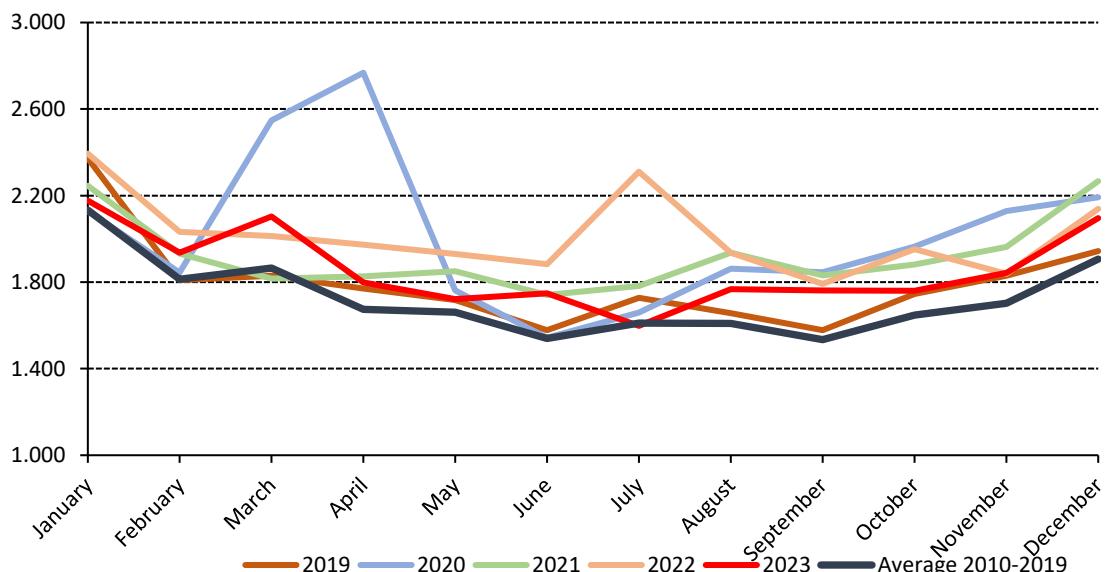


Deaths decreased by 3.9% in the fourth quarter of 2023 in the Basque Country

In 2023 as a whole deaths fell by 7.8% and there was a 79.4% decrease in deaths due to COVID-19

In the fourth quarter of 2023 the number of deaths in the Basque Country stood at 5,699, 3.9% down on the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. In this quarter there were 231 fewer deaths compared to the same quarter of the previous year and 442 more than the average for the period 2010-2019 in the four quarters.

Deaths of residents in the Basque Country per month



Source: Eustat. Death Statistics

By province, of particular note was the decrease in deaths in Gipuzkoa, which in this quarter was 4.8% in respect of the same quarter of the previous year (with 1,840 deaths); in Bizkaia (with 3,087 deaths) the decrease was 3.9% and in Álava (772 deaths) it was 1.8%. By sex, 2,920 women and 2,779 men died, which was a decrease of 2.9% for women and 4.9% for men.

Amongst the deaths that occurred in this quarter, 11 corresponded to children under 1 year of age and 138 to centenarians.

Deaths by territory of residence, age, sex and month of death (1). 2023/IV

	IV/2023				III/2023				IV/2022			
	NO.	%	NO.	%	Increase %	NO.	%	Increase %	NO.	%	Increase %	NO.
DEATHS	5.699	100,0	5.127	100,0		11.2	5.930	100,0				-3,9
Territory of residence												
Araba / Álava	772	13,5	654	12,8		18,0	786	13,3				-1,8
Bizkaia	3.087	54,2	2.747	53,6		12,4	3.211	54,1				-3,9
Gipuzkoa	1.840	32,3	1.726	33,7		6,6	1.933	32,6				-4,8
Age												
Under 1 years	11	0,2	9	0,2		22,2	11	0,2				0,0
1-19 years	10	0,2	5	0,1		100,0	8	0,1				25,0
20-39 years	36	0,6	37	0,7		-2,7	38	0,6				-5,3
40-59 years	349	6,1	310	6,0		12,6	389	6,6				-10,3
60-79 years	1.619	28,4	1.504	29,3		7,6	1.618	27,3				0,1
80-99 years	3.536	62,0	3.171	61,8		11,5	3.772	63,6				-6,3
100 or more years	138	2,4	91	1,8		51,6	94	1,6				46,8
Men	2.779	100,0	2.595	100,0		7,1	2.923	100,0				-4,9
Under 1 years	6	0,2	2	0,1		200,0	8	0,3				-25,0
1-19 years	6	0,2	3	0,1		100,0	6	0,2				0,0
20-39 years	27	1,0	26	1,0		3,8	23	0,8				17,4
40-59 years	222	8,0	206	7,9		7,8	255	8,7				-12,9
60-79 years	1.043	37,5	989	38,1		5,5	1.044	35,7				-0,1
80-99 years	1.448	52,1	1.361	52,4		6,4	1.582	54,1				-8,5
100 or more years	27	1,0	8	0,3		237,5	5	0,2				440,0
Women	2.920	100,0	2.532	100,0		15,3	3.007	100,0				-2,9
Under 1 years	5	0,2	7	0,3		-28,6	3	0,1				66,7
1-19 years	4	0,1	2	0,1		100,0	2	0,1				100,0
20-39 years	9	0,3	11	0,4		-18,2	15	0,5				-40,0
40-59 years	127	4,3	104	4,1		22,1	134	4,5				-5,2
60-79 years	576	19,7	515	20,3		11,8	574	19,1				0,3
80-99 years	2.088	71,5	1.810	71,5		15,4	2.190	72,8				-4,7
100 or more years	111	3,8	83	3,3		33,7	89	3,0				24,7
MONTH OF DEATH												
October	1.760	30,9				1.952	32,9					-9,8
November	1.843	32,3				1.839	31,0					0,2
December	2.096	36,8				2.139	36,1					-2,0
(1)The data for the current and previous quarters are provisional. The variations are over the current quarter												

Date May 13, 2024

Source: Eustat. Death statistics

The main causes of death were tumours and circulatory system diseases, which caused the deaths of 1,600 and 1,407 individuals respectively, which means that together they accounted for 52.8% of deaths. The third cause of death was diseases of the respiratory system, with 446 cases (7.8%). Diseases of the nervous system and the digestive system accounted for 7.3% and 4.3% of deaths, respectively.

The causes of death still varied according to gender: among men, tumours were the leading cause of death (34.2%) and diseases of the circulatory system were the second (24.2%); among women, the opposite occurred: diseases of the circulatory system (25.2%) were the main cause of death, whereas tumours (22.3%) were the second.

Deaths by cause of death and sex (1). 2023/IV

	IV/2023			III/2023			IV/2022		
	NO.	%	NO.	%	Increase %	NO.	%	Increase %	
DEATHS	5.699	100,0	5.127	100,0		11.2	5.930	100,0	-3,9
Cause of death									
Total									
Tumors	1.600	28,1	1.534	29,9		4.3	1.634	27,6	-2,1
Circulatory system	1.407	24,7	1.194	23,3		17,8	1.433	24,2	-1,8
Respiratory system	446	7,8	301	5,9		48,2	463	7,8	-3,7
Nervous system	415	7,3	342	6,7		21,3	401	6,8	3,5
Digestive system	246	4,3	233	4,5		5,6	285	4,8	-13,7
Other causes	1.585	27,8	1.523	29,7		4,1	1.714	28,9	-7,5
COVID-19 confirmed	74	1,3	121	2,4		-38,8	200	3,4	-63,0
COVID-19 probable	0	0,0	0	0,0		0,0	1	0,0	-100,0
Other causes	1.511	26,5	1.402	27,3		7,8	1.513	25,5	-0,1
Men									
Tumors	950	34,2	919	35,4		3,4	973	33,3	-2,4
Circulatory system	672	24,2	581	22,4		15,7	668	22,9	0,6
Respiratory system	222	8,0	169	6,5		31,4	242	8,3	-8,3
Nervous system	169	6,1	139	5,4		21,6	172	5,9	-1,7
Digestive system	125	4,5	135	5,2		-7,4	155	5,3	-19,4
Other causes	641	23,1	652	25,1		-1,7	713	24,4	-10,1
COVID-19 confirmed	42	1,5	60	2,3		-30,0	99	3,4	-57,6
COVID-19 probable	0	0,0	0	0,0		0,0	1	0,0	-100,0
Other causes	599	21,6	592	22,8		1,2	613	21,0	-2,3
Women									
Tumors	650	22,3	615	24,3		5,7	661	22,0	-1,7
Circulatory system	735	25,2	613	24,2		19,9	765	25,4	-3,9
Respiratory system	224	7,7	132	5,2		69,7	221	7,3	1,4
Nervous system	246	8,4	203	8,0		21,2	229	7,6	7,4
Digestive system	121	4,1	98	3,9		23,5	130	4,3	-6,9
Other causes	944	32,3	871	34,4		8,4	1.001	33,3	-5,7
COVID-19 confirmed	32	1,1	61	2,4		-47,5	101	3,4	-68,3
COVID-19 probable	0	0,0	0	0,0		0,0	0	0,0	0,0
Other causes	912	31,2	810	32,0		12,6	900	29,9	1,3

(1)The data for the current quarter is provisional. The variations are over the current quarter

There were 74 deaths due to COVID-19 in the fourth quarter of 2023, 63.2% down on the same period of the previous year

In the fourth quarter there were 74 deaths due to COVID-19, representing 1.3% of the total; COVID-19 was confirmed in all these deaths. There were a further 20 deaths where COVID-19 was among the certified causes of death, but without being the main cause.

By province, the highest figure corresponded to Bizkaia, with 48, followed by Álava with 14 and Gipuzkoa with 12. As regards the capitals, Bilbao stands out with 17 deaths caused by COVID-19, followed by Vitoria-Gasteiz with 10 and Donostia/San Sebastián with 3.

The same number of men as women died from COVID-19 (32), while in terms of age, it is worth noting that 98.6% of the deaths caused by COVID-19 occurred among those over 60 years of age and 73% among people aged over 80.

The majority of these deaths occurred in Basque hospitals (86.5%), followed by at home (10.8%).

Deaths of the Basque Country by provinces, municipality (>40,000 hab.) of residence, sex and age according to causes of death related to COVID-19. 2023/IV

	Total deaths	Total COVID-19	COVID-19 confirmed	COVID-19 probable
Basque Country	5.699	74	74	0
Historic Territories of Residence				
Araba/Álava	772	14	14	0
Bizkaia	3.087	48	48	0
Gipuzkoa	1.840	12	12	0
Municipality of residence (>40,000 inhabitants)				
Barakaldo	289	2	2	0
Basauri	136	3	3	0
Bilbao	1.006	17	17	0
Donostia / San Sebastian	478	3	3	0
Getxo	191	2	2	0
Irún	136	2	2	0
Portugalete	146	2	2	0
Santurtzi	116	3	3	0
Vitoria-Gasteiz	548	10	10	0
Sex				
Man	2.779	42	42	0
Woman	2.920	32	32	0
Age				
Aged under 40	57	0	0	0
From 40 to 59 years	349	1	1	0
From 60 to 79 years	1.619	19	19	0
80 or older	3.674	54	54	0

Date May 13, 2024

Source: Eustat. Death statistics

BALANCE FOR 2023

The provisional data totals for 2023 recorded 22,310 deaths, of which 11,279 were women and 11,031 were men. The number of deaths decreased by 7.8% compared to 2022. By province, the decrease was 9.6% in Gipuzkoa (with 11,886 deaths); 8% in Álava (with 2,916 deaths); and 4.6% in Bizkaia (with 7,508 deaths).

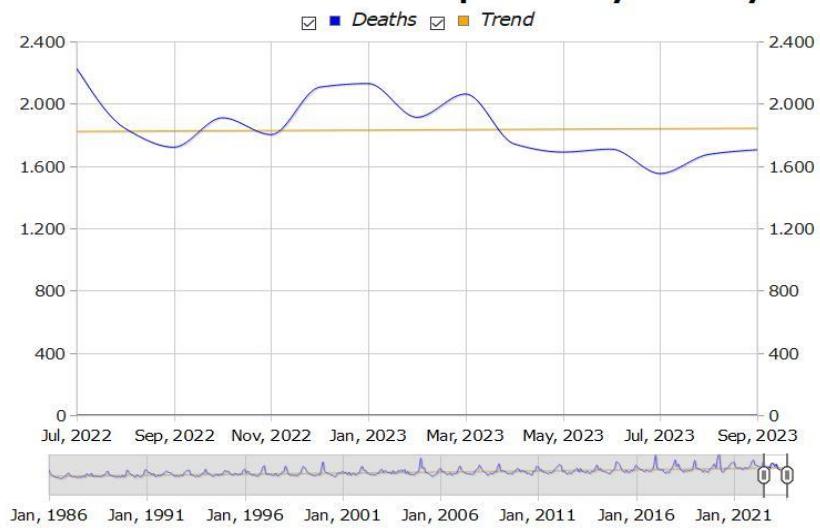
Amongst the deaths that occurred last year, 35 corresponded to children under one year of age. This was lower than in 2022, when 41 children under one year of age died. On the other hand, 440 people died at the age of 100 or over, 23 more than in 2022.

With provisional data from 2023, population growth in the Basque Country was negative with deaths exceeding births by 8,889 individuals. For this reason, by province the population decreased by 5,239 inhabitants in Bizkaia, 2,948 in Gipuzkoa and 702 in Álava.

In 2023 there were a total of 354 deaths due to COVID-19 (all confirmed by a specific analysis), i.e. 79.4% less than the 1,721 of the previous year. In 2021 there were 1,682 deaths due to COVID-19 and in 2020 there were 3,096.

It should be pointed out that COVID-19 was present in a further 96 individuals who died in these same months, but it was not the main cause of death according to the death certificates and applying the World Health Organisation criteria for coding causes of death.

Deaths of residents in the Basque Country. Monthly data



Source: Eustat. Death statistics

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