

## Births were down 2.1% in the first quarter of 2016 in the Basque Country

***44.9% of mothers were aged 35 or over and 42.2% of births were outside marriage***

In the first quarter of 2016 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 4,526, which was a drop of 2.1% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to Eustat data. By province, the number of births only decreased in Gipuzkoa (-11%); on the other hand, Álava saw an increase of 1.7% and Bizkaia 2.7%. This situation contrasts with the year before, when there was a decline in Álava (-5.2%) and Bizkaia (-5.1%), while in Gipuzkoa it remained steady (+0.2%), which may explain it to some extent. Specifically, in Álava 780 girls and boys were born, 2,324 were born in Bizkaia and 1,422 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, in which 36.7% of births took place. This group was followed by the group immediately above it (mothers aged 35-39), which accounted for 35.4% and was ahead of the 25-29 age group, although the latter only accounted for 13%.

With regards to the same quarter of 2015, the number of women who became mothers aged 40 or over rose, going from 396 in 2015 to 428 in 2016. The births from these women made up 9.5% of the total, exceeding the 5.4% of births by mothers younger than 25.

Births outside marriage accounted for 42.2% of the total, a figure 1.1 percentage points above that for the first quarter of 2015. Bizkaia, with 45.1%, was the only province to post higher figures than the Basque Country as a whole, whereas Álava posted 40% and Gipuzkoa 38.9%. The maternity age of this group was below that of the overall group of women that had children, given that 9.5% of them were under the age of 25.

According to the order of birth, in the first quarter of 2016 more than half of the births, 2,299 children, were first-born; 1,747 (38.6%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter, and the percentage of third or subsequent children stood at 10.6%.

### ***21.2% of mothers were foreign nationals***

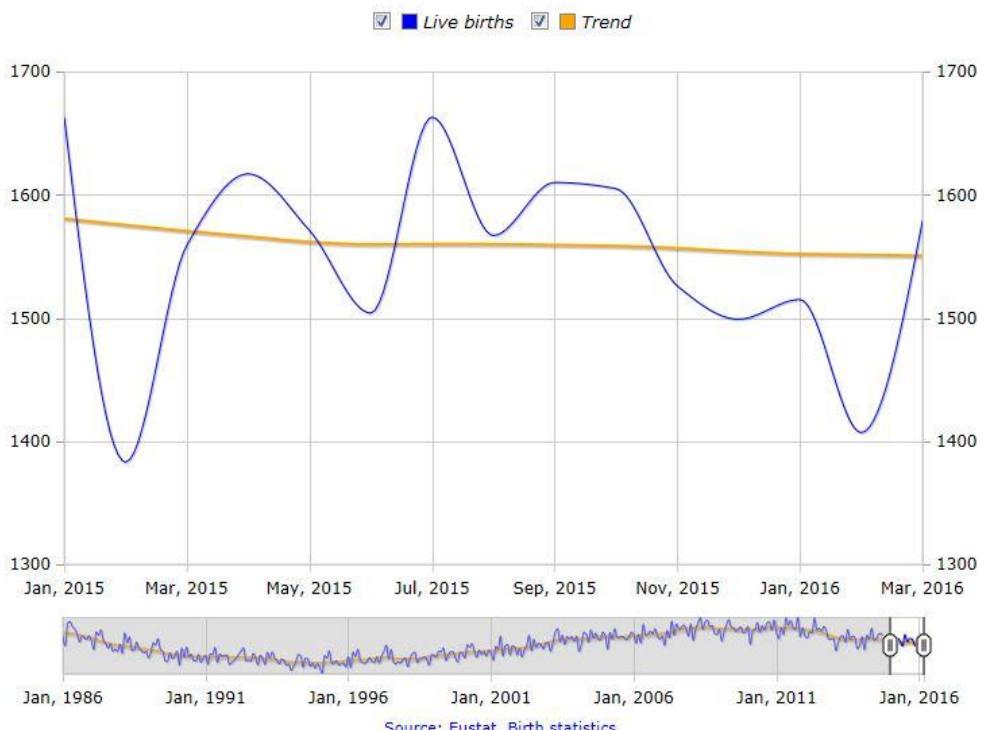
In 21.2% of births in the Basque Country during the first three months of 2016, the mother was a foreign national. This figure was higher in Álava where it stood at 27.9%, against 19.6% in Bizkaia and 20% in Gipuzkoa. There was also a growth in the number of foreign mothers of almost 1.6 percentage points with respect to the previous year.

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

	I/2016		Previous quarter (IV/2015)		Same quarter the previous year (I/2015)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>4.526</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.652</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.625</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	780	17,2	780	16,8	766	16,6
Bizkaia	2.324	51,3	2.358	50,7	2.262	48,9
Gipuzkoa	1.422	31,4	1.514	32,5	1.597	34,5
<b>According to age of mother</b>	<b>4.526</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.652</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.625</b>	<b>100,0</b>
≤ 24 years	245	5,4	273	5,9	255	5,5
25 - 29 years	590	13,0	586	12,6	602	13,0
30 - 34 years	1.662	36,7	1.758	37,8	1.763	38,1
35 - 39 years	1.601	35,4	1.622	34,9	1.609	34,8
≥ 40	428	9,5	413	8,9	396	8,6
<b>According to the marital status of the mother</b>	<b>4.526</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.652</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.625</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Married	2.614	57,8	2.654	57,1	2.725	58,9
Not married	1.912	42,2	1.998	42,9	1.900	41,1
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>	<b>4.526</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.652</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.625</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Spanish	3.568	78,8	3.688	79,3	3.720	80,4
Foreign	958	21,2	964	20,7	905	19,6
<b>Order of birth</b>	<b>4.526</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.652</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>4.625</b>	<b>100,0</b>
First	2.299	50,8	2.465	53,0	2.395	51,8
Second	1.747	38,6	1.694	36,4	1.796	38,8
Third or posterior	480	10,6	493	10,6	434	9,4

Source: Eustat. Birth statistics

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


**For further information:**

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Database on birth statistics of the Basque Country