

## **Births dropped 2.6% in the third quarter of 2015**

### ***Births outside marriage accounted for 41% of the total***

In the third quarter of 2015 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 4,833, which was a drop of 2.6% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to Eustat data. The province that experienced the biggest decrease was Bizkaia, where 2,391 boys and girls were born, down 3.9%; in Álava, with 828 births, there was a decrease of 2.4% and finally, in Gipuzkoa, with 1,614 births, the drop was 0.7%.

### ***8 out of every 10 mothers were over the age of 30***

Regarding the distribution of births according the age of the mother, there continued to be a preponderance of the 30-34 year-old age group, in which 36.9% of the births took place. This group was followed by the group immediately above it, mothers aged 35-39 which, with 35.6%, accounted for over two and a half times the number of births of the 25-29 age group, which accounted for 13.9% of births. Amongst the groups at the two extremes, those under the age of 25 accounted for 5% of births, whilst those over 39 accounted for 8.6%.

Births outside of marriage accounted for 41.4% of the total, which was higher than the 40% for the same period of the previous year. The average age of mothers stood at 33.4: for married mothers it stood at 33.9; for single mothers it was 32.6, for divorcees it was 35.6 and for widows, a very small group consisting of only 4 women, the average age rose to 37 this quarter.

### ***Foreign mothers are 3.4 years younger than those with Spanish nationality***

Of the women who became mothers in the Basque Country in July, August and September 2015, 20.6% were foreign nationals. This percentage was only higher in Álava, where it stood at 27.3%, whereas in Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia the proportion of mothers with foreign nationality stood at 20.4% and 18.3%, respectively.

The age at which women became mothers varied according to their nationality. In fact, the average age of foreign mothers was 30.7, compared to 34.1 for mothers with Spanish nationality.

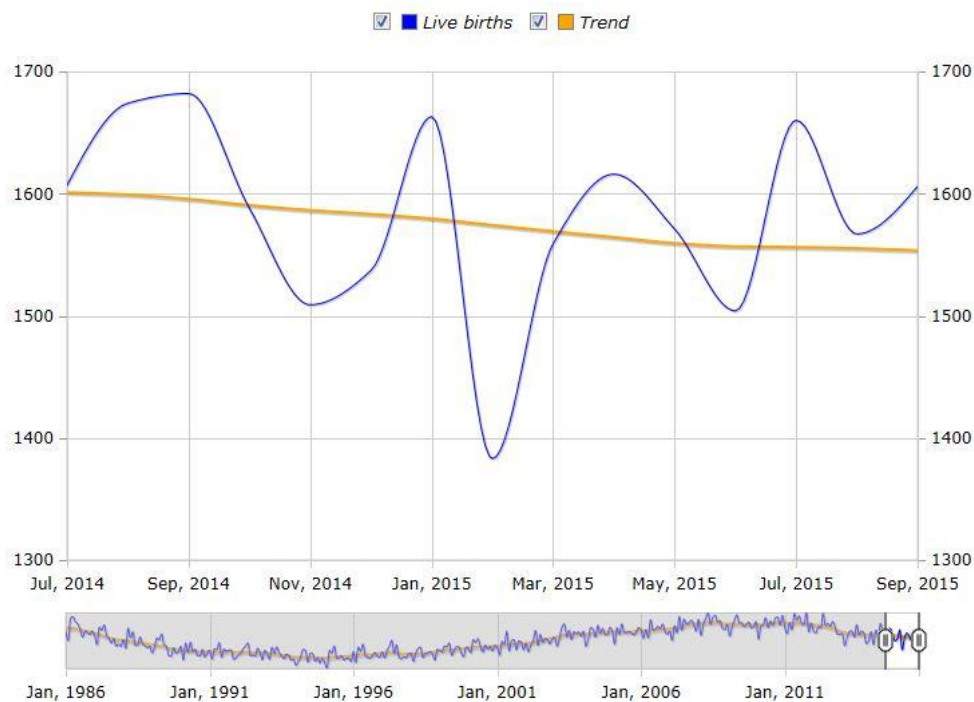
According to the order of birth, more than half (2,577 boys and girls) were first children in the summer months of 2015; 1,761 (36.4%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter and 10.2% were third or subsequent children.

The number of first-time mothers was down 3.7%, as was the number of mothers who had their second child (-3.9%), whereas for women who had their third or subsequent child there was an increase of 8.8%, all with respect to the same quarter of 2014.

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

	III/2015		Previous quarter (II/2015)		Same quarter the previous year (III/2014)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>4.833</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.691</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.963</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	828	17,1	771	16,4	848	17,1
Bizkaia	2.391	49,5	2.298	49,0	2.489	50,2
Gipuzkoa	1.614	33,4	1.622	34,6	1.626	32,8
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>4.833</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.691</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.963</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	240	5,0	217	4,6	306	6,2
25 - 29 years	672	13,9	648	13,8	659	13,3
30 - 34 years	1.784	36,9	1.788	38,1	1.876	37,8
35 - 39 years	1.719	35,6	1.672	35,6	1.742	35,1
≥ 40	418	8,6	366	7,8	380	7,7
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>4.833</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.691</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.963</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	2.832	58,6	2.775	59,2	2.977	60,0
Not married	2.001	41,4	1.916	40,8	1.986	40,0
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>	<b>4.833</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.691</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.963</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Spanish	3.839	79,4	3.833	81,7	4.028	81,2
Foreign	994	20,6	858	18,3	935	18,8
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>4.833</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.691</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.963</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.577	53,3	2.446	52,1	2.675	53,9
Second	1.761	36,4	1.800	38,4	1.833	36,9
Third or posterior	495	10,2	445	9,5	455	9,2

Source: Eustat. Birth statistics

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


Source: Eustat. Birth statistics

**For further information:**

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Further press releases on birth statistics of the Basque Country

Database on birth statistics of the Basque Country