

## Births in the Basque Country increased by 4.9% in the fourth quarter of 2021

### ***Throughout 2021 there was a 3.3% drop in the number of births***

In the fourth quarter of 2021 the number of births in the Basque Country stood at 3,595, 4.9% more than in the same period of the previous year, according to Eustat data. Of note is the particularly sharp rise in Álava, with 632 births, which represents 16.2% more than the previous year; in Gipuzkoa there were 1,233 births, 8.3% more; in contrast, in Bizkaia, with 1,730 boys and girls born, there was a drop of 0.9%.

By month, the increase reached 11.2% in December and 5.2% in November; in October, however, there was a drop of 0.6%.

29.7% of women who gave birth in the Basque Country in the autumn of 2021 were of foreign nationality, which is slightly below the 30% recorded for the same period of 2020. Álava saw a higher percentage, reaching 36.9%, whereas in Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia the percentages were 28.3% and 28.1%, respectively.

### ***More than 80% of mothers were over 30 years of age***

As regards the distribution of births according to the age of the mother, 34.2% of mothers were aged 30-34, the same percentage was observed for mothers in the 35-39 age group. The 25-29 age group accounted for 14%. The number of mothers above the age of 40 (11.8%) exceeded those under 25 (5.8%).

The age of maternity also varied according to nationality. In fact, the average age of foreign mothers was 31.4, compared to 34.5 for mothers with Spanish nationality.

### ***Unmarried mothers accounted for 50.2% of births***

Births outside marriage in the fourth quarter of 2021 accounted for 50.2% of the total, up 1.1 percentage points on the number registered for the same period in 2020.

According to the order of birth, almost half, 1,780 (49.5%), of births, were first-borns; 1,299 (36.1%) were born into families that already had a child, and the number of third and subsequent children stood at 516 (14.4%).

### **Balance for 2021**

For 2021 as a whole, the provisional birth rate reached 14,247, which is equivalent to a decrease of 492 (-3.3%) compared to data from 2020. This decrease occurred in all three provinces: in Bizkaia it was 5.1% (370 fewer births), in Gipuzkoa it stood at 1.9% (93 fewer births); and in Álava it was 1.2% (29 fewer births).

## Live births in the Basque Country by province, age, marital status and nationality of the mother and birth order (1). 2021/IV

	Current quarter		Previous quarter		Same quarter of the previous year	
	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>3.595</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>3.789</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>3.428</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba / Álava	632	17,6	605	16,0	544	15,9
Bizkaia	1.730	48,1	1.863	49,2	1.745	50,9
Gipuzkoa	1.233	34,3	1.321	34,9	1.139	33,2
<b>AGE OF THE MOTHER</b>						
24 years or less	210	5,8	232	6,1	241	7,0
25 - 29 years	502	14,0	509	13,4	473	13,8
30 - 34 years	1.230	34,2	1.323	34,9	1.205	35,2
35 - 39 years	1.228	34,2	1.299	34,3	1.124	32,8
40 or older	425	11,8	426	11,2	385	11,2
<b>Marital status of the mother</b>						
Married	1.790	49,8	1.954	51,6	1.746	50,9
Not married	1.805	50,2	1.835	48,4	1.682	49,1
<b>Nationality of the mother</b>						
Spanish	2.527	70,3	2.758	72,8	2.399	70,0
Foreign	1.068	29,7	1.031	27,2	1.029	30,0
<b>Order of birth</b>						
First	1.780	49,5	1.862	49,1	1.713	50,0
Second	1.299	36,1	1.415	37,3	1.275	37,2
Third or more	516	14,4	512	13,5	440	12,8

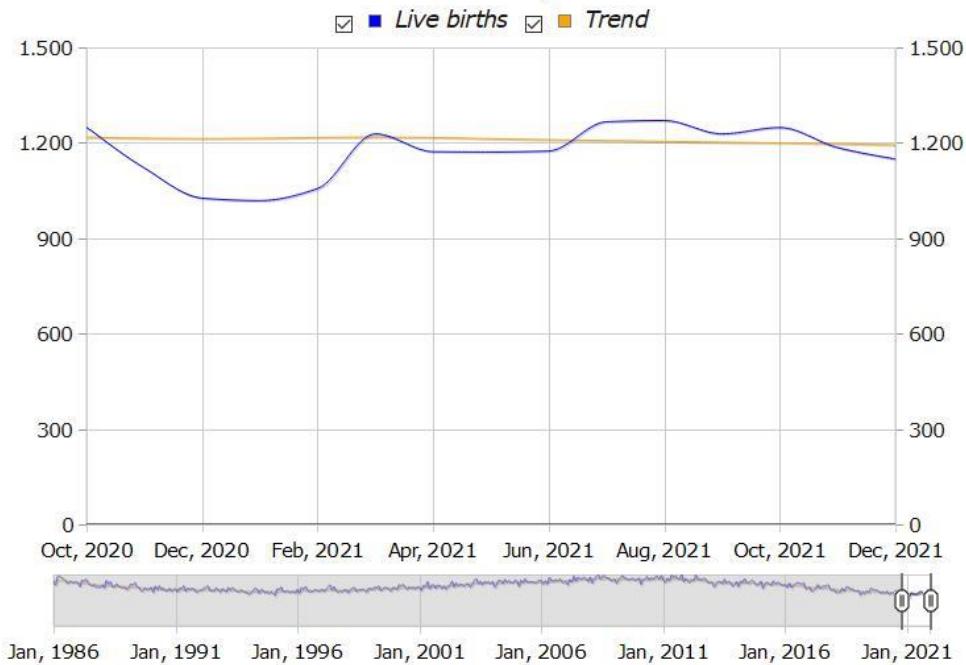
(1)The data for the current and previous quarters are provisional

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Source: Eustat Birth statistics

## Live births to mothers residing in the Basque Country and registered in the Basque Country

Monthly



Source: EUSTAT Birth statistics

**For further information:**

Eustat - Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Basque Statistics Institute  
 C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz  
 Press service: [servicioprensa@eustat.es](mailto:servicioprensa@eustat.es) Tel.: 945 01 75 62