

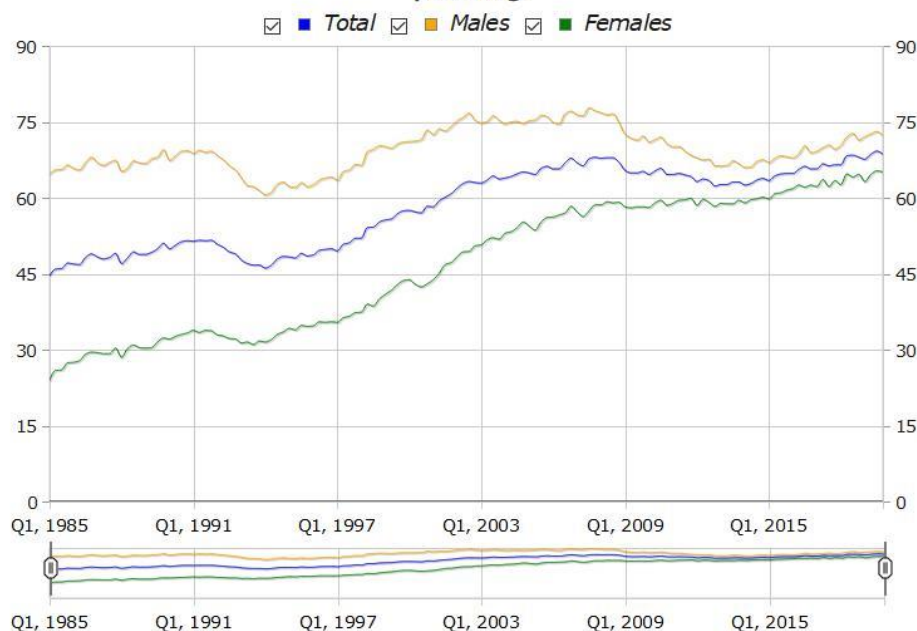
The unemployment rate stood at 9.3%, and the employment rate was down 1% in the fourth quarter of 2019 in the Basque Country

In the final quarter of the year, the year-on-year unemployment rate dropped one percentage point, from 10.3% in the fourth quarter of 2018 to 9.3% in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Basque Country labour market data for the fourth quarter of 2019 showed a figure of 945,500 individuals in work, which is a decrease of 9,600 compared to the previous quarter (-1%), according to Eustat data. There were an estimated 97,100 people out of work in the Basque Country in the fourth quarter of the year, unchanged in respect of the previous quarter. As a result, the highest growth this quarter in the Basque Country was in respect of the inactive population, which increased by 11,200 to stand at 797,400.

On the other hand, the unemployment rate of the Basque Country stood at 9.3%, 0.1 percentage points up on the third quarter of 2019. As a result of the change in the employed and unemployed population, the activity rate was 56.3% in the fourth quarter of 2019, 0.6 percentage points below that of the previous quarter.

Employment rate of the population aged between 16 and 64 in the Basque Country, by sex and quarter



Source: EUSTAT Population with relation to activity survey

By province and compared to the previous quarter, Bizkaia experienced the biggest fall in employment, with 8,300 fewer people in work; followed by Gipuzkoa, with a decrease of 2,100,

whilst in Álava there were 800 more employed people. With regards to the capitals, San Sebastián was the capital with the biggest fall in employment, with 1,200 fewer people in work, followed by Bilbao with 1,000 fewer; on the other hand, in Vitoria-Gasteiz, there were 1,400 more employed people.

In terms of gender, the decrease in the number of people in work most affected men, with 5,700 fewer in work than the previous quarter, whilst the number of women in work fell by 3,900.

With regards to nationality, the number of Spanish nationals in work was down by 10,600, whilst the number of foreign nationals in work increased by 1,000.

Employment fell across all sectors

The employed population in the Basque Country was down by 5,400 in the services sector, by 2,100 in the construction sector, by 1,800 in agriculture and by 400 in industry.

The employment rate, calculated as the percentage of people in work aged 16 to 64 over the total for these ages, fell by 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous quarter, standing at 68.6%. This figure reached 72.2% for men and 65.1% for women.

With regards to the level of education completed, the employment rate decreased by 1.9 percentage points among people who had completed secondary education, reaching 60.6%; it rose by 0.2 percentage points (83.8%) among those who had completed higher education, and the employment rate among people educated to primary school level or lower increased by 0.8 percentage points, standing at 61%.

As regards nationality, the highest employment rate was recorded amongst Spanish nationals, with 69.6%, whereas for foreign nationals it stood at 59%.

By province, Gipuzkoa had the highest employment rate, at 70.9%, a decrease of 0.6 percentage points compared to the previous quarter. Álava came second with 70.6% and a decrease of 0.6 points, and in Bizkaia, the employment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points to stand at 66.7%.

The number of households with all active individuals in work rose by 5,000

In the fourth quarter of 2019 it was estimated that there were 893,800 households in the Basque Country, of which a third did not have any active individuals. In six out of every ten households, all of the active individuals were in work, 5,000 families fewer than in the previous quarter; furthermore, households where all active individuals were unemployed stood at 29,900, 1,800 households more than the previous quarter.

The fourth quarter of 2019 revealed an unemployment rate of 9.3%, 0.1 percentage points more than the previous quarter

The unemployed population in the Basque Country, that is, individuals who are available for work, actively making enquiries and seeking employment, was estimated to be 97,100 in the fourth quarter of the year, unchanged in respect of the previous quarter. The number of unemployed men, 46,100, was down by 1,300, whilst the number of unemployed women increased by 1,200, reaching a total of 51,000 for the quarter.

The data for the fourth quarter of 2019 revealed an unemployment rate of 9.3%, 0.1 percentage points more than the previous quarter. The male unemployment rate stood at 8.5% (down 0.1 percentage points) and the female rate was up 0.3 percentage points, reaching 10.2%. By age, the youth unemployment rate continued to be the highest, standing at 22.4%, an increase of 2.3 percentage points compared to the previous quarter.

As regards the level of education, the unemployment rate decreased among people whose highest level of education completed was primary education or higher education with a fall of 0.8 and 0.4 percentage points, reaching 13.2% and 5.6% respectively. In contrast, the unemployment rate for people who had completed secondary education increased by 1.2 percentage points, reaching 10.9%.

Unemployment was down among foreign nationals (900 fewer than in the previous quarter), the number of unemployed people standing at 20,400, whereas among Spanish nationals unemployment has increased by 800, the number of unemployed people standing at 76,700.

By province, there were 500 fewer people out of work in Álava, where the unemployment rate stood at 9.8%, 0.4 percentage points down on the previous quarter. In contrast, in Bizkaia, which has 56,700 people out of work, unemployment rose by 100 and the unemployment rate by 0.1 percentage points, reaching 10.5%; in Gipuzkoa unemployment rose by 400 people compared to the previous quarter and the unemployment rate was up 0.1 percentage points, standing at 7.1%.

As regards the capitals, unemployment was down in all of them: by 2,100 people in Bilbao, 1,000 in Vitoria-Gasteiz and 900 in San Sebastián.

According to EUROSTAT, the Statistical Office of the European Union, in November 2019 the unemployment rate of the European Union-28 stood at 6.3% and that of Spain stood at 14.1%.

In the last year, the number of employed people increased by 0.9% and the unemployment rate dropped from 10.3% to 9.3%.

The employed population in the Basque Country grew by 8,100 people in relation to the fourth quarter of 2018, an increase of 0.9%. The unemployment rate was down 1 percentage point (from 10.3% to 9.3%), with 10,200 fewer people unemployed in the Basque Country compared to the fourth quarter of 2018.

98.4% of average registered workers were in work, according to ILO criteria

It is estimated that there were 878,600 registered workers for the quarter on average in the Basque Country, i.e. the number of people residing in the Basque Country who were registered for Social Security at the time of the survey. Of those, the PRA estimates that 98.4% were employed, according to criteria from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), a total of 864,400 individuals.

Amongst those employed according to ILO criteria in the PRA, 67,900 people, 7.2%, were not registered in the Social Security system, either because they did not work for companies based in the Basque Country, or they belonged to public mutual societies for civil servants, or are in other situations.

32.2% of those unemployed were not registered as unemployed with the Basque Employment Institute (Lanbide)

It is estimated that there was a quarterly average of 96,900 unemployed people registered with Lanbide, i.e. people residing in the Basque Country who were registered in Lanbide at the time of the survey in any one of the categories designated for registered unemployment. Of those, 63.7% were unemployed according to the ILO definition (61,800 people). Of the individuals unemployed according to the ILO definition in the PRA, 32.2% were not registered as unemployed with Lanbide (31,300 individuals), even though they may be registered under other categories of job seekers.

ANNUAL BALANCE 2019

In 2019, on average, there were 11,100 more people in work, and 7,200 fewer unemployed people and the average unemployment rate was 9.6%, seven tenths down on the 2018 average.

Basque Country labour market data for 2019 showed an improvement in employment and a reduction in the number of people out of work. Specifically, the average number of employed people rose up 11,100 and the number of unemployed people fell by 7,200, on average.

This increase in employment occurred in the case of both men (+6,100) and women (+5,100) and in the three provinces: there were 1,700 more people in work in Álava, 4,000 more in Bizkaia and 5,300 more in Gipuzkoa.

The reduction in the number of people out of work, on average, stood at 4,700 among men and 2,500 among women, whereas in the provinces it varied between the 700 fewer unemployed people in Álava and the 4,100 fewer in Bizkaia, whereas in Gipuzkoa there were 2,400 fewer people out of work.

With these average evolutions in the numbers of employed and unemployed people, the average unemployment rate in the Basque Country stood at 9.6%, seven tenths down on the previous year. Gipuzkoa boasts a below average unemployment rate of 7.2%, seven tenths down on the previous year and the other two provinces exceed the average: Álava with 10.3% was five tenths down on the previous year, and Bizkaia had an unemployment rate of 10.9%, a reduction of seven tenths compared to the previous year.

The average activity rate in 2019, 56.6%, was practically unchanged in respect of the previous year, with few changes in the case of both men and women; for men it improved by 1 percentage point, standing at 61.6%, and for women it remained unchanged at 52.0% on average in 2019.

Population in relation to Activity in the Basque Country (1). IV/2019

	IV/ 2019	III/ 2019	Variation over previous quarter	
	Thousand	Thousand	Thousand	%
POPULATION AGED 16 AND OVER	1.851,2	1.849,6	+1,6	0,1
ACTIVE POPULATION	1.042,6	1.052,2	-9,6	-0,9
Males	542,9	549,8	-6,9	-1,3
Females	499,7	502,4	-2,7	-0,5
Araba/Álava	162,5	162,1	+0,4	+0,2
Bizkaia	538,2	546,5	-8,3	-1,5
Gipuzkoa	341,9	343,6	-1,7	-0,5
Vitoria-Gasteiz	123,1	122,6	+0,5	+0,4
Bilbao	157,1	160,2	-3,1	-1,9
Donostia / San Sebastián	82,5	84,7	-2,2	-2,6
Other Municipalities	679,9	684,7	-4,8	-0,7
Spanish nationality	951,0	960,7	-9,7	-1,0
Foreign nationality	91,6	91,6	+0,0	+0,0
EMPLOYED POPULATION	945,5	955,1	-9,6	-1,0
Males	496,8	502,5	-5,7	-1,1
Females	448,7	452,6	-3,9	-0,9
Araba/Álava	146,5	145,7	+0,8	+0,5
Bizkaia	481,5	489,8	-8,3	-1,7
Gipuzkoa	317,5	319,6	-2,1	-0,7
Vitoria-Gasteiz	110,9	109,5	+1,4	+1,3
Bilbao	138,4	139,4	-1,0	-0,7
Donostia / San Sebastián	77,5	78,7	-1,2	-1,5
Other Municipalities	618,6	627,4	-8,8	-1,4
Spanish nationality	874,2	884,8	-10,6	-1,2
Foreign nationality	71,3	70,3	+1,0	+1,4
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8,4	10,2	-1,8	-17,6
Industry	202,5	202,9	-0,4	-0,2
Construction	49,0	51,1	-2,1	-4,1
Services	685,5	690,9	-5,4	-0,8
Wage earners	766,1	772,9	-6,8	-0,9
- With permanent contract	523,8	527,4	-3,6	-0,7
- With temporary contract and without contract	242,3	245,4	-3,1	-1,3
Non-wage earners	179,4	182,2	-2,8	-1,5
UNEMPLOYED POPULATION	97,1	97,1	+0,0	+0,0
Males	46,1	47,4	-1,3	-2,7
Females	51,0	49,8	+1,2	+2,4
16 - 24	9,5	9,9	-0,4	-4,0
25 - 44	49,8	45,4	+4,4	+9,7
45 and over	37,8	41,8	-4,0	-9,6
Araba/Álava	16,0	16,5	-0,5	-3,0
Bizkaia	56,7	56,6	+0,1	+0,2
Gipuzkoa	24,4	24,0	+0,4	+1,7
Vitoria-Gasteiz	12,1	13,1	-1,0	-7,6
Bilbao	18,7	20,8	-2,1	-10,1
Donostia / San Sebastián	5,1	6,0	-0,9	-15,0
Other Municipalities	61,3	57,3	+4,0	+7,0
Spanish nationality	76,7	75,9	+0,8	+1,1
Foreign nationality	20,4	21,3	-0,9	-4,2
INACTIVE POPULATION	808,6	797,4	+11,2	+1,4
HOUSEHOLDS	893,8	893,2	+0,6	+0,1
Households with 1 or more active	606,8	610,1	-3,3	-0,5
- All employed	531,2	536,2	-5,0	-0,9
- All unemployed	29,9	28,1	+1,8	+6,4
Households without active members	286,9	283,1	+3,8	+1,3

(1) The data for the current year are provisional and the previous year have been revised with the updating of the population based on January 1 of that year

Source: Eustat. Survey on the population in relation to activity

Population in relation to Activity in the Basque Country. Main rates (1). IV/2019

	IV/2019	III/2019	Variation over previous quarter (p.p.*)
ACTIVITY RATE	56,3	56,9	-0,6
Males	61,1	61,9	-0,8
Females	51,9	52,2	-0,3
Araba/Álava	59,3	59,3	+0,0
Bizkaia	55,2	56,1	-0,9
Gipuzkoa	56,8	57,1	-0,3
Vitoria-Gasteiz	60,1	60,0	+0,1
Bilbao	53,2	54,3	-1,1
Donostia / San Sebastián	53,2	54,5	-1,3
Other Municipalities	56,8	57,3	-0,5
Spanish nationality	55,1	55,7	-0,6
Foreign nationality	73,6	73,5	+0,1
EMPLOYMENT RATE (aged 16 to 64)	68,6	69,2	-0,6
Males	72,2	73,1	-0,9
Females	65,1	65,3	-0,2
Araba/Álava	70,6	70,0	+0,6
Bizkaia	66,7	67,5	-0,8
Gipuzkoa	70,9	71,5	-0,6
Vitoria-Gasteiz	71,7	70,6	+1,1
Bilbao	65,0	64,6	+0,4
Donostia / San Sebastián	69,3	70,4	-1,1
Other Municipalities	68,9	69,9	-1,0
Spanish nationality	69,6	70,3	-0,7
Foreign nationality	59,0	57,8	+1,2
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	9,3	9,2	+0,1
Males	8,5	8,6	-0,1
Females	10,2	9,9	+0,3
16 - 24	22,4	20,1	+2,3
25 - 44	10,3	9,4	+0,9
45 and over	7,3	8,1	-0,8
Araba/Álava	9,8	10,2	-0,4
Bizkaia	10,5	10,4	+0,1
Gipuzkoa	7,1	7,0	+0,1
Vitoria-Gasteiz	9,9	10,7	-0,8
Bilbao	11,9	13,0	-1,1
Donostia / San Sebastián	6,1	7,0	-0,9
Other Municipalities	9,0	8,4	+0,6
Spanish nationality	8,1	7,9	+0,2
Foreign nationality	22,2	23,2	-1,0
INACTIVITY RATE	43,7	43,1	+0,6

*p.p. = Difference in percentage points

the updating of the population based on January 1 of that year

Source: Eustat. Survey on the population in relation to activity

Population with relation to activity (1). Annual average

	Annual average 2019		Annual average 2018		Variation	
	Miles	%	Miles	%	Miles	p.p.*
POPULATION AGED 16 OR OVER	1.848,1		1.842,8		5,3	
Males	886,9		885,4		1,5	
Females	961,2		957,4		3,8	
Araba/Álava	273,3		271,6		1,7	
Bizkaia	973,4		971,2		2,2	
Gipuzkoa	601,4		599,9		1,5	
ACTIVE POPULATION AGED 16 OR OVER/ ACTIVITY RATE	1.046,6	56,6	1.042,6	56,6	4,0	0,0
Males	546,3	61,6	544,9	61,5	1,4	0,1
Females	500,3	52,0	497,7	52,0	2,6	0,0
Araba/Álava	161,3	59,0	160,3	59,0	1,0	0,0
Bizkaia	544,5	55,9	544,5	56,1	0,0	-0,2
Gipuzkoa	340,8	56,7	337,8	56,3	3,0	0,4
EMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 16 OR OVER/ EMPLOYMENT RATE OF AGED 16 TO 64	946,2	68,5	935,1	67,8	11,1	0,7
Males	498,6	72,5	492,5	71,6	6,1	0,9
Females	447,7	64,6	442,6	64,0	5,1	0,6
Araba/Álava	144,7	69,3	143,0	68,8	1,7	0,5
Bizkaia	485,2	67,0	481,2	66,5	4,0	0,5
Gipuzkoa	316,3	70,5	311,0	69,4	5,3	1,1
UNEMPLOYED POPULATION AGED 16 OR OVER/ UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	100,3	9,6	107,5	10,3	-7,2	-0,7
Males	47,7	8,7	52,4	9,6	-4,7	-0,9
Females	52,6	10,5	55,1	11,1	-2,5	-0,6
Araba/Álava	16,6	10,3	17,3	10,8	-0,7	-0,5
Bizkaia	59,2	10,9	63,3	11,6	-4,1	-0,7
Gipuzkoa	24,5	7,2	26,9	7,9	-2,4	-0,7
INACTIVE POPULATION AGED 16 OR OVER/ INACTIVITY RATE	801,5	43,4	800,1	43,4	1,4	0,0
Males	340,6	38,4	340,4	38,5	0,2	-0,1
Females	460,9	48,0	459,7	48,0	1,2	0,0
Araba/Álava	112,0	41,0	111,4	41,0	0,6	0,0
Bizkaia	429,0	44,1	426,7	43,9	2,3	0,2
Gipuzkoa	260,6	43,3	262,0	43,7	-1,4	-0,4

p.p.* = Difference in percentage points

(1) The data for the current year are provisional and the previous year have been revised with the

Source: Eustat. Survey on the population in relation to activity

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