

BIRTH STATISTICS OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (ENAC) 4th QUARTER 2010

Births in the Basque Country rose by 3.8% in the fourth quarter of 2010

More women become mothers after 40 than when under 25

In the fourth quarter of 2010, the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 5,366, 3.8% up on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. These can be broken down as follows: 1,761 of the births were in October, 1,675 in November and 1,672 in December.

All the provinces registered a hike in the number of births registered: Bizkaia, with 2,779 children born, posted an increase of 6.5%, Álava and Gipuzkoa, with 816 and 1,771, respectively, registered growth of 2.8% and of 0.4%, when compared to the previous quarter of the year.

According to the birth order, over half the births (2,939 births and 55%) were first children, 1,954 babies (36%) were born to families that already had another child and there were 473 babies who were the third or more children (9%).

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 41.6% of the births took place. This group was followed by the group immediately above it (mothers aged 35-39), which accounted for 32.8% of births and was ahead of the 25-29 age group, with 13.2% of births. There were more mothers giving birth aged 40 and over (6.4%) than under 25 (6.1%).

The 70 adolescent mothers (aged 16 or under) accounted for 1.3% of the total mothers, a percentage slightly higher than the 1.1% registered for the same quarter of the previous year.

The number of births to single mothers rose to 35%

Births outside marriage in the fourth quarter of 2010 accounted for 34.5% of the total, up 2.3 percentage points on the number registered for the same period of 2009.

16% of women who gave birth in the Basque Country in the autumn months of 2010 were foreigners. This percentage was only higher in Álava where it stood at 23.7%. The figure for the mothers who did not have Spanish nationality in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa was 15.1% and 13.8%, respectively.

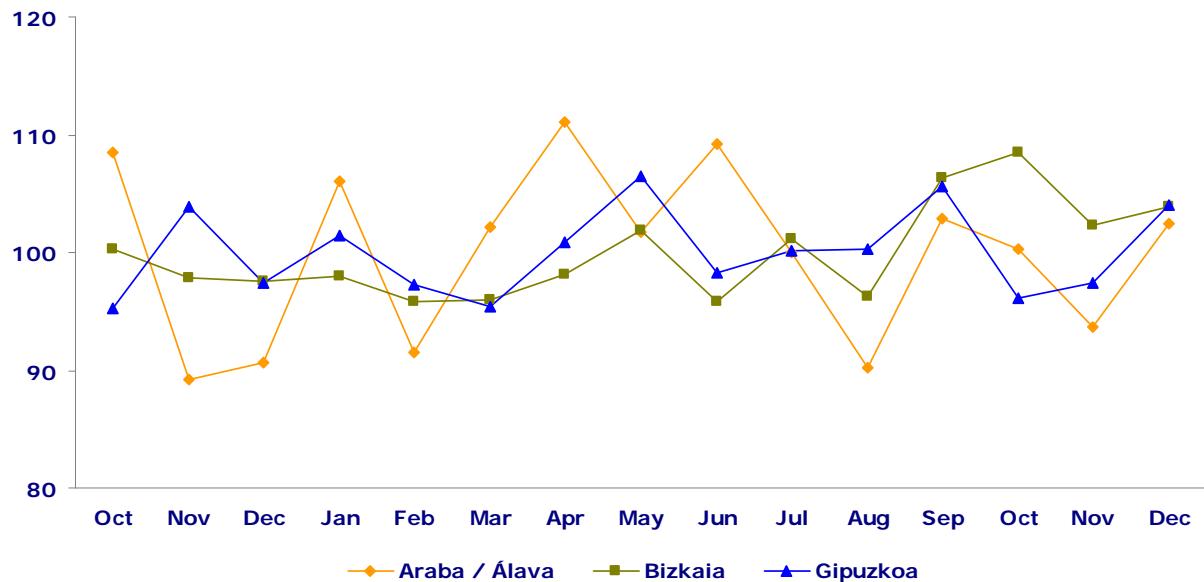
The age at which women became mothers varied according to their nationality. In fact, the average age of the foreigners was 29.2 years old, compared to 33.6 years old for mothers with Spanish nationality.

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

	4th quarter 2010		Previous quarter (3rd quarter 2010)		Same quarter the previous year (4th quarter 2009)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Basque Country	5.366	100,0	5.306	100,0	5.168	100,0
Alava	816	15,2	806	15,2	794	15,4
Bizkaia	2.779	51,8	2.680	50,5	2.610	50,5
Gipuzkoa	1.771	33,0	1.820	34,3	1.764	34,1
According to age of mother	5.366	100,0	5.306	100,0	5.168	100,0
≤ 24 years	328	6,1	329	6,2	327	6,3
25 - 29 years	707	13,2	825	15,5	816	15,8
30 - 34 years	2.230	41,6	2.294	43,2	2.252	43,6
35 - 39 years	1.760	32,8	1.556	29,3	1.525	29,5
≥ 40	341	6,4	302	5,7	248	4,8
According to the marital status of the mother	5.366	100,0	5.306	100,0	5.168	100,0
Married	3.514	65,5	3.566	67,2	3.503	67,8
Not married	1.852	34,5	1.740	32,8	1.665	32,2
Order of birth	5.366	100,0	5.306	100,0	5.168	100,0
First	2.939	54,8	3.014	56,8	2.957	57,2
Second	1.954	36,4	1.892	35,7	1.809	35,0
Third or posterior	473	8,8	400	7,5	402	7,8

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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