

Average expenditure per household in the Basque Country fell by 8.5% in 2020

38.8% of Basque households made purchases online in 2020, over 15 points higher than 4 years earlier

Average household expenditure was 31,498 euros in 2020, 8.5% lower than the previous year, according to Eustat data.

These results should be analysed in the social and economic context arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, as there has been an upward trend in household expenditure in the Basque Country over the last five years.

Total expenditure and structure of expenditure by expenditure group (*) of households in the Basque Country. 2019-2020

	Total expenditure (Thousands of euros)			Estructura del gasto (%)	
	2019	2020	2020/2019 Δ%	2019	2020
TOTAL	31.371.878	28.765.378	-8,3	100,0	100,0
01 T Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4.286.875	4.680.955	9,2	13,7	16,3
02 T Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	397.041	494.894	24,6	1,3	1,7
03 T Clothes and shoes	1.412.996	1.078.050	-23,7	4,5	3,8
04 T Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10.677.287	11.036.593	3,4	34,0	38,4
05 T Furniture, household articles and articles for day-to-day household maintenance	1.350.616	1.227.749	-9,1	4,3	4,3
06 T Health	1.095.608	929.638	-15,1	3,5	3,2
07 T Transportation	3.364.929	2.622.318	-22,1	10,7	9,1
08 T Communications	894.425	893.018	-0,2	2,9	3,1
09 T Leisure and culture	1.607.515	1.135.443	-29,4	5,1	4,0
10 T Education	561.362	508.602	-9,4	1,8	1,8
11 T Restaurants and hotels	3.423.261	2.045.889	-40,2	10,9	7,1
12 T Other goods and services	2.299.964	2.112.228	-8,2	7,3	7,3

(*) ECOICOP/EGF to 2 digits

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

The highest growth in total expenditure occurred in the Alcoholic beverages and tobacco group, with an annual increase of 24.6%

In absolute terms, **total expenditure** on consumption amounted to 28,765 million euros in 2020, 8.3% higher than 2019, with different trends in the various expenditure groups. As regards the two most significant groups in terms of expenditure volume, expenditure undertaken in *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* increased by 3.4%; and *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* registered a growth of 9.2%. The increase in household consumption expenditure on *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* rose by 24.6% compared to 2019, possibly as a consequence of the restrictions in effect for hospitality establishments.

Total expenditure in the other expenditure groups fell in comparison with the previous year, most notably expenditure on *Restaurants and hotels*, with a 40.2% decrease, resulting in a reduction of 1,377 million euros in the level of expenditure at current prices for 2020. Next in importance were expenditure on *Leisure and culture* with a drop of 29.4%, *Clothing and footwear* (-23.7%) and Transport (-22.1%).

Average household expenditure by expenditure groups shows similar trends. The only expenditure groups that increased in comparison with 2019 were *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco*, with a 24.4% rise, *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (9.0%) and *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (3.2%).

In contrast, the average expenditures per household that fell the most compared to the previous year were *Restaurants and hotels* (-40.4%), *Leisure and culture* (-29.5%), *Clothing and footwear* (-23.9%), *Transport* (-22.2%) and expenditure on *Healthcare* (-15.3%).

Average expenditure per household and structure of expenditure by expenditure group (*) of households in the Basque Country. 2019-2020

	Average expenditure per home (euro)			Percentage distribution (%)	
	2019	2020	2020/2019 Δ%	2019	2020
TOTAL	34.423	31.498	-8,5	100,0	100,0
01 T Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4.704	5.126	9,0	13,7	16,3
02 T Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	436	542	24,4	1,3	1,7
03 T Clothes and shoes	1.550	1.180	-23,9	4,5	3,8
04 T Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	11.716	12.085	3,2	34,0	38,4
05 T Furniture, household articles and articles for day-to-day household maintenance	1.482	1.344	-9,3	4,3	4,3
06 T Health	1.202	1.018	-15,3	3,5	3,2
07 T Transportation	3.692	2.871	-22,2	10,7	9,1
08 T Communications	981	978	-0,4	2,9	3,1
09 T Leisure and culture	1.764	1.243	-29,5	5,1	4,0
10 T Education	616	557	-9,6	1,8	1,8
11 T Restaurants and hotels	3.756	2.240	-40,4	10,9	7,1
12 T Other goods and services	2.524	2.313	-8,4	7,3	7,3

(*) ECOICOP/EGF to 2 digits

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

The greatest expenditure for Basque households continues to be Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels, which gained ground and accounted for 38.4% of the total

As regards **pattern of expenditure**, *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* remained the largest expenditure for Basque homes in 2020 at 38.4%, a rise of 4.4 percentage points on the previous year. The second highest, expenditure on *Food and non-alcoholic beverages*, at 16.3%, also increased by 2.6 percentage points compared to the previous period. Expenditure on both groups accounted for more than half of the total household budget in 2020, comprising 54.7%, compared to 47.7% in 2019.

It is worth highlighting the decrease in expenditure on *Restaurants and hotels* in the total household budget, which represented 7.1% of the overall budget compared to 10.9% in 2019, a fall of 3.8 percentage points. The group with the next biggest drop, compared to the previous year, was expenditure on *Transport*, which fell from 10.7% in 2019 to 9.1% of the total budget in 2020.

Expenditure by province

By **province**, families in **Álava** undertook 13.9% of the total consumption expenditure in the Basque Country in 2020, Bizkaia accounted for 51.8% of the expenditure and Gipuzkoa 34.3%.

Average expenditure per household (euros) by expenditure group (*) according to province of the Basque Country. 2019-2020

	Araba/Álava			Bizkaia			Gipuzkoa		
	2019	2020	Δ%	2019	2020	Δ%	2019	2020	Δ%
TOTAL	31.103	28.580	-8,1	34.608	31.113	-10,1	35.679	33.508	-6,1
01 T Food and non-alcoholic beverages	4.335	4.989	15,1	4.595	4.923	7,1	5.053	5.521	9,3
02 T Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	372	432	16,2	479	530	10,8	396	613	54,9
03 T Clothes and shoes	1.532	1.302	-15,0	1.486	1.042	-29,9	1.664	1.348	-19,0
04 T Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels	10.393	10.648	2,5	12.052	12.335	2,3	11.789	12.359	4,8
05 T Furniture, household articles and articles for day-to-day household maintenance	1.037	1.076	3,8	1.580	1.390	-12,1	1.531	1.398	-8,7
06 T Health	1.260	1.072	-15,0	1.086	956	-12,0	1.364	1.094	-19,8
07 T Transportation	3.552	2.472	-30,4	3.436	2.535	-26,2	4.174	3.609	-13,5
08 T Communications	925	916	-1,0	949	960	1,2	1.061	1.036	-2,3
09 T Leisure and culture	1.900	1.267	-33,3	1.742	1.241	-28,8	1.735	1.236	-28,8
10 T Education	383	369	-3,6	605	549	-9,3	743	659	-11,2
11 T Restaurants and hotels	3.314	2.163	-34,7	3.833	2.228	-41,9	3.839	2.296	-40,2
12 T Other goods and services	2.100	1.873	-10,8	2.765	2.425	-12,3	2.331	2.339	0,3

(*) ECOICOP/EGF to 2 digits

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

The highest average expenditure per household was registered in households in Gipuzkoa

Households in **Gipuzkoa** registered the highest average expenditure per household (an average of 33,508 euros per year per household), 6.4% higher than the Basque Country average (31,498), but with a 6.1% decrease in average expenditure per household in the province compared to 2019. This drop was primarily due a decrease in expenditure on *Restaurants and hotels* (-40.2%), *Leisure and culture* (-28.8%), *Clothing and footwear* (-19.0%) and *Transport* (-13.5%). In contrast, there was a rise in average expenditure per household on *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (54.9%), *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (9.3%) and *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (4.8%), the last of which was the most significant group as regards expenditure volume.

In Bizkaia, average expenditure per household was 31,113 euros, 1.2% below the average for the Basque Country. Compared to the previous year, the average expenditure per household in the province fell by 10.1%. As is the case in Gipuzkoa, this drop corresponds primarily to the expenditure groups *Restaurants and hotels* (-41.9%), *Clothing and footwear* (-29.9%), *Leisure and culture* (-28.8%) and *Transport* (-26.2%). Likewise, the groups that increased were *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (10.8%), *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (7.1%), *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (2.3%) and *Communications* (1.2%).

For its part, the province of **Álava** registered the lowest average expenditure per household (28,580 euros), 9.3% below the Basque Country average, with an 8.1% drop compared to the data for 2019. As occurred in the other provinces, the same groups were responsible for the fall in expenditure, that is, *Restaurants and hotels* (-34.7%), *Leisure and culture* (-33.3%), *Transport* (-30.4%) and *Clothing and footwear* (-15.0%). The expenditure groups that grew in 2020 were, in order of significance in the level of expenditure, *Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels* (2.5%), *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (15.1%), *Furniture, household items and routine household maintenance items* (3.8%) and *Alcoholic beverages and tobacco* (16.2%).

Expenditure online

An increasingly significant part of household consumption expenditure is undertaken **online**, comprising 4.7% of total household spending in the Basque Country in 2020 and accounting for 1,346 million euros. According to the pattern of expenditure on goods and services purchased online, the *Leisure and culture* expenditure group accounted for 21.7%, with noteworthy expenditure on *Audiovisual, photographic and information processing equipment* within this group. The next largest groups were *Food and non-alcoholic beverages* (17.8%), *Clothing and footwear* (16.8%) and *Restaurants and hotels* (16.6%). Within this last group, it is worth highlighting the decrease in *Accommodation services* purchased online, which represented 93.5% of the group in

2019 and fell to 68.1% in 2020. Consequently, *Catering* services gained ground, increasing from 6.5% of online expenditure in this group to 31.9% in 2020.

Evolution of the average expenses (euros) and percentage distribution of households in the Basque Country that make purchases through the Internet. 2016-2020

	Percentage of households spending on the Internet	Average internet spending	Percentage of internet spending
2020	38,8	3.798	10,1
2019	37,0	3.608	8,5
2018	35,3	4.191	10,1
2017	29,8	4.178	10,0
2016	23,1	4.169	9,5

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

As regards the trend in online expenditure, we can see that the percentage of households that made purchases on the internet has continued to rise since 2016 and stands at 38.8% of all households in the Basque Country in 2020. Basque households that made purchases online in 2020 undertook 10.1% of their total expenditure on the internet, spending an average of 3,798 euros per household.

Consumer spending according to household characteristics

An analysis of household expenditure in the Basque Country, according to various classification variables for the household and its members, reveals a socio-economic interpretation of the data.

With regard to **household size**, *1 member* households had an **average expenditure per person** of 20,459 euros in 2020, 54.0% above the average for the Basque Country. *2 member* households stood 17.6% above the average, with an average expenditure per person of 15,623 euros. In contrast, households with *3 members* (11,785 euros) and *4 or more members* (10,237 euros), were below average with 11.3% and 23.0%, respectively.

Total expenditure and average expenditure of the Basque Country expenditure by household size. 2020

	Total expenditure (Thousands of euros)	Average expenditure per home (euros)	Average expenditure per person (euros)
TOTAL	28.765.378	31.498	13.289
1 member	5.301.122	20.459	20.459
2 members	9.073.545	31.245	15.623
3 members	6.319.658	35.354	11.785
4 members and more	8.071.052	43.633	10.237

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

According to **main household income source**, households whose main source of income is *self-employment and income from property and capital* registered the greatest average expenditure in 2020 at 38,895 euros, 23.3% higher than the average expenditure per household in the Basque Country. The next highest was households whose main source of income was *employed work*, at 33,810 euros. Lastly, households whose main source of income was *pensions, benefits and other*

payments and regular income registered an average expenditure per household of 27,490 euros, 12.8% below the Basque Country average.

Total expenditure and average expenditure of the Basque Country by the household's main source of income. 2020

	Total expenditure (Thousands of euros)	Average expenditure per home (euros)	Average expenditure per person (euros)
TOTAL	28.504.862	31.538	13.312
Self-employment and income from property and capital	2.813.032	38.895	14.103
Paid employment	15.162.035	33.810	12.520
Pensions, allowances and other benefits and regular income	10.529.795	27.490	14.409

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

With regarding to household expenditure according to the **situation arising from the activity of the primary breadwinner**, in households where the primary breadwinner was active in 2020, average household expenditure was 33,464 euros, 6.2% above the average for the Basque Country. In contrast, in households where the primary breadwinner was inactive, the average expenditure was 28,227 euros, 10.4% below the average.

Total expenditure and average expenditure of the Basque Country by situation in the activity of the main sustainer. 2020

	Total expenditure (Thousands of euros)	Average expenditure per home (euros)	Average expenditure per person (euros)
TOTAL	28.765.378	31.498	13.289
Active	19.088.457	33.464	12.484
Inactive	9.676.920	28.227	15.225

Source: Eustat. Family expenditure survey

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

For further information:

Euskal Estatistika-Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute
C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz
[Press Service:servicioprensa@eustat.es](mailto:servicioprensa@eustat.es) Tel: 945 01 75 62