

The average expenditure per household in the Basque Country in 2015 was similar to that of 2006

It exceeded 33,300 euros in 2015, and posted an increase of 4.7% compared with the previous year

Average household expenditure was 33,318 euros in 2015, 4.7% more than the previous year, and greater than the figure registered nine years before, in 2006, the year before the crisis, according to Eustat data. Expenditure was 21.5% higher than the Spanish average.

By expenditure group, Basque homes maintained the same average household spending in 2015 on *Housing, water, electricity and other fuels*, the largest category, with a growth of 3.9% with respect to the previous year, even though there was a significant increase (26.4%) compared to 2006. In second place in terms of category size, expenditure on *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, although it increased by 3.5% with respect to 2014, registered a fall of 1.2% with respect to 2006. Coming in third place, *Hotels, cafés and restaurants* saw an increase of 6.3% compared with the previous year, and a fall of 1.8% compared with 2006. Spending on *Transport* also fell sharply with respect to 2006 (-24.4%), though it increased compared with 2014 (5.3%).

Other expenditure categories recorded significant decreases compared with the period before the crisis, such as *Clothing and footwear* (-21.5%), *Furnishings and household equipment* (-22.1%) and *Leisure, entertainment and culture* (-20.0%). It is, however, worth highlighting the growth recorded by the categories *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (10.9%), *Health*(13.0%) and *Education* (31.5%) compared with 2006.

Table 1. Average expenditure per household by expenditure group (*) in the Basque Country (euros). 2006-2015

	2006	2014	2015	2015/2006 Δ %	2015/2014 Δ %
AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER HOME	33.120	31.829	33.318	0,6	4,7
01 Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4.665	4.452	4.608	-1,2	3,5
02 Alcoholic beverages, tobacco and narcotic	491	497	544	10,9	9,5
03 Clothing & footwear	2.097	1.652	1.646	-21,5	-0,4
04 Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	9.158	11.147	11.579	26,4	3,9
05 Furnishings, household equipment and routine equipment costs of the dwelling	1.761	1.304	1.372	-22,1	5,2
06 Healthcare	963	932	1.088	13,0	16,8
07 Transport	4.356	3.126	3.293	-24,4	5,3
08 Communication	805	839	854	6,1	1,8
09 Leisure, entertainment and culture	2.372	1.815	1.898	-20,0	4,6
10 Education	414	518	545	31,5	5,1
11 Hotels, cafés and restaurants	3.523	3.252	3.458	-1,8	6,3
12 Other goods and services	2.514	2.294	2.434	-3,2	6,1

* COICOP to 2 digits

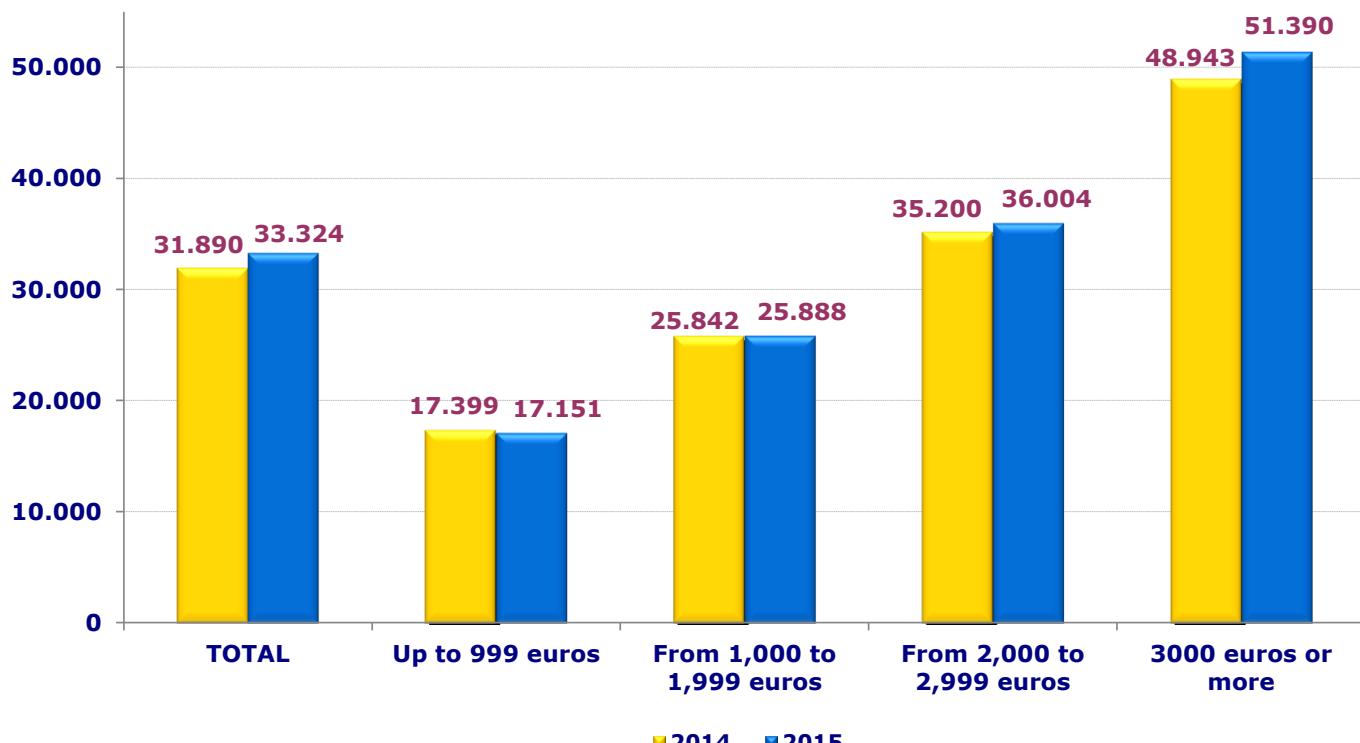
Source: Eustat. Family expenditure statistics

If we focus on the **structure of expenditure**, the three main expenditure groups in the consumption structure of Basque households in 2015 were *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels*, accounting for a total expenditure of 34.8%, followed by *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, at 13.8% and expenditure on *Hotels, cafés and restaurants* at 10.4%. Following these were *Transport* (9.9%), *Other goods and services* (7.3%) and *Clothes and Footwear* (4.9%). Since 2006, the type of expenditure in the budget of Basque households that has increased the most is housing expenditure, from 27.7% to 34.8%, i.e. by more than seven percentage points. Spending on *Transport*, however, decreased by more than three percentage points, from accounting for 13.2% of household spending 2006 to 9.9% in 2015, all of which is in current terms. Total expenditure on *Food* decreased slightly from 14.1% to 13.8%.

The **average expenditure per person** stood at 13,997 euros, with an increase in current euros of 5.1% compared to 2014. This was 27.7% greater than the figure for Spain as a whole, meaning it was the autonomous region with the highest average expenditure per person, with Madrid (12,678 euros) and Navarra (12,656) coming next.

In absolute terms, **total expenditure** on consumption in 2015 rose by 5.2% with respect to 2014, with different trends in the various expenditure groups. Thus, the two most significant groups in order of expenditure, *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* and *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* were up by 4.4% and 4.0% respectively. However, the level of total expenditure on *Hotels, cafés and restaurants* was up by 6.9%. All expenditure categories underwent an increase from the previous year, especially *Health*, which registered an increase of 17.3%.

Graph 1.- Average spending per household (*) in the Basque Country according to the level of net monthly income (euros). 2014-2015



(*) Households with income
 Source: Eustat. Family expenditure statistics

If we look at the average household expenditure **according to the level of net monthly household income**, significant differences can be seen between households with the lowest and the highest incomes. In 2015, in households with a monthly income below 1,000 euros there was an average annual expenditure per household of 17,151 euros, whilst households with a monthly income of 3,000 euros was practically triple this amount, with an annual expenditure of 51,390 euros.

With respect to 2014, there was only a decrease in average household expenditure in households with an income lower than 1,000 euros, with a decrease of 1.4%. Other households saw a slight rise in expenditure, the one exception being households with income greater than 2,999 euros, where expenditure increased by 5.0%.

If we observe expenditure **according to the geographical location of the family**, the largest average household expenditure was in municipalities of fewer than 10,000 inhabitants, with an expenditure of 34,422 euros per household, 3.3% above the average for the Autonomous Region. The lowest average expenditure per household (€32,447) was produced in households situated in municipalities of 100,000 or more inhabitants.

By **province**, families in Álava accounted for 14.2% of the total expenditure on consumption in the Basque Country in 2015, Bizkaia accounted for 53.2% of the total and Gipuzkoa 32.6%.

Note: The survey on family expenditure is carried out in collaboration with the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE).

For further information:

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