

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY SECTOR (ICT) STATISTICS. 2022

In 2022, the ICT sector reached 2.4% both in value added and employment in the Basque Country's economy

This is especially noteworthy in R&D+i and e-commerce, which carried out 8.4% of internal expenditure on R&D and 12.9% of expenditure on innovation and 73% of companies used e-commerce

In 2022, turnover in the ICT sector was 4,921 million euros, which represented 1,845 million euros of added value, 2.4% of the total and 3 tenths of a percentage point more than the previous year, according to Eustat data. Similarly, this meant 2,816 companies with 26,625 jobs, 1.9% and 2.4% of the Basque economy as a whole, respectively.

For another year, these figures represent positive data, with increases in both the number of companies, up 0.4%, and employment, with a rise of 6.3% compared to the previous year (2021). Furthermore, the turnover figure also increased by 10.8% and value added rose by 11.0%.

Since 2010, the first year of the available historical series, the number of companies included in the ICT sector has increased by 34.7%, while the number of jobs has risen by 19.8%.

Specifically, in 2022, 2,816 companies and 26,625 jobs were registered in this sector, the highest figures since 2010, with an average company size of 9.5 people.

Main figures for the ICT sector in the Basque Country by province and economic activity. 2022

	Enterprises (1)	Jobs	Turnover (2)	Gross value added cf (2)
Total ICT Sector	2.816	26.625	4.921.054	1.844.598
Province				
Araba/Álava	382	3.141	524.971	174.415
Bizkaia	1.687	15.934	3.226.900	1.217.568
Gipuzkoa	839	7.550	1.169.183	452.615
ICT manufacturing industry	82	4.937	774.772	248.383
Commerce and ICT Services	2.734	21.688	4.146.282	1.596.215

(1) The territorial sum of the number of companies may not match the total

They have been counted once in each historical territory in which they have activity and only once in the total of the C.A. from Euskadi

(2) Thousand euros

Date July 30, 2024

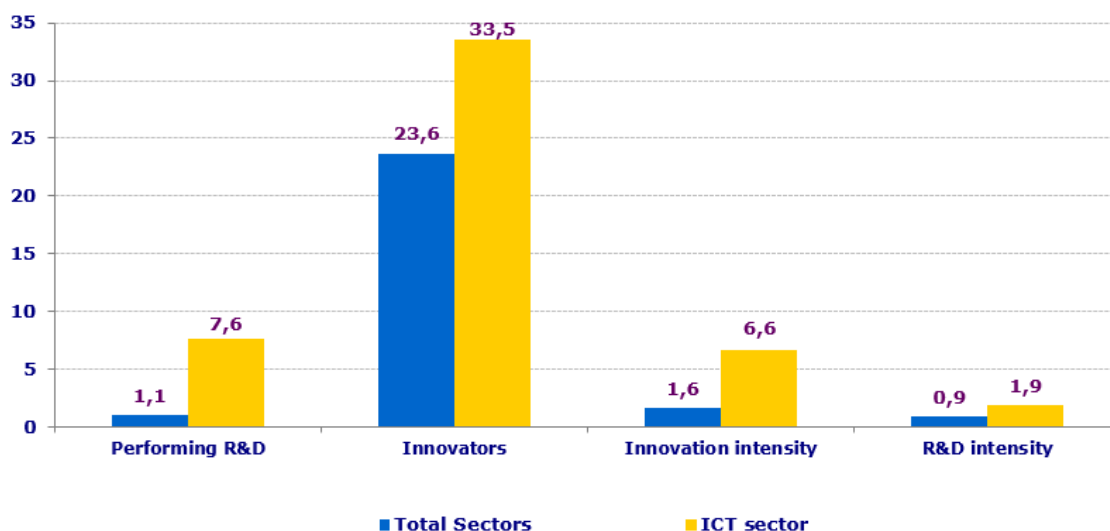
Source: Eustat. Statistics of the sector of information and communication technologies- ICT

Companies in the ICT sector carried out more R&D+i activities than all the other sectors

Despite representing just 1.9% of companies in the Basque Country, the ICT sector accounted for 14.4% of companies implementing R&D and, with 115.7 million euros, carried out 8.4% of the total expenditure on internal R&D in the business sector. Additionally, while across all sectors, 1.1% of companies implemented internal R&D activities, in companies in the ICT sector this percentage reached 7.6%.

In 2022, there were 1,790 people working in R&D in “full-time equivalent positions” of whom 23.9% (428) were women. These 1,790 people working in R&D in the ICT sector accounted for 11.6% of personnel in the business sector dedicated to R&D. If the comparison is made in respect of total R&D personnel, this constituted 8.2%.

R&D and innovation in companies within the ICT sector and in all sectors in the Basque Country (%). 2022



Source: Eustat. Statistics of the information and communication technology-ICT sector

Regarding innovation, as with R&D, there were significant differences between the total for all sectors and that for the ICT sector. In 2022, 33.5% of establishments in the ICT sector were innovators compared to 23.6% of the total for all sectors. If company size is taken into account, those with 10 or more employees recorded percentages of 48.8% in the first case and 35.4% for the total number of sectors.

Regarding expenditure on innovation, ICT establishments contributed 425.6 million euros, 12.9% of total expenditure for all sectors. Of this expenditure, 321.0 million corresponded to establishments with 10 or more employees, which represented 11.2% of the total spent by companies of this size.

Intensity in Innovation and internal R&D of the ICT sector in the Basque Country, by historical territory, economic activity and employment strata (%). 2022

	Total		10 or more employees	
	Innovation Intensity (1)	Internal R&D Intensity (2)	Innovation Intensity (1)	Internal R&D Intensity (2)
TOTAL SECTORS	1,58	0,86	2,14	1,25
Total ICT Sector	6,63	1,86	6,40	2,30
Province				
Araba/Álava	3,28	1,45	2,13	1,61
Bizkaia	6,33	1,60	7,85	2,09
Gipuzkoa	9,77	2,99	4,76	3,36
ICT manufacturing industry	6,28	3,74	5,32	4,00
Commerce and ICT Services	6,68	1,57	6,60	1,99

(1) Innovation Intensity: (Spending on innovation/turnover)*100

(2) Internal R&D intensity: (Spending on internal R&D/turnover)*100

Date July 30, 2024

Source: Eustat. Statistics of the sector of information and communication technologies- ICT

The ICT sector also allocated a greater proportion of resources towards R&D+i than the other sectors, as indicated by the figures spent both on innovation and on internal R&D with regard to the turnover figure (innovation and internal R&D intensity ratios). Specifically, innovation intensity in this sector was 6.6 compared to 1.6 over the economic sectors as a whole. In the case of internal R&D, the ratio was 1.9 for the ICT sector and 0.9 for all sectors.

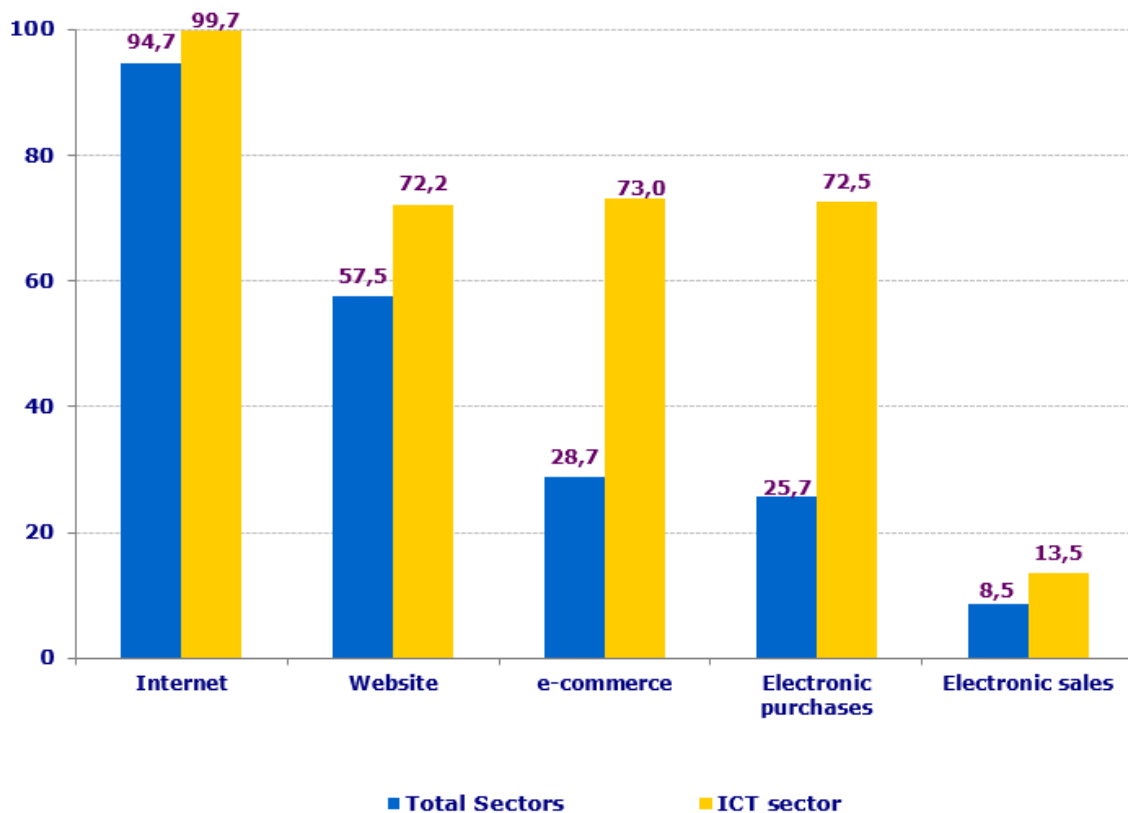
E-commerce was more widespread in the ICT sector than in the total of all the sectors

The use of ICT technology is extremely commonplace amongst the companies in this sector, to the point that internet access reached almost 99.7%, compared to percentages of 94.7% for the total of all sectors. Furthermore, websites in the ICT sector amounted to 72.2% and 57.5% of the total for all sectors.

E-commerce was also significantly more developed than in the other sectors. The establishments that made purchases via this method in the ICT sector accounted for 72.5% and those that carried out sales accounted for 13.5%, compared to 25.7% and 8.5%, respectively, for the total for all sectors.

Hence, 73.0% of ICT establishments engaged in e-commerce in 2022, whereas this represented 28.7% of the total for all sectors.

Use of ICT technologies in the Basque Country (%). 2022



Source: Eustat. Statistics of the information and communication technology-ICT sector

Lastly, the impact of the ICT sector on the foreign trade of goods remained at insignificant levels: exports accounted for 342.4 million euros out of a total of 32,721.4 million and imports stood at 570.9 million out of 29,661.6 million total imports, accounting for 1.0% and 1.9% respectively.

Standing out among the most common products traded in terms of exports were: *Other ICT Products* (41.4%), *Electronic Components* (35.8%) and *Telecommunications Equipment* (12.1%) and in terms of imports: *Other ICT Products* (34.2%), *Electronic Components* (32.1%), *Audio and Video Equipment* (12.9%) and *Telecommunications Equipment* (11.9%).

Methodological note:

The ICT sector is made up of manufacturing industries and of services whose primary activity is linked to the development, production, commercialisation, and intensive use of Information and Communication Technologies, characterised by high rates of innovation, technological progress, and productivity. Accordingly, it has a considerable impact on economic activity. [Eustat website.](#)

[Methodology file: ICT sector](#)

For further information:

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