

On 1 January 2023, the number of people employed in the Basque Country increased by 1.8%, although there was a decrease in the number of companies

Almost seven out of ten new jobs corresponded to women

On 1 January 2023, there were 149,070 companies operating in the different sectors of activity in the Basque Country, which represented a decrease of 2,018 companies compared to the previous year (-1.4%) according to Eustat data. These companies carried out their activities in 166,587 establishments (factories, businesses, offices, etc.) that registered, however, a 1.8% increase in the number of people employed. Four sectors stood out as having above average growth in employment. *Information & Communications* (4.8%), *Arts Activities and Other Services* (3.1%), *Professional Activities and Support Services* (2.9%) and *Construction* (2.2%).

Amongst the sectors with decreases in the number of people employed, it is worth mentioning the *Financial and Insurance Activities* sector, with 2.8% less employment this year, the *Property activities* sector, with a drop of 2.1% and the *Agriculture, Livestock and Fishing* sector, down 2.0%.

Percentage distribution of employed persons and year-on-year variation in the Basque Country by branches of activity (A10) according to historical territory. 01/01/2023

	Basque Country		Araba/Álava		Bizkaia		Gipuzkoa	
	Individuals employed	Var. %						
Total	100,0	1,8	100,0	2,0	100,0	1,7	100,0	1,8
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2,0	-2,0	1,5	1,2	2,6	-1,7	1,9	-5,3
Industry, energy and sanitation	16,9	1,5	20,7	-0,1	15,3	3,6	16,8	0,4
Construction	2,8	2,2	2,9	2,0	2,9	2,5	2,6	1,5
Trade, transport and hotel industry	4,0	1,4	4,4	2,8	3,8	0,6	4,1	2,0
Information and communication	6,9	4,8	6,1	3,6	7,8	5,1	5,4	4,4
Financial and insurance activities	3,6	-2,8	3,0	-1,7	4,1	-2,7	3,1	-3,6
Real estate activities	1,7	-2,1	2,1	-2,6	1,7	-1,7	1,6	-2,5
Professional activities and support services	5,0	2,9	5,2	7,2	5,4	1,0	4,3	4,7
Public admin., education and health	11,5	1,7	15,4	1,1	10,9	1,8	10,8	2,0
Arts activities and other services	2,9	3,1	3,1	4,1	2,8	3,5	2,9	1,9

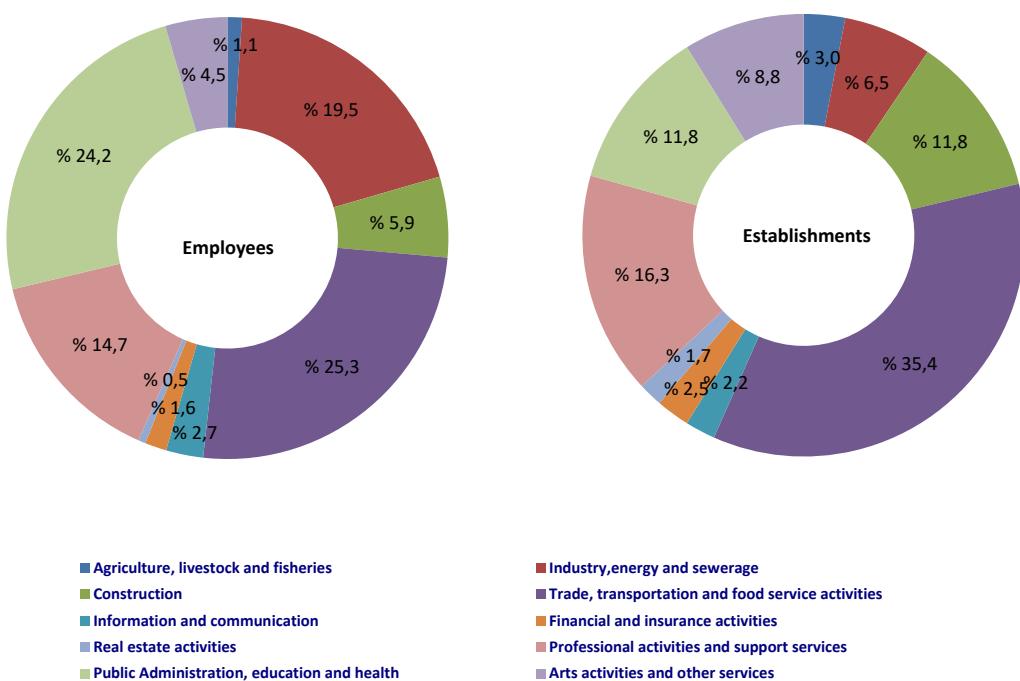
Date November 29, 2023

Source: Eustat. Directory of Economic Activities

As regards structure, the largest sector, according to the number of establishments, was *Trade, Transportation and Hospitality*, (35.4% of the total), followed by *Professional Activities and Support Services* (16.3%) and *Construction and Public Administration, Education and Health* (both with 11.8%).

The distribution of establishments according to their size remained very similar to previous years. Barely 2,609 establishments, 1.6% of the total, were establishments with an average of 50 or more employees, despite accounting for 42.1% of the total number of employees as a whole. On the other hand, 119,809 establishments, almost three-quarters of the total, were small (fewer than 3 employees) and accounted for 15.5% of all those in work. It is in these small establishments where the loss of employment has been concentrated, with 3,153 fewer jobs. In contrast, employment grew most in the strata of 50 and more employees and 20 to 49 employees, gaining 12,065 and 4,355 jobs respectively.

Distribution of employees and number of establishments by branches of activity (A10) in the Basque Country. 01/01/2023



Source: Eustat. *Directory of economic activities*

As regards the average size of the establishments, by large activity branches, the greatest concentration of employed individuals was in the *Industry, Energy and Sewerage* sector, with an average size of 16.9 in the Basque Country as a whole. Álava stood out with 20.7 people, while the average size in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa was 15.3 and 16.8 people per establishment, respectively.

Percentage distribution of people employed in the Basque Country by branch of activity (A10) according to historical territory and sex. 01/01/2023

	Basque Country		Araba/Álava		Bizkaia		Gipuzkoa	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Total	55,0	45,0	56,5	43,5	54,5	45,5	55,1	44,9
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	79,2	20,8	78,4	21,6	82,4	17,6	75,5	24,5
Industry, energy and sanitation	78,7	21,3	79,1	20,9	79,1	20,9	78,2	21,8
Construction	89,2	10,8	88,8	11,2	89,0	11,0	89,7	10,3
Trade, transport and hotel industry	53,6	46,4	54,1	45,9	54,2	45,8	52,6	47,4
Information and communication	63,7	36,3	65,0	35,0	63,7	36,3	63,3	36,7
Financial and insurance activities	43,4	56,6	43,4	56,6	44,3	55,7	41,6	58,4
Real estate activities	46,2	53,8	40,8	59,2	46,1	53,9	48,0	52,0
Professional activities and support services	50,1	49,9	51,5	48,5	50,2	49,8	49,1	50,9
Public admin., education and health	32,8	67,2	33,6	66,4	33,3	66,7	31,5	68,5
Arts activities and other services	45,4	54,6	45,1	54,9	46,4	53,6	44,2	55,8

Date November 29, 2023

Source: Eustat. Directory of Economic Activities

By sex, 45.0% of people employed in the Basque Country during 2022 were women, half a point higher than the previous year. The sectors with most female employees were Healthcare and Social Services (77.8% women), Education (67.4%) and Services (62.6%). By contrast, the sectors in which the majority of employees were male were Construction (89.2%), and Industrial and Primary, with approximately 79% in both cases.

COMPANIES

Of the total of companies (legal units) that provide support for establishments' activities, 97.0% were based in the Basque Country and the remaining 3% (4,469) were in the rest of Spain. Of those with 100 employees or more, the percentage based in the Basque Country reached 78.0%. Bizkaia accounted for slightly more than half the companies based in the Basque Country, with 74,951 companies (51.8%); Gipuzkoa had 49,205 (34.0%) and Álava 20,445 (14.2%).

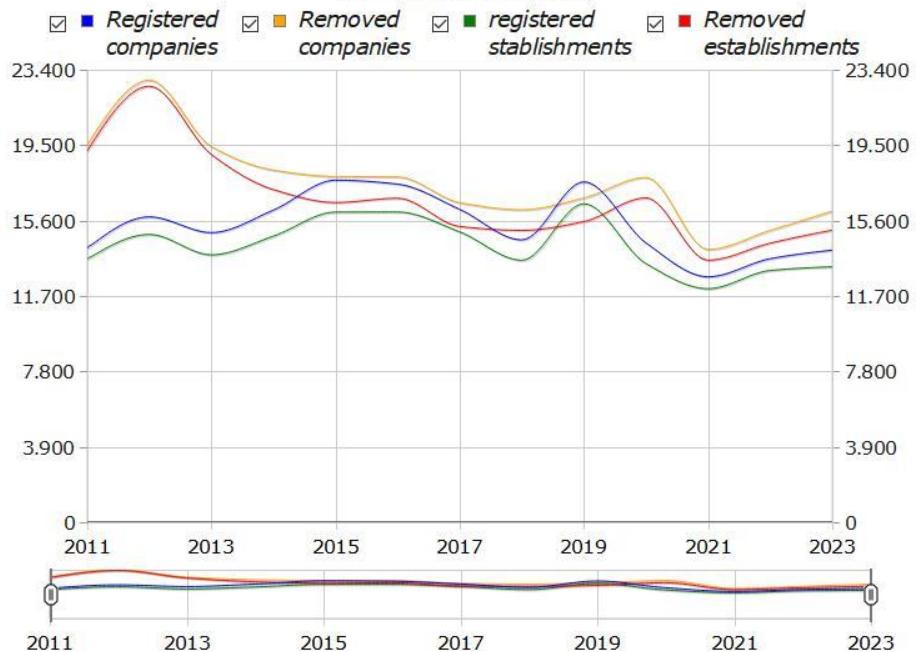
The average size of companies in the Basque Country remained stable, with 6.2 employees per company and 5.6 per establishment. Companies under individual ownership only had 1.4 employees, both per company and establishment, whereas for the other legal forms these averages reached 13.2 and 10.5 employees, respectively.

COMPANY DEMOGRAPHICS

Regarding the age of the companies, the fact that many of these Basque companies are relatively new stands out. 30.6% of companies operating in the Basque Country were five years old or less and the percentage of those in operation for two years or less stood at 13.5%.

Creation and death of companies and establishments.

Basque Country



Source: Eustat. Company start-up and failure statistics

Regarding rotation, and taking into account establishment openings and closures, 13,211 began and 15,107 ceased trading during 2022, with a negative balance of 1,896 establishments. The establishment birth rate (quotient between those created and the stock) was 7.9% and the death rate was 9.1%. As a result, the net growth rate was negative (-1.1%).

The greatest rotation was seen in the branches of *Trade, Transportation and Hotel Management & Catering*, with 27.9% of new openings and 31.8% of closures, *Professional Activities and Support Services*, with 18.4% of new openings and 18.8% of closures and *Construction*, with figures of 16.9% and 17.7% respectively.

In the analysis of demography by legal status, the establishments created under the individual ownership formula stand out for having generated 68.8% of new openings and 63.2% of closures.

Establishment demographics in the Basque Country. 01/01/2023

	New entries	Cancelled entries
Total	13.211	15.107
By Activity		
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	212	246
Industry, energy and sanitation	576	744
Construction	2.228	2.679
Trade, transport and hotel industry	3.688	4.809
Information and communication	460	463
Financial and insurance activities	292	467
Real estate activities	261	398
Professional activities and support services	2.430	2.842
Public admin., education and health	1.685	1.382
Arts activities and other services	1.379	1.077
By legal personality		
Natural person	9.090	9.546
Partnership	227	462
Limited company	2.971	4.023
Other companies and associations	862	1.025
Other legal forms	61	51

Date November 29, 2023

Source: Eustat

In terms of the number of people employed, individually-owned establishments accounted for 39.1% of people employed in new establishments and 42.5% in establishment closures. Limited Companies were also noteworthy, with 38.1% of jobs created in establishments opened and 35.0% of jobs lost in establishment closures.

In terms of establishment size, the most dynamic stratum was that of 2 employees or under, as has become the norm. This stratum alone accounted for 90.2% of all new openings and 91.6% of all closures.

On the contrary, the stratum of large establishments, those with 50 or more employees, only accounted for 0.2% of new openings and 0.1% of closures. On the other hand, it accounted for 13.6% of all jobs created in new establishments and 6.6% of all jobs lost in establishment closures.

For further information:

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