

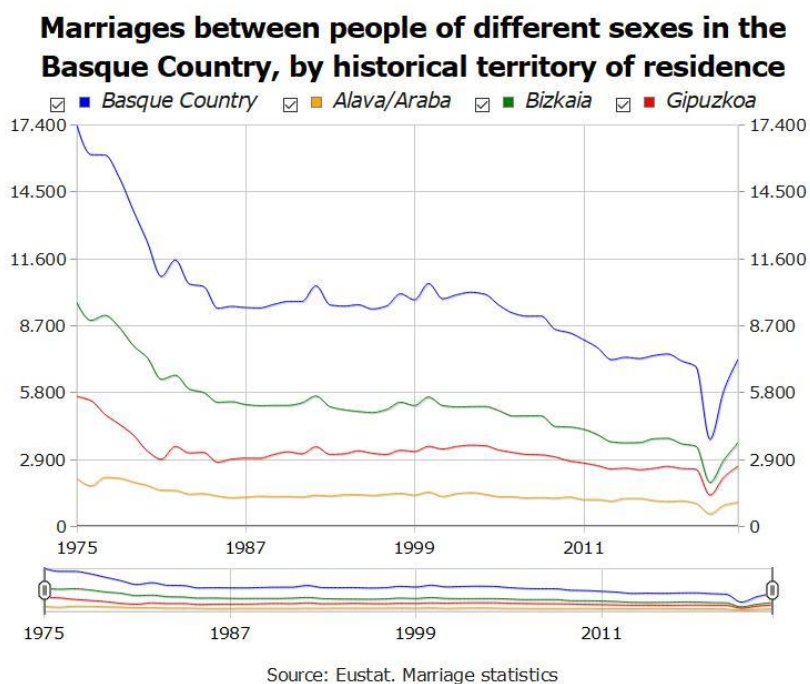
In 2022, marriages in the Basque Country increased by 21.5% compared to 2021

In relation to 2019, there was also an increase of 4.5%

There was a total of 7,807 marriages in the Basque Country in 2022, 21.5% more than in 2021, according to Eustat data. If we take into account the marriages of Basque Country residents between different-sex individuals, the number was 7,556, 1,395 more weddings than the previous year.

If we compare the data with 2019, in 2022 there was a 4.5% increase in the number of marriages and this was almost double the number of those celebrated in 2020, the year that marked the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Basque marriage rate stood at 3.3 weddings per thousand inhabitants, a lower figure than the Spanish rate (3.1‰), and also lower than the European Union (3.9‰), the data in both cases from 2021, which is the latest data available.

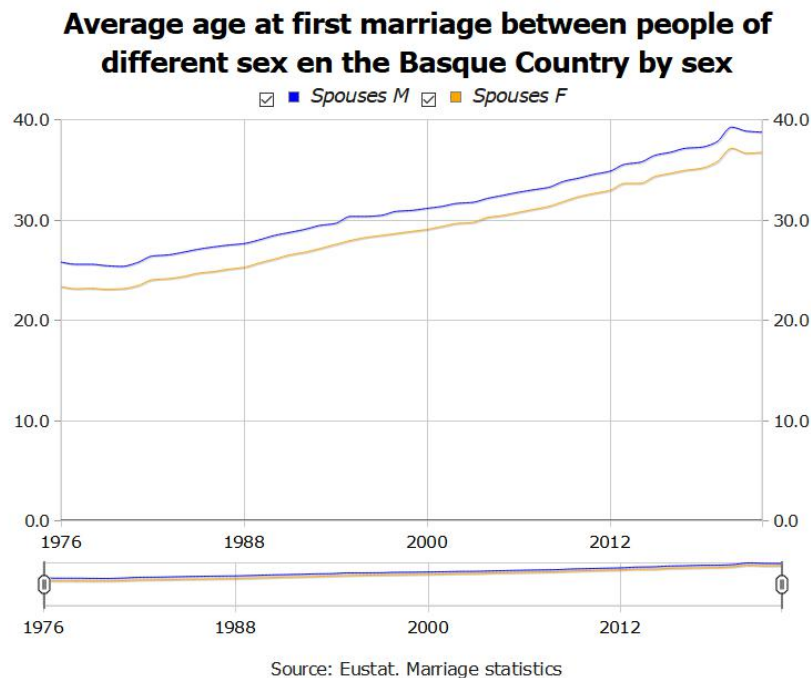


The average age at marriage of single men was over 38

In 2022, the age at marriage for different-sex couples had hardly changed in respect of 2021, as single men resident in the Basque Country married at 38.7 years of age on average and women living in the Basque Country at 36.7. In 2021, these figures were 38.8 and 36.6 years of age respectively.

In comparison with 2019, the average age at marriage of single people has increased, since the ages that year stood at 37.7 and 35.7 respectively. The difference in ages between the two spouses remained stable at around 2 years.

In 2022, there was a drop in the number of divorcees entering into different-sex marriages. The percentage of previously divorced husbands and wives stood at 16.2% and 15.4%, respectively, lower values than in 2021, when they were 16.3% and 16.8%.



251 marriages in the Basque Country in 2022 were between same-sex couples, down 5.6% on 2021, when there were 266, and 71.9% more than in 2020. Marriages between women have exceeded marriages between men since 2012, accounting for 70% of same-sex marriages in the last year.

In same-sex marriages, single men resident in the Basque Country married at an average age of 42.5 years old in 2022 and women at 38.6. The percentage of previously divorced men in these couples stood at 9.9% and that of women at 8.1%.

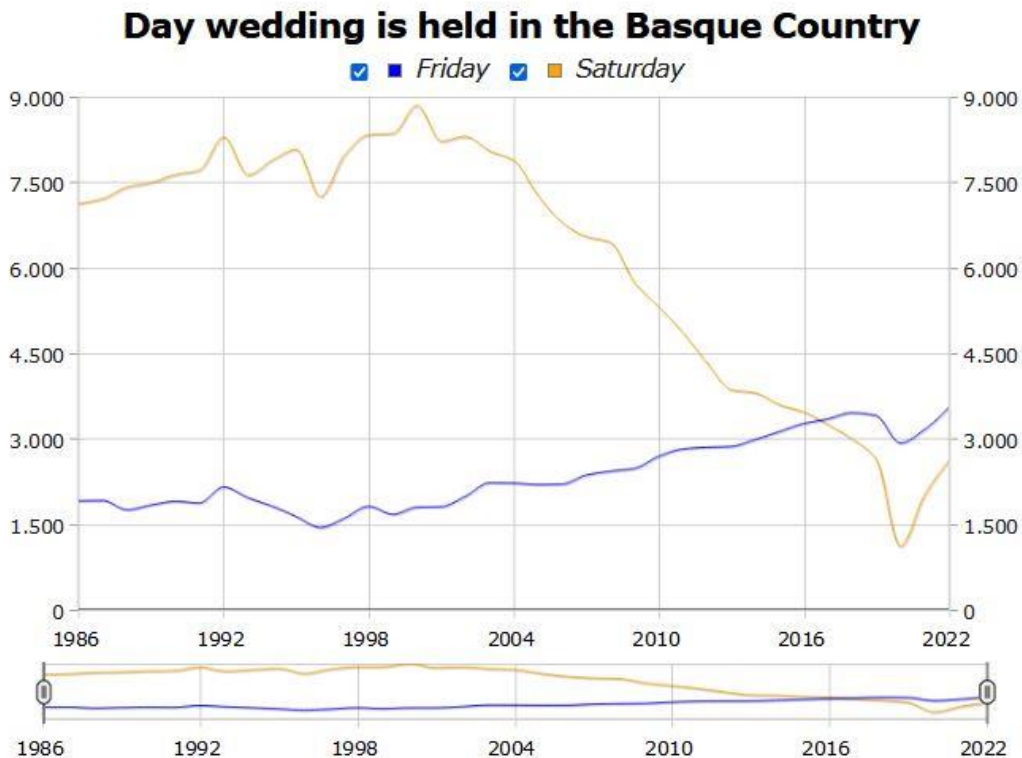
9 out of 10 weddings in 2022 were civil

Civil weddings represented 89.9% of marriages, although this percentage fell by 0.7% compared to 2021. In 1992 civil marriages only accounted for 24.3% of the total.

As regards residency, 95.5% of married couples settled in the Basque Country and 4.5% moved elsewhere, with the main destinations being Cantabria (70), Madrid (52) and Navarra (34), as well as Burgos (26).

More weddings were held on Fridays than on Saturdays

The large increase in civil weddings, almost half of which have been celebrated on a Friday since 2009, along with the significant reduction in religious weddings, has meant that since 2017 there have been more weddings on Fridays than on Saturdays in the Basque Country. In 2022 the proportion was 45.4% for Fridays compared to 33.4% for Saturdays.



Source: Eustat. Marriage statistics

In 23.3% of marriages between different-sex couples, at least one of the spouses was of foreign nationality

Regarding the nationality of people entering into marriage, in 1,761 marriages (23.3% of the total) at least one of the spouses was foreign; in 2021 this percentage was 23.6% and in 2019 it was 20.4%. In 44.7% of these couples the wife had foreign nationality, in 18.8% the husband and in the remaining 36.5%, both spouses were foreigners.

In the case of marriages in which only the woman had foreign nationality, 68.9% corresponded to an American country (mainly Colombia, Nicaragua and Brazil), followed by 22.3% who had a European nationality (with Romanian and Russian standing out).

If it was only the man with foreign nationality, this was shared across American countries (41.9%), primarily Colombia and Argentina, and European countries (31.1%), most notably Portugal, France and the United Kingdom, among others. Also of note was that in 13.6% of cases they had Moroccan nationality.

In the marriages in which both spouses were foreigners, most had American nationality, although the percentage was greater amongst women (73.1%) than men (66.5%). The second most significant continent in terms of nationality was Africa, with 20.7% of men and 18.4% of women.

Marriages in the Basque Country by month of celebration, territory of registration, territory of residence and type of marriage. 2022

	2022	2021		2020		2019	
	NO.	NO.	Increase (%) 2022/2021	NO.	Increase (%) 2022/2020	NO.	Increase (%) 2022/2019
Marriages	7.807	6.427	21,5	4.057	92,4	7.471	4,5
Month of celebration							
January	286	286	0,0	333	-14,1	228	25,4
February	311	247	25,9	363	-14,3	290	7,2
March	454	324	40,1	229	98,3	497	-8,7
April	502	404	24,3	16	3.037,5	422	19,0
May	774	577	34,1	89	769,7	755	2,5
June	1.053	839	25,5	359	193,3	996	5,7
July	1.203	961	25,2	577	108,5	1.022	17,7
August	466	342	36,3	250	86,4	501	-7,0
September	1.094	862	26,9	667	64,0	1.077	1,6
October	813	782	4,0	583	39,5	813	0,0
November	500	463	8,0	295	69,5	518	-3,5
December	351	340	3,2	296	18,6	352	-0,3
Territory of registration							
Araba / Álava	1.028	908	13,2	539	90,7	989	3,9
Bizkaia	3.564	2.888	23,4	1.888	88,8	3.410	4,5
Gipuzkoa	2.622	2.147	22,1	1.355	93,5	2.458	6,7
Outside of the Basque Country	593	484	22,5	275	115,6	614	-3,4
Territory of residence							
Araba / Álava	1.061	949	11,8	546	94,3	1.014	4,6
Bizkaia	3.721	2.987	24,6	1.965	89,4	3.560	4,5
Gipuzkoa	2.676	2.206	21,3	1.376	94,5	2.528	5,9
Outside of the Basque Country	349	285	22,5	170	105,3	369	-5,4
Type of wedding							
Between people of different sex	7.556	6.161	22,6	3.911	93,2	7.265	4,0
Between men	107	106	0,9	50	114,0	86	24,4
Between women	144	160	-10,0	96	50,0	120	20,0

Date November 9, 2023

Source: Eustat Marriage statistics

For further information:

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