

The unemployment rate dropped in three out of every four municipalities in the Basque Country in 2016, and was under 10% in 65

60.8% of working men had university studies or vocational training

In three out of every four municipalities in the Basque Country, 189 of the Basque Country's 251 municipalities, the unemployment rate of the resident population decreased in 2016, compared to the previous year, according to Eustat data. In 65 municipalities the unemployment rate was below 10%, most notably Orexa (1.7%), Gainza (3.7%) and Peñacerrada-Urizaharra (4.0%). On the other hand, in 59 other municipalities the unemployment rate exceeded the average and was especially high in Lanestosa (26.4%), Oyón-Oion (25.0%), Sestao (23.9%) and Karrantza Harana/Valle de Carranza (23.2%).

In general, the smallest municipalities had the lowest unemployment rates. Municipalities with fewer than 10,000 inhabitants had an unemployment rate of 13.7%, while it reached 14.6% for those between 10,000-40,000 and 17.4% for those between 40,000-100,000. Regarding the capitals, Bilbao had the highest at 18.7%, compared with 15.0% in Vitoria-Gasteiz and 12.4% in Donostia-San Sebastián.

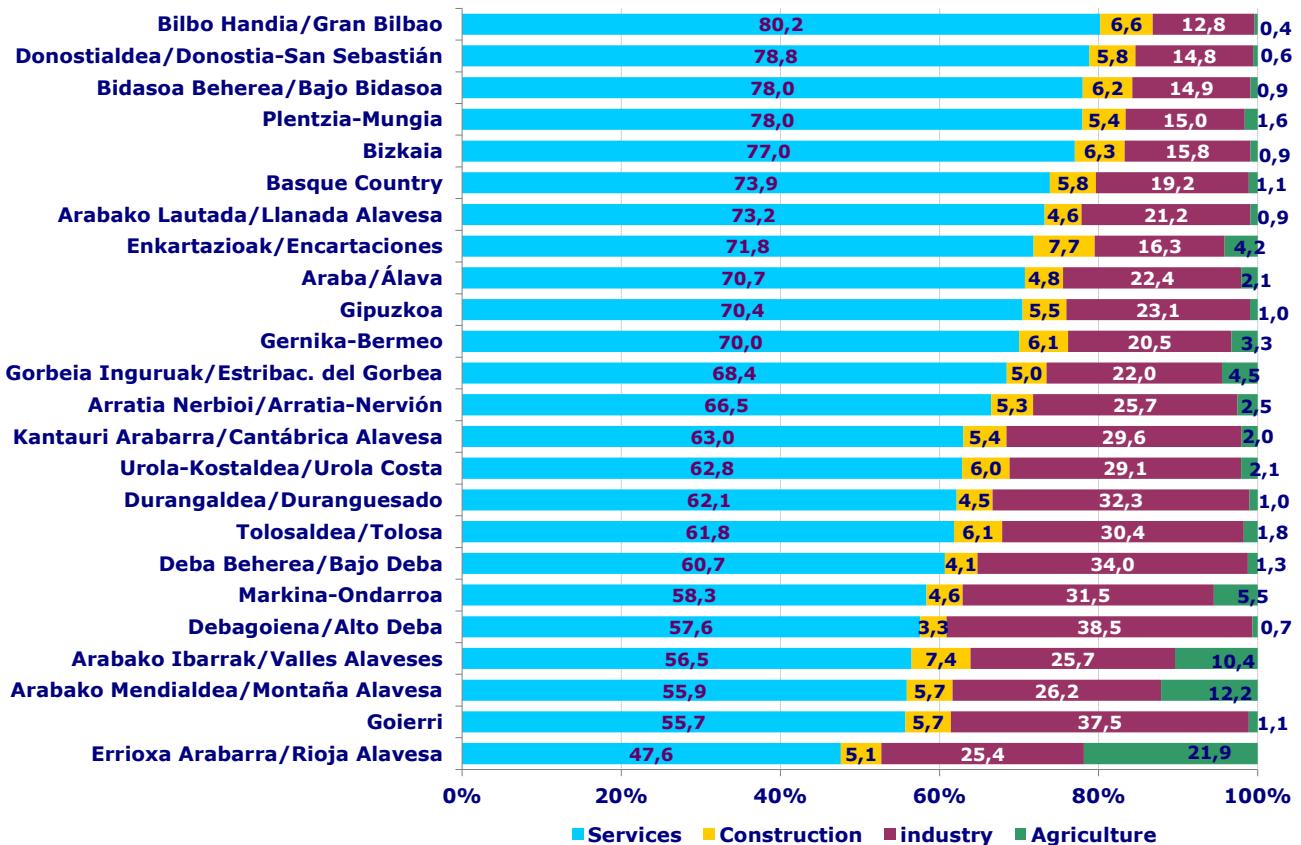
In relation to 2015, the unemployment rate was down in the four strata sizes. The greatest difference corresponds to municipalities with fewer than 40,000 inhabitants, which reduced their unemployment rate by 1 percentage point, while municipalities between 40,000-100,000 inhabitants registered the lowest reduction (-0.4 points).

As regards the situation in the regions, the unemployment rate fell in all regions except Encartaciones, where it was up 0.5 percentage points compared to the previous year. The regions with the lowest unemployment rate in the Basque Country were in Álava: Esteribaciones del Gorbea (10.1%) and Montaña Alavesa (10.4%). The regions with the highest unemployment rates were in Bizkaia: Encartaciones (19.6%) and Gran Bilbao (17.7%). With regards to the regions in Gipuzkoa, the vast majority had lower unemployment rates than the Basque Country average, except Bajo Bidasoa (16.3%).

The municipalities with the greatest number of people employed in industry were in Gipuzkoa, in agriculture in Álava and in construction and services in Bizkaia

In 2016, 73.9% of the employed population worked in services, 19.2% in industry, 5.8% in construction and 1.1% in agriculture.

By province, the differences are not so pronounced. In Álava and Gipuzkoa, the population employed in the industrial sector (22.4% and 23.1% respectively) was higher than that of Bizkaia (15.8%). In Bizkaia the population employed in the services sector (77%) was the highest of the three provinces: in Álava it was 70.7% and in Gipuzkoa 70.4%. Furthermore, in Álava there was a greater proportion in the primary sector (2.1%), compared to 0.9% in Bizkaia and 1% in Gipuzkoa.

Graph 1. Employed population aged 16 and over by economic sector (%). 2016


Source: Eustat. Municipal statistics on active population

By region, the most notable fact is the industrial specialisation of Alto Deba (38.5%) and Goierri (37.5%) and the agricultural specialisation of Rioja Alavesa (21.9%), whereas Gran Bilbao stands out in services (80.2%).

In any case, the most pronounced differences are at a municipal level. While in Navaridas, Baños de Ebro/Mañueta, Elvillar/Bilar, Yécora/Iekora and Villabuena de Álava/Eskuernaga only 2 out of every 10 people were employed in the services sector, in Getxo, Plentzia, Donostia/San Sebastián, Bilbao, Gorliz, Sopelana and others, this reached 8 out of every 10.

Municipalities in Gipuzkoa stood out for their high percentage of industrial employment, including Antzuola (46.5%), Oñati (46.3%), Ikastegieta (43.5%) and Eskoriatza (43.3%), among others, compared with municipalities in Bizkaia, including Lanestosa, Plencia, Barrika, Artzentales, Getxo and Bilbao, where only 1 out of every 10 people were employed in this sector.

On the other hand, the vast majority of municipalities with high employment in the agricultural sector were in Álava, notably Baños de Ebro/Mañueta, Yécora/Iekora, and Elvillar/Bilar, where half of the population worked in this sector.

The most significant in the construction sector was Beizama, with 22.6% of people employed in this sector, followed by Lanestosa and Añana, both with 18.5%.

The were stark differences between activity sectors in terms of the level of education of the employed population

In terms of the level of education, just over a third of the employed population in 2016 had university studies (36.6%), followed by those with vocational training (24.3%), and thirdly by those with primary studies (20%). By activity sector, the percentages changed significantly: the primary sector is dominated by workers with primary studies (43.7%), followed by those with vocational training qualifications (20.2%); most people working in Industry had vocational training (35.1%) and primary studies (21.8%); most workers in the construction sector had primary studies (34.1%) and a vocational qualification (27.6%). Finally, the most qualified workers were concentrated in the services sector, where 41.6% had higher university studies, 21.3% had vocational training and 18.6% had secondary studies.

Both activity and employment were very high among the population of foreign nationals

Among the foreign population aged 16 and over, the activity rate exceeded 64% in 2016 and the unemployment rate reached 35.5%, half a percentage point less than in 2015.

The female activity rate was 4.4 percentage points below that of men (61.9% compared to 66.3%) and the unemployment rate was 3.5 points lower (33.7% compared to 37.2%), the differences reducing in both cases with respect to 2015. By continent of origin, the highest unemployment rate was among people with the nationality of any country in Africa (60.7%), whereas for those from Asia it was more moderate (22.6%).

For further information:

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