

Births were down 11.1% in the first quarter of 2017 in the Basque Country

47.3% of mothers were aged 35 or over and 44.3% of births were outside marriage

In the first quarter of 2017 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 4,050, which was a drop of 11.1% compared to the same quarter of the previous year, according to Eustat data. The number of births decreased in two of the three provinces: in Bizkaia, the decrease was 15.3%, in Álava it was 8.6% and in Gipuzkoa there was a fall of 5.9%. Specifically, in Bizkaia 1,972 girls and boys were born, 713 were born in Álava and 1,365 in Gipuzkoa.

In the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, it is particularly noteworthy that the group of mothers aged 35-39 moved into first position, producing 36.8% of births. This group was followed by the group immediately below it (mothers aged 30-34), which accounted for 34.2%, and the 25-29 age group, although the latter only accounted for 12.6%.

With regards to the same quarter of 2016, the number of women who became mothers aged 40 or over decreased slightly, going from 429 in 2016 to 425 in 2017. The births from these women made up 10.5% of the total, exceeding the 5.9% of births by mothers younger than 25.

Births outside marriage accounted for 44.3% of the total, a figure 2 percentage points above that for the first quarter of 2016. Bizkaia, with 45.2%, was the only province to post higher figures than the Basque Country as a whole, whereas Álava posted 43.6% and Gipuzkoa 43.3%. The maternity age of this group was below that of the overall group of women that had children, given that 10.6% of them were under the age of 25.

According to the order of birth, in the first quarter of 2017 more than half of the births, 2,015 children, were first-born, which was 1.1 percentage points less than the previous year, following a drop of 13.1%; 1,584 (39.1%) arrived in families that already had another son or daughter, and the percentage of third or subsequent children stood at 11.1%.

22.9% of mothers were foreign nationals

In 22.9% of births in the Basque Country during the first three months of 2017, the mother was a foreign national. This figure was higher in Álava where it stood at 29.6%, against 21% in Bizkaia and 22.1% in Gipuzkoa. There was also a growth in the number of foreign mothers of almost 1.7 percentage points with respect to the previous year.

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

	I/2017		Previous quarter (IV/2016)		Same quarter the previous (I/2016)	
	Nº	%	Nº	%	Nº	%
Basque Country	4.050	100,0	4.387	100,0	4.557	100,0
Araba / Álava	713	17,6	772	17,6	780	17,1
Bizkaia	1.972	48,7	2.202	50,2	2.327	51,1
Gipuzkoa	1.365	33,7	1.413	32,2	1.450	31,8
According to age of mother	4.050	100,0	4.387	100,0	4.557	100,0
≤ 24 years	238	5,9	238	5,4	248	5,4
25 - 29 years	512	12,6	576	13,1	598	13,1
30 - 34 years	1.385	34,2	1.603	36,5	1.672	36,7
35 - 39 years	1.490	36,8	1.526	34,8	1.610	35,3
≥ 40	425	10,5	444	10,1	429	9,4
According to the marital status of the mother	4.049	100,0	4.387	100,0	4.557	100,0
Married	2.257	55,7	2.411	55,0	2.629	57,7
Not married	1.792	44,3	1.976	45,0	1.928	42,3
Nationality of the mother	4.050	100,0	4.387	100,0	4.557	100,0
Spanish	3.122	77,1	3.412	77,8	3.590	78,8
Foreign	928	22,9	975	22,2	967	21,2
Order of birth	4.050	100,0	4.387	100,0	4.557	100,0
First	2.015	49,8	2.281	52,0	2.320	50,9
Second	1.584	39,1	1.617	36,9	1.753	38,5
Third or posterior	451	11,1	489	11,1	484	10,6

Source: Eustat. Birth statistics

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For further information:

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