

The ICT sector accounted for 21,110 jobs in the Basque Country in 2013, which was 2.2% of the total

Companies in the ICT sector spent more on R&D, were more innovative and used technologies to a greater extent than those in other sectors

The Information and Communication Technology sector (ICT) consisted of 2,275 business with 21,110 workplaces in the Basque Country in 2013, 2.2% of the total Basque economy according to Eustat data. This sector generated a turnover figure of 3,421.5 million euros, 2.3% less than the previous year.

Table 1: Main magnitudes for the ICT sector, by province and sector of activity. 2013

	Number of businesses	Number of employed	Turnover (1)	Value added (1)
Total ICT Sector	2.275	21.110	3.421,5	1.535,4
Province				
-- Araba/Álava	288	2.178	320,8	132,1
-- Bizkaia	1.378	12.830	2.276,2	1.022,9
-- Gipuzkoa	675	6.102	824,5	380,4
ITC sector				
Industria	73	3.744	450,2	160,7
Services	2.202	17.366	2.971,3	1.374,7

(1) Million euros

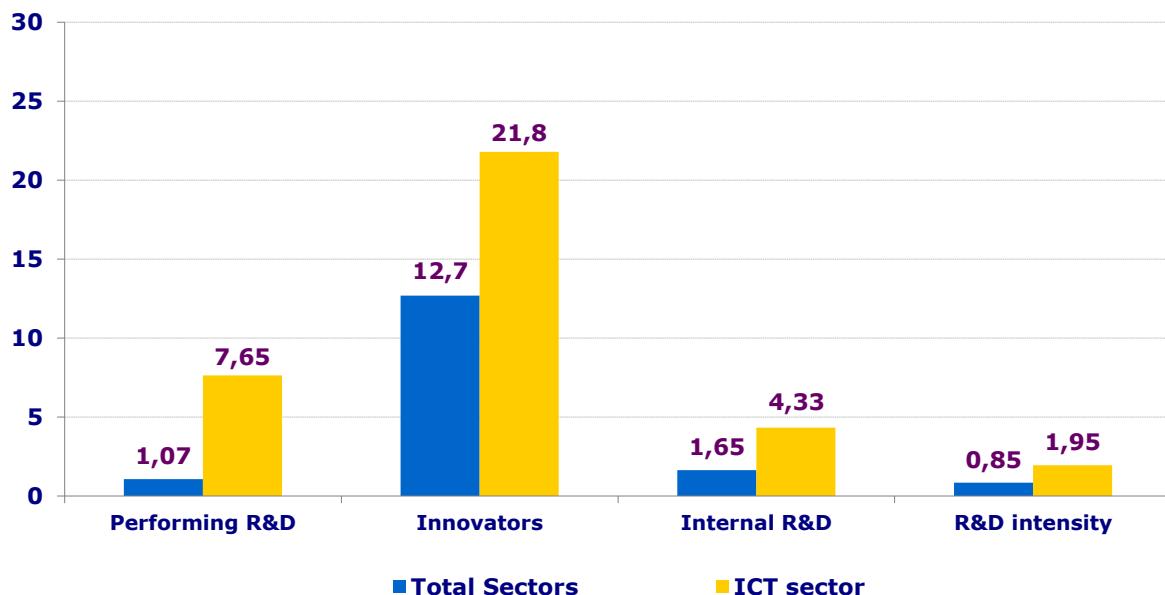
Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

In the ICT sector the percentage of innovating companies carrying out R&D far exceeded the other sectors

7.6% of companies in the ICT sector carried out R&D activities, a percentage far superior to the 1.1% of the total for all sectors. Furthermore, this sector, despite representing just 1.5% of companies, accounted for 10.6% of those implementing R&D and, with 61.5 million euros, carried out 6.2% of the total expenditure on internal R&D in the business sector.

With regards to personnel dedicated to R&D in this sector, in 2013 there were 1,186 individuals in equivalent-to-full-time positions (9.0% of those provided by all business sectors), of which 317 were women.

Graph 1. R&D and innovation in companies within the ICT sector and in all sectors for 2013. (%)



Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

Regarding innovation, as with R&D, there were significant differences between the total for all sectors and that for the ICT sector. In 2013, 21.8% of establishments in the ICT sector were innovators compared to 12.7% of the total for all sectors. If company size is taken into account, those with 10 or more employees recorded percentages of 52.5% in the first case and 28.4% for the total number of sectors.

Regarding expenditure on innovation, ICT establishments contributed 190.1 million euros, 7.4% of total company expenditure. Of this expenditure, 172.0 million corresponded to establishments of 10 or more employees, which was 7.8% of the total spent by companies of this size.

Table 2: Intensity of internal innovation and R&D innovation in the ICT sector, by territorial scope, activity sector and employment strata. 2013. (%)

	Total		10 or more employees	
	Innovation intensity	Internal R&D intensity (2)	Innovation intensity (1)	Internal R&D intensity (2)
Total sectors	1,65	0,85	2,18	1,22
Total ICT sector	4,33	1,95	4,41	1,75
Province				
-- Araba/Álava	1,61	0,83	1,68	0,87
-- Bizkaia	4,20	1,56	4,44	1,51
-- Gipuzkoa	5,99	3,77	5,69	3,09
ITC sector				
Industria	5,52	3,92	5,56	3,90
Services	4,18	1,70	4,25	1,45

(1) Innovation Intensity: (Spending on innovation/turnover)*100

(2) Internal R&D intensity: (Spending on internal R&D/turnover)*100

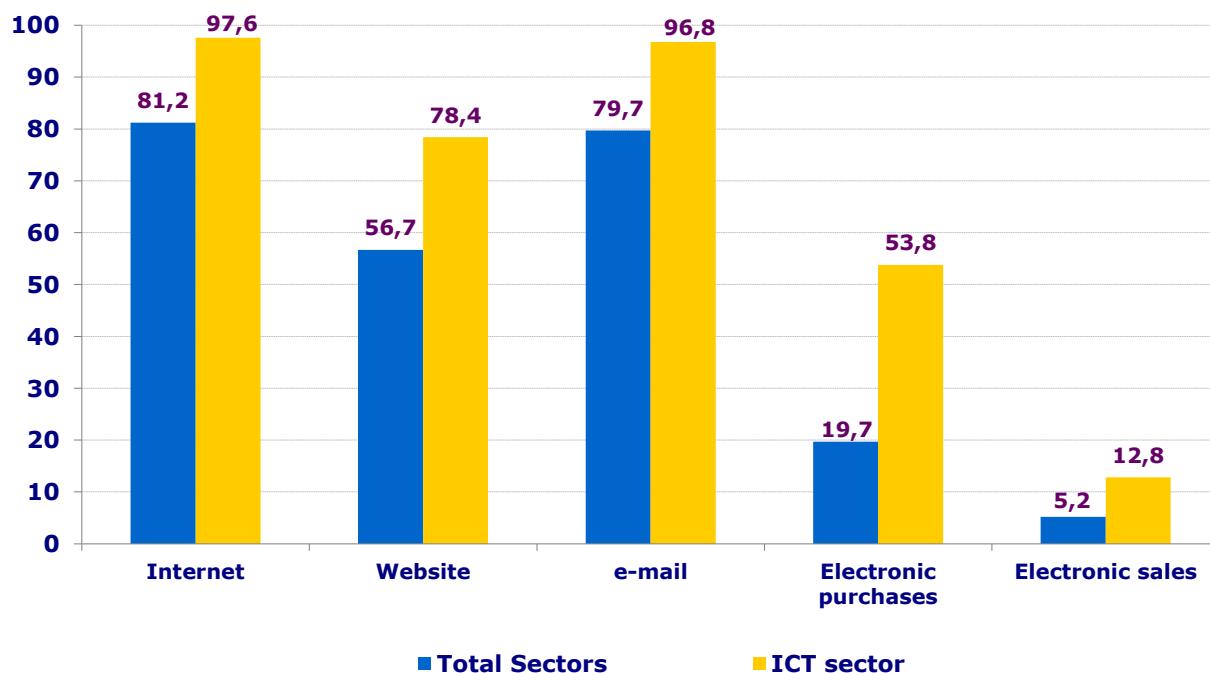
Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

The ICT sector also destined a greater proportion of resources towards R&D+i than the other sectors, and it is worth noting the figures spent both on innovation and on R&D with regards to the turnover figure (innovation and internal R&D intensity ratios). Specifically, innovation intensity in this sector was 4.3 compared to 1.7 over the economic sectors as a whole. In the case of internal R&D, the ratio was 2.0 for the ICT sector and 0.9 for the economy as a whole.

Both the use of ICT technology and e-Commerce were more widespread in the ICT sector than in the total for all sectors

As the use of ICT technology is extremely commonplace amongst the companies in this sector, e-Commerce, although more developed than in the other sectors, continued to have a modest implementation, above all in terms of sales. The establishments that made purchases via this method in the ICT sector accounted for 53.8% and those that carried out sales accounted for 12.8% compared to 19.7% and 5.2% respectively for the total of all sectors.

Graph 2. Use of ICT technologies in 2013 (%)

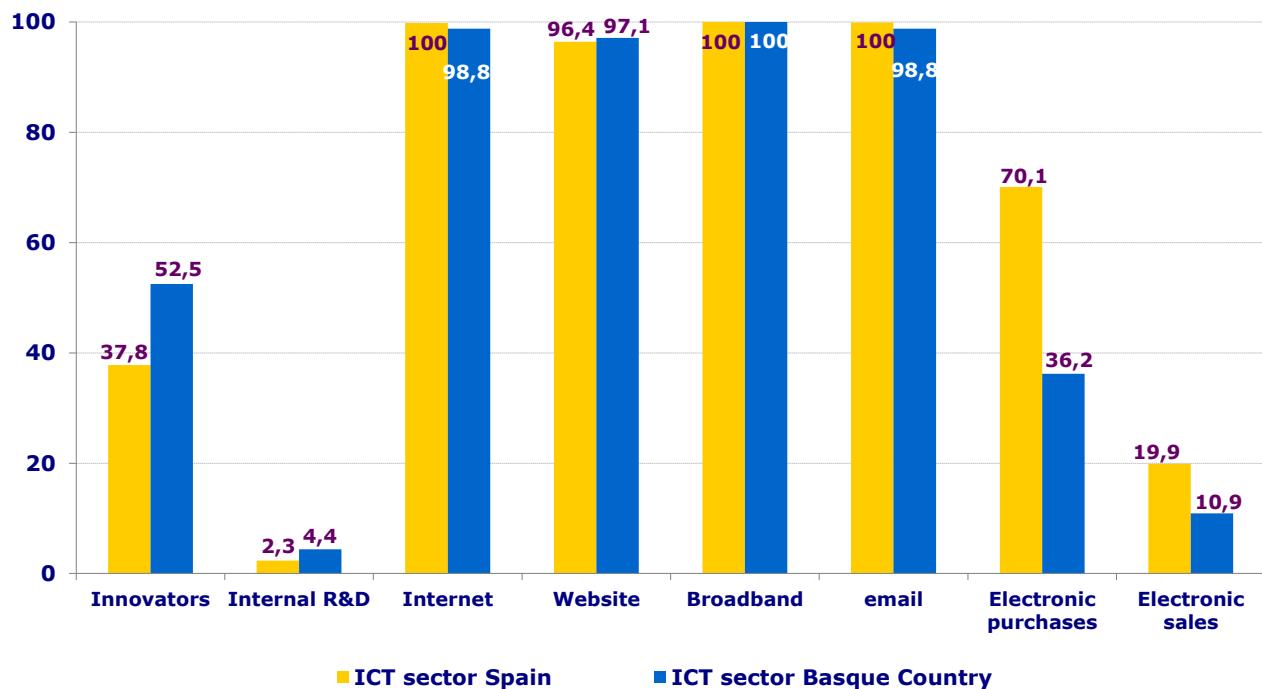


Source: Eustat. Information and communications technologies sector-ICT

On the other hand, the impact of the ICT sector on the foreign trade of goods was not very significant. Whilst exports accounted for 225.9 million euros out of a total of 20,631.9 million, imports stood at 276.6 million out of the 15,961.6 million of total imports, accounting for 1.1% and 1.7% respectively.

Electronic components (50.7% of exports and 22.8% of imports) and *Other ICT products* (31.1% of exports and 33.3% of imports) in particular were amongst the most common products in these exchanges for both exports and imports.

Graph 3. Comparison of Companies with 10 or employees in the Basque Country and in Spain as a whole (%). 2013



Source: Eustat and INE

Lastly, if we compare ICT sector data for the Basque Country with Spain as a whole in companies with 10 or more employees, differences can be appreciated in the indicators observed. Whilst the percentage of innovating companies and innovation intensity was higher in the Basque Country, the percentages of companies involved in e-Commerce as both buyers and sellers was higher in Spain as a whole. Regarding the use of ICT technologies, the percentages obtained were very similar.

Methodological note:

The ICT sector is made up of manufacturing and service sectors whose main activity is related to development, production, marketing and intensive use of Information & Communication Technologies. [Eustat website. Methodology file: ICT sector](#)

The series has been revised using the best statistics supplied by the surveys on services.

For further information:

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