

The number of people working in cooperatives reached 54,000, 5.9% of employment in the Basque Country

More than 50% of employment in cooperatives is in Gipuzkoa

There are 1,856 cooperatives in the Basque Country, distributed in 2,741 establishments representing 1.6% of the total, according to Eustat data. These companies employ more than 54,000 people, equivalent to 5.9% of total employment in the Basque Country. In addition, in 2021, they attained net sales of over 8,000 million euros.

In the distribution of establishments by province, Bizkaia accounted for 43.4%, Gipuzkoa for 42.4% and Álava for 14.2%. However, in terms of employment, Gipuzkoa is noteworthy, accounting for 53.9% of the total, followed by Gipuzkoa with 36.6% and Álava with 9.5%.

By sector and in relation to the number of establishments, the *Trade and Repairs* sector stands out, with 18.6% of the total, followed by the *Manufacturing Industry* with 12.2% and *Professional, Scientific and Technical Activities* with 11.8%.

Establishments and employed persons in cooperatives in the Basque Country by branch of activity (A21) according to sex. 01/01/2022

	Establishments	Individuals employed	Men (%)	Women (%)
Total	2,741	54,196	52.1	47.9
A. Agriculture, livestock, forestry and fishing	36	231	72.7	27.3
C. Manufacturing	335	19,620	77.0	23.0
D. Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply	6	30	43.3	56.7
E. Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	8	113	61.9	38.1
F. Construction	322	1,904	92.3	7.7
G. Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles	511	8,600	23.2	76.8
H. Transportation and storage	88	1,331	84.1	15.9
I. Hospitality	94	2,663	12.9	87.1
J. Information and communication	96	798	60.9	39.1
K. Financial and insurance activities	269	1,290	47.3	52.7
L. Real estate activities	14	25	60.0	40.0
M. Professional, scientific and technical activities	324	3,889	52.8	47.2
N. Administrative and support service activities	67	498	62.0	38.0
P. Education	301	8,789	29.6	70.4
Q. Human health and social work activities	170	4,002	34.5	65.5
R. Arts, entertainment and recreation activities	60	209	56.0	44.0
S. Other services	40	204	57.4	42.6

Date June 30, 2023

Source: Eustat. Directory of Economic Activities

However, regarding the number of jobs, with almost 20,000 jobs and 36.2% of cooperative employment, the *Manufacturing Industry*, is the most significant sector. *Education*, together with *Trade and Repairs* also plays an important role, representing 16.2% and 15.9% of employment, respectively.

By sex, 52.1% of people employed in cooperatives in the Basque Country were men and 47.9% were women, 3.4 percentage points more than the average of the total for all establishments. The sectors with most female employees were *Hospitality* (87.1%), *Trade and Repairs* (76.8%), *Education* (70.4%) and *Healthcare and Social Services* (65.5%). By contrast, the sectors in which the majority of employees were male were *Construction* (92.3%) and *Transport & Storage* (84.1%).

Cooperatives have a significant presence in several municipalities in the Basque Country. The 10 most notable municipalities in terms of employment in cooperatives are: Arrasate/Mondragón, Bilbao, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Oñati, San Sebastián, Aretxabaleta, Elorrio, Hernani, Bergara and Irún.

These 10 municipalities account for 46.5% of cooperative establishments and represent 49.3% of the overall employment. For employment, Arrasate/Mondragón stands out, with 10.9% of employment and 3% of establishments. In turn, Bilbao accounts for 16% of establishments and 10.9% of employment.

Establishments and people employed in cooperatives in the 10 municipalities with the highest cooperative employment in the Basque Country. 01/01/2022

	Establishments	Individuals employed
Total of Basque Country	2,741	54,196
Arrasate/Mondragon	81	5,905
Bilbao	439	4,360
Vitoria-Gasteiz	248	3,721
Oñati	37	3,310
Donostia / San Sebastian	251	2,777
Aretxabaleta	24	1,585
Elorrio	15	1,459
Hernani	43	1,365
Bergara	26	1,197
Irún	110	1,029

Date June 30, 2023

Source: Eustat. Directory of Economic Activities

For further information:

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