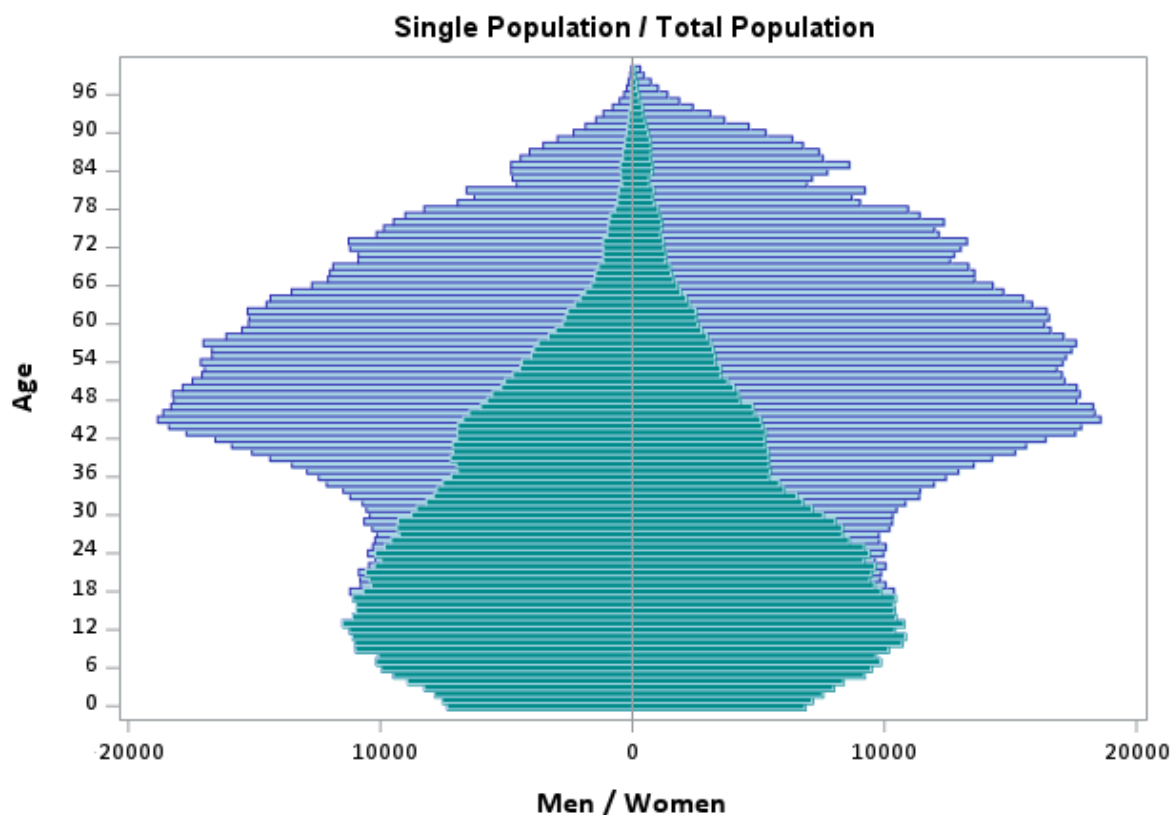


More than 50% of Basque Country residents aged 18 and over were married or in a civil partnership

Over 92% of people between 20 and 29 years of age were single

50.9% of Basque Country residents aged 18 and over (935,358 people) were married or in a civil partnership on 1 January 2022, according to Eustat data. They were followed, in numerical terms, by the single population, numbering 634,326 people (34.5%), the widowed population, with 143,159 people (7.8%), and, lastly, those who were divorced or legally separated: 123,716 people (6.7%).

The married population was also the most prevalent in the three provinces, where the proportions were very similar: in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa the proportion was 51%, and in Álava it was somewhat lower at 50.6%. Furthermore, it was more common for men to be married than women (52.7% and 49.3%, respectively). By age group, the proportion of married people increased significantly from age 30 onwards and remained high until the age of 69.



There were a number of differences at the provincial level: Álava had the highest proportion of single people (35.7% compared to 34.5% for the provinces as a whole), Bizkaia had the largest proportional widowed population (8.4%), and Gipuzkoa (7.2%) had the most similar proportions to the overall figures for the Basque Country (7.8%). The proportion of the population who were divorced or legally separated was similar in all three provinces, ranging from 6.5% in Gipuzkoa to 6.8% in Bizkaia, with 6.9% in Álava, all of them close to the average for the three provinces as a whole (6.7%).

Rates of widowhood and divorce were higher among women than men

The distribution of marital status revealed some differences between men and women, the most notable corresponding to widowhood, as the proportion of women who were widowed (12.7%) was much higher than the proportion of men (2.5%). This difference was more pronounced in the older age groups, particularly among people aged 60 and over, where the percentage of women who were widowed increased considerably (63% among those aged over 80).

Population aged 18 and over in the Basque Country by marital status according to province and sex. 01/01/2022

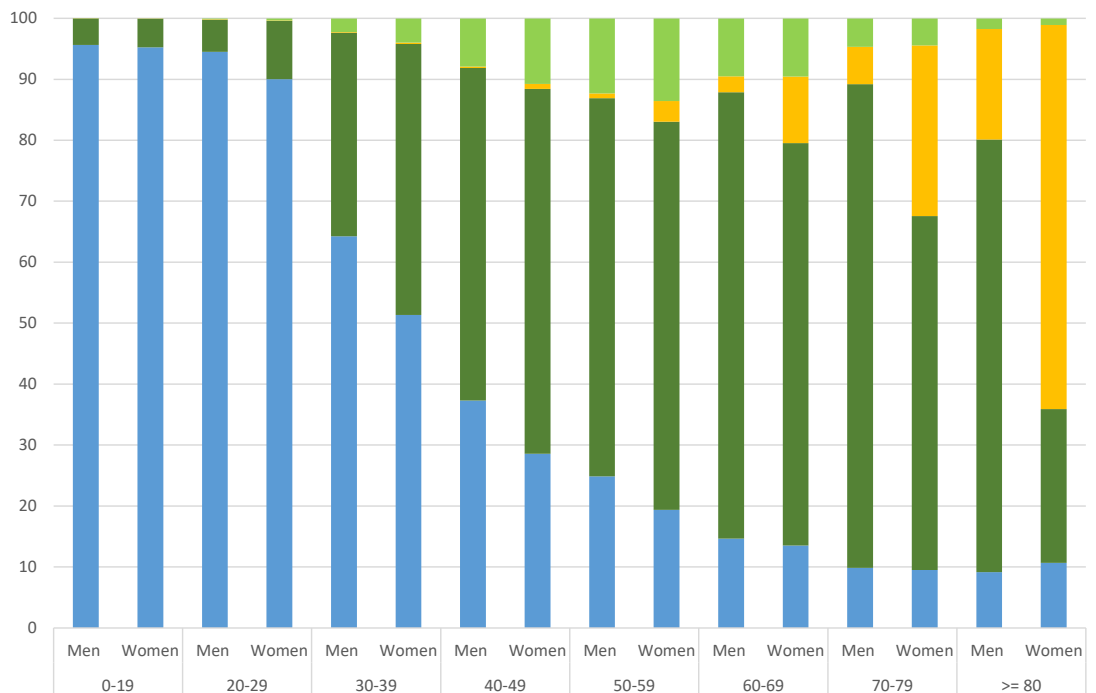
	Basque Country			Araba/Álava			Bizkaia			Gipuzkoa		
	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women
Total	1.836.559	881.041	955.518	274.035	133.250	140.785	965.034	458.787	506.247	597.490	289.004	308.486
-Single	634.326	338.947	295.379	97.782	52.347	45.435	325.320	172.433	152.887	211.224	114.167	97.057
Married or in registered partnership	935.358	464.461	470.897	138.571	68.959	69.612	492.261	244.244	248.017	304.526	151.258	153.268
Widowed	143.159	21.622	121.537	18.689	3.177	15.512	81.404	12.397	69.007	43.066	6.048	37.018
Divorced or legally separated	123.716	56.011	67.705	18.993	8.767	10.226	66.049	29.713	36.336	38.674	17.531	21.143

Date July 11, 2024

Source: Eustat. Population and housing census. Population structure

As for the other marital statuses, 52.7% of men aged 18 and over were married, compared to 49.3% of women, while 38.5% of men remained single, in comparison to 30.9% of women. Lastly, there was a slightly higher rate of divorce and separation among women than men (7.1% and 6.4%, respectively), although neither were very different from the total figure (6.7%).

Distribution of the population of the Basque Country by marital status according to age groups and sex (%). 01/01/2022



Source: Eustat. Population and housing census. Population structure

Single Married or in registered partnership Widowed Divorced or legally separated

The greatest differences in marital status occurred among age groups

Most of the population aged between 20 and 29 were single (92.3%), whereas the percentage of people who were married stood at 7.4%. In the 30-39 age group, the percentage of married people rose considerably (38.9%), while the percentage of single people dropped to 57.8%. In the 40-49 and 50-59 age groups, the majority of the population were married (57.2% and 62.9%, respectively), with the proportion of single people decreasing significantly in these groups.

Although the percentage of married people remained high in the 60-69 and 70-79 age groups (69.5% and 67.7%, respectively), the percentage of widows began to increase, reaching 7% in the 60-69 age group and 18.1% in the 70-79 age range. In the group aged 80 and over, while 41.5% of people remained married, the percentage of widows increased dramatically (47.1%).

Marital status and regions

Cantábrica Alavesa and Goierri stood out as the regions with the highest percentage of people who were married or in a civil partnership (over 54%), far exceeding the percentage for the Basque Country (50.9%). In contrast, the regions of Llanada Alavesa (49.9%) and Markina-Ondarroa (49.6%) had a considerably lower percentage of married people, as did Donostialdea (49%).

As for single people, Rioja Alavesa (36.6%), Donostialdea and Etribaciones del Gorbea (both with 36.5%) recorded percentages above the average (34.5%). On the other hand, Cantábrica Alavesa had the lowest percentage of single people (31.2%), along with Duranguesado (32.5%) and Encartaciones (32%).

Population aged 18 and over in the Basque Country by county according to marital status. 01/01/2022

	Total	-Single	Married or in registered partnership	Widowed	Divorced or legally separated
Basque Country	1.836.559	634.326	935.358	143.159	123.716
Añana	5.422	1.835	2.817	328	442
Arabako Errioxa / Rioja Alavesa	9.647	3.530	4.924	682	511
Arabako Kantaurialdea / Cantábrica Alavesa	28.555	8.907	15.612	2.367	1.669
Arabako Lautada / Llanada Alavesa	220.024	79.766	109.820	14.698	15.740
Arabako Mendialdea / Montaña Alavesa	2.788	973	1.441	219	155
Arratia Nerbioi / Arratia-Nervión	19.890	6.660	10.561	1.481	1.188
Bidasoa Behea / Bajo Bidasoa	64.658	22.084	32.915	4.482	5.177
Bilbo Handia / Gran Bilbao	727.205	245.908	366.800	63.308	51.189
Debabarrena / Bajo Deba	45.427	15.197	23.912	3.684	2.634
Debagolena / Alto Deba	52.017	17.947	27.585	3.989	2.496
Donostialdea	277.524	101.172	135.909	20.132	20.311
Durangaldea / Duranguesado	82.196	26.704	44.396	6.298	4.798
Enkartzioak / Encartaciones	26.930	8.629	14.226	2.231	1.844
Gernika-Bermeo	38.584	13.065	19.903	3.282	2.334
Goierri	55.478	18.383	30.190	4.075	2.830
Gorbeialdea / Etribaciones del Gorbea	7.599	2.771	3.957	395	476
Markina-Ondarroa	21.713	7.879	10.760	1.871	1.203
Plentzia-Mungia	48.516	16.475	25.615	2.933	3.493
Tolosaldea	40.256	14.655	20.709	2.760	2.132
Urola Kosta	62.130	21.786	33.306	3.944	3.094

Date: July 11, 2024

Source: Eustat. Population and housing census. Population structure

Widowhood was more common in Gran Bilbao and Markina-Ondarroa (8.7% and 8.6%, respectively), exceeding the average for the Basque Country (7.8%). In contrast, Etribaciones del Gorbea had the lowest percentage of widows (5.2%), along with Plentzia-Mungia and Añana (6% in both cases).

Lastly, the percentage of people who were divorced or separated was higher in Añana (8.2%) and Bajo Bidasoa (8%) compared to the average for the Basque Country (6.7%). At the other end of the scale, Alto Deba had the lowest percentage in this category (4.8%), along with Urola Costa and Goierri (5% and 5.1%, respectively).

The percentage of single people was higher in the provincial capitals

The marital status figures for the three Basque capitals (Bilbao, San Sebastián and Vitoria-Gasteiz) differed somewhat from the average for the Basque Country.

All three provincial capitals had a higher percentage of single people than the Basque average (34.5%), in this order: San Sebastián (38%), Bilbao (36.8%) and Vitoria-Gasteiz (36.3%)

However, the capitals had lower percentages than the Basque Country average (50.9%) in terms of people who were married or in a civil partnership: Bilbao and San Sebastián recorded the lowest percentage (47.3%), and Vitoria-Gasteiz (49.7%).

Widowhood was more common in Bilbao (8.9%) than in the Autonomous Region as a whole (7.8%), while in both Vitoria-Gasteiz (6.8%) and San Sebastián (7.3%), the proportion of people who were widowed was lower than the average.

Lastly, the proportion of people who were divorced or legally separated were very similar in the three capitals, standing at 7% in Bilbao, 7.1% in Vitoria-Gasteiz and 7.3% in San Sebastián; all these figures were slightly above the average for the Basque Country (6.7%).

In short, Basque capitals registered a higher proportion of single people and a lower proportion of people who were married or in a civil partnership compared to the average for the Basque Country. Bilbao stood out for having the highest proportion of widows, while San Sebastián and Vitoria-Gasteiz had higher percentages of people who were divorced or legally separated.

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