by 11.4%.

Births outside marriage accounted for 32.5% of the total, a higher percentage than the 29.9% recorded in the same quarter of 2009. Bizkaia (32.8%) was the only province with values higher than those for the Basque Country overall. The percentages were slightly lower in Álava and Gipuzkoa: 31.4% and 32.4%, respectively.

As refers to birth sequence, over half of the births (2,832) were first children in the second quarter of 2010; 1,910 children (37.0%) were born into families where there was already another child and the percentage of third or later children stood at 8.2%. Gipuzkoa (44.3%) was the only province where the proportion of second or later children was greater than the average for the Basque Country (45.1%). Gipuzkoa was slightly higher than the average with 45.3% and Álava had the highest percentage (47.5%).

### ***78% of the births were to mothers over 30 years old***

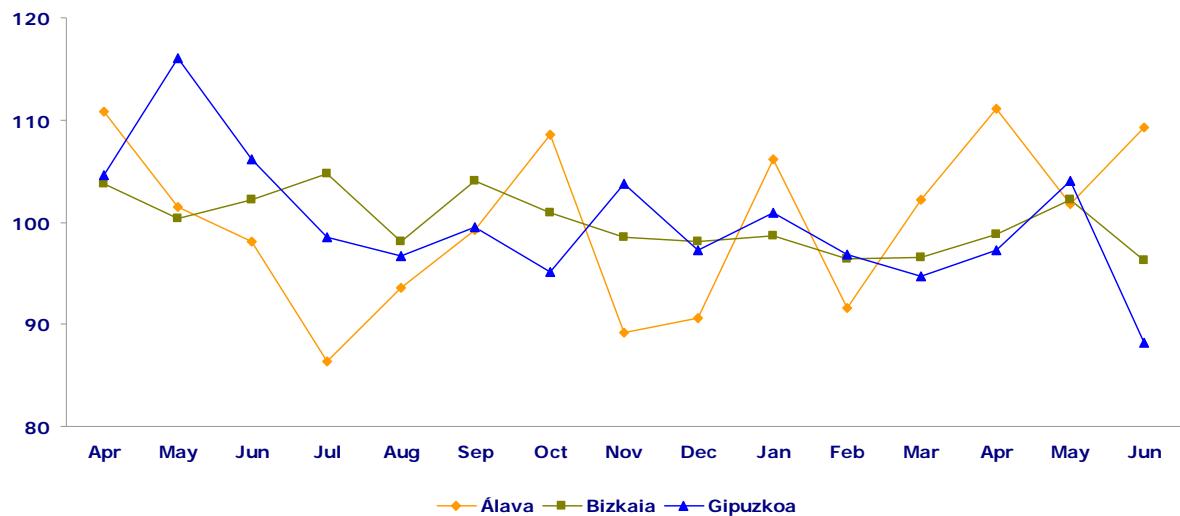
With regard to the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, there continued to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 year age group, in which 42.2% of the births took place. This group is followed by the next oldest group, aged between 35-39, which accounted for 30.5% of the births and was ahead of the 25-29 age group (15.9%). At either end of the scale, the group of mothers under 25 accounted for 6.3% of births, whereas mothers over 40 lagged slightly behind, with 5.2% of the total births.

Single mothers give birth when younger than the rest of women with children as a whole, as 14% of unmarried mothers were under 25 and 22% between 25 and 29 years old.

**Table 1. Live births to mothers residing in the Basque Country. Comparative table**

	2nd quarter 2010		Previous quarter (1st quarter 2010)		Same quarter the previous year (2nd quarter 2009)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>5.163</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.016</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.429</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Alava	876	17,0	809	16,1	844	15,5
Bizkaia	2.579	50,0	2.502	49,9	2.657	48,9
Gipuzkoa	1.708	33,1	1.705	34,0	1.928	35,5
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>5.163</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.016</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.429</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	324	6,3	302	6,0	354	6,5
25 - 29 years	819	15,9	800	15,9	872	16,1
30 - 34 years	2.178	42,2	2.147	42,8	2.386	43,9
35 - 39 years	1.573	30,5	1.443	28,8	1.589	29,3
≥ 40	269	5,2	324	6,5	228	4,2
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>5.163</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.016</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.429</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	3.487	67,5	3.462	69,0	3.804	70,1
Not married	1.676	32,5	1.554	31,0	1.625	29,9
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>5.163</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.016</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.429</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.832	54,9	2.776	55,3	2.944	54,2
Second	1.910	37,0	1.847	36,8	2.045	37,7
Third or posterior	421	8,2	393	7,8	440	8,1

Source: EUSTAT. Birth Statistics of the Basque Country

**Graph 1: Monthly Birth Trends (base 100= average)**


Source: EUSTAT. Birth Statistics of the Basque Country

**For further information:**

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