

## Births dropped 5.2% in the third quarter of 2013

### ***Births outside marriage accounted for 38% of the total***

In the third quarter of 2013 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 4,969, which was a drop of 5.2% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to Eustat data. The province that experienced the biggest decrease was Gipuzkoa, where 1,612 boys and girls were born, down 8.7%; in Álava, with 779 births, there was a decrease of 4.2% and in Bizkaia, with 2,578 births, the drop was 3.2%.

### ***4 out of every 5 mothers were over the age of 30***

Referring 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 38.5% of the births took place. This group was followed by the group immediately above it, mothers aged 35-39 which, with 35%, accounted for over double the number of births of the 25-29 age group, which accounted for 13.2% of births. Amongst the extreme age groups, the under- 25s accounted for 5.3%, against the over-40s, the only group to experience an increase, which accounted for 8.1%.

Births outside of marriage accounted for 38% of the total, which was higher than the 35.8% for the same period of the previous year. The average age of single mothers stood at 32.1, whereas amongst divorcees and widows, very small groups, the last consisting of just 6 women, the average age rose to 36.3 and 34.8, respectively. Lastly, in this quarter married mothers have children at 33.9 years of age, on average.

### ***Foreign mothers are 4 years younger than those with Spanish nationality***

Of the women who became mothers in the Basque Country in July, August and September 2013, 17.3% were foreign. This percentage was only higher in Álava, where it stood at 23.4%, whereas in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa the proportion of mothers with foreign nationality stood at 16.6% and 15.6%, respectively.

The age at which women became mothers varied according to their nationality. In fact, the average age of foreign mothers was 30.1, compared to 34 for mothers with Spanish nationality.

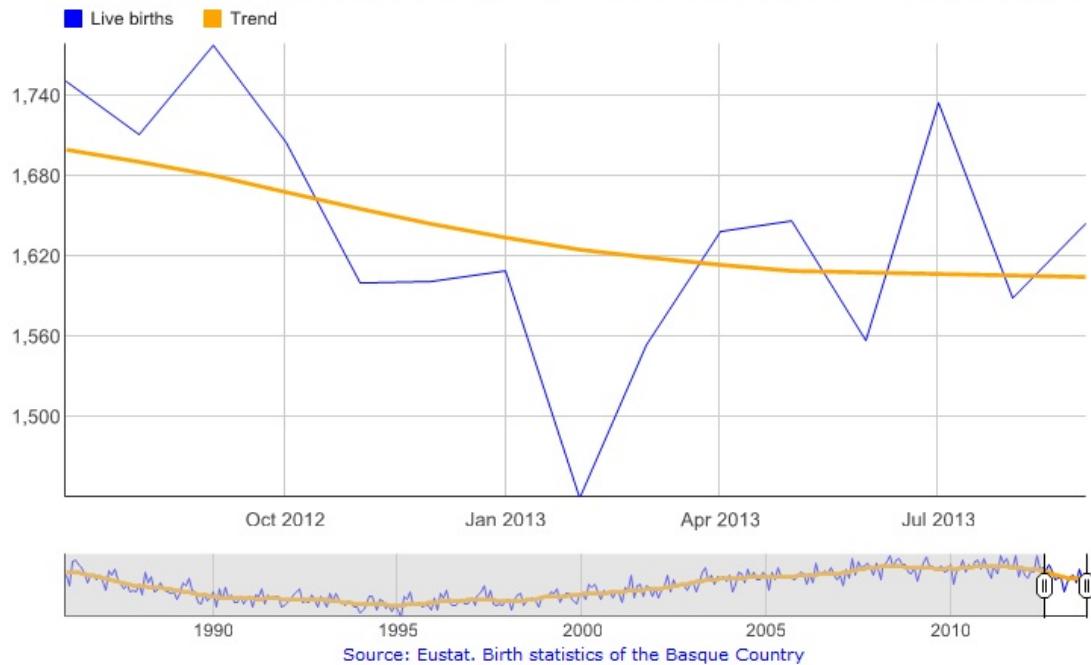
According to the order of birth, more than half (2,703 boys and girls) were first children in the summer months of 2013; 1,810 (36.4%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter and 9.2% were third or subsequent children.

The number of first-time mothers was down 8%, and for women who had their second child this drop stood at 1.4%, and for women who had their third or subsequent child the decrease was 2.4%, all with respect to the same quarter of 2012.

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

	3rd quarter 2013		Previous quarter (2nd quarter 2013)		Same quarter the previous year (3rd quarter 2013)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>4.969</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.843</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.241</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	779	15,7	795	16,4	813	15,5
Bizkaia	2.578	51,9	2.445	50,5	2.663	50,8
Gipuzkoa	1.612	32,4	1.603	33,1	1.765	33,7
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>4.944</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.838</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.241</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	263	5,3	252	5,2	304	5,8
25 - 29 years	652	13,2	659	13,6	743	14,2
30 - 34 years	1.901	38,5	1.905	39,4	2.122	40,5
35 - 39 years	1.728	35,0	1.668	34,5	1.720	32,8
≥ 40	400	8,1	354	7,3	352	6,7
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>4.969</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.843</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.241</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	3.083	62,0	3.042	62,8	3.367	64,2
Not married	1.886	38,0	1.801	37,2	1.874	35,8
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>	<b>4.969</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.843</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.241</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Spanish	4.107	82,7	3.995	82,5	4.332	82,7
Foreign	862	17,3	848	17,5	909	17,3
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>4.969</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.843</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>5.241</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.703	54,4	2.513	51,9	2.939	56,1
Second	1.810	36,4	1.898	39,2	1.835	35,0
Third or posterior	456	9,2	432	8,9	467	8,9

Source: Eustat. Birth Statistics of the Basque Country

**Live births to mothers residing in the Basque Country and registered in the Basque Country. Monthly data**

**For further information:**

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