

BIRTH STATISTICS OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY (ENAC) IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2011

## Births have risen 0.2% in the third quarter of 2011

### ***Births rise in Bizkaia, but fall in Araba/Álava and Gipuzkoa***

In the first quarter of 2011, there were 5032 births in the Basque Country, representing a rise of 0.2% in comparison to the same period last year, according to Eustat data. By province, the number of births fell in Araba/Álava and in Gipuzkoa, by 2.1% and 1.5%, respectively, but rose by 2% in Bizkaia. More specifically, 792 children were born in Araba/Álava, 2552 in Bizkaia and 1688 in Gipuzkoa.

In the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, there continued to be a clear preponderance of the 30-34 year-old age group, accounting for 41.7% of the births. This group was followed by the group immediately above it (mothers aged 35-39), which accounted for 32.7% of births, ahead of the 25-29 age group, which represents no more than 13.8% of births.

The number of women aged 40 or over who became mothers fell by 8.6% in comparison with the same quarter in 2010, dropping from 325 births to 297 in 2011. Children born to mothers in this age bracket represent 5.9% of the total, the same percentage of newborns amongst mothers under the age of 25.

In terms of birth order, in the first quarter of 2011 more than half of the births, 2690, were firstborns; 1922 (38.2%) were born into families where there was already another child and births entailing the third or subsequent child accounted for 8.3% of births.

Births outside of marriage represented 33.4% of the total, a figure that is 2.4 percentage points higher than the figure for this group in the first quarter of 2010. Bizkaia, with 35.6%, is the only province with figures that are higher than the figures for the Basque Country as a whole. The maternity age of this group is lower than in the case of women who previously had children, as 12.7% of unmarried mothers were under the age of 25.

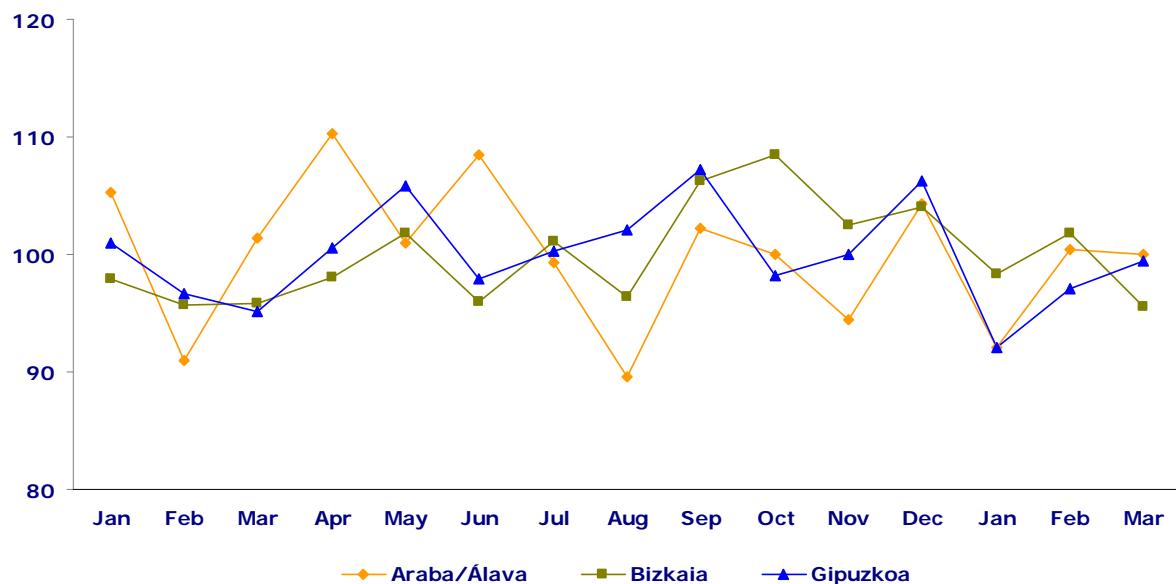
### ***15% of mothers were of foreign nationality***

15% of the births that occurred in the Basque Country in the first three months of 2011 entailed a mother of foreign nationality. This average is much higher in Araba/Álava, which recorded a figure of 25%, as opposed to Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, with 14% and 12%, respectively.

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

	1st quarter 2011		Previous quarter (4th quarter 2010)		Same quarter the previous year (1st quarter 2010)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>5.032</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.430</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.024</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	792	15,7	828	15,2	809	16,1
Bizkaia	2.552	50,7	2.781	51,2	2.502	49,8
Gipuzkoa	1.688	33,5	1.821	33,5	1.713	34,1
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>5.032</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.430</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.024</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	298	5,9	332	6,1	303	6,0
25 - 29 years	694	13,8	717	13,2	801	15,9
30 - 34 years	2.098	41,7	2.261	41,6	2.150	42,8
35 - 39 years	1.645	32,7	1.775	32,7	1.445	28,8
≥ 40	297	5,9	345	6,4	325	6,5
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>5.032</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.430</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.024</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	3.349	66,6	3.558	65,5	3.466	69,0
Not married	1.683	33,4	1.872	34,5	1.558	31,0
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>5.032</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.430</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.024</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.690	53,5	2.960	54,5	2.777	55,3
Second	1.922	38,2	1.993	36,7	1.851	36,8
Third or posterior	420	8,3	477	8,8	396	7,9

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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