

# Municipal population update

Results analysis

## Index

<b>HISTORICAL APPROXIMATION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>THE POPULATION OF THE A.C. OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>POPULATION IN THE REGIONS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>POPULATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Large Municipalities</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Medium Municipalities</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Intermediate Municipalities</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Small Municipalities</b>	<b>14</b>

## MUNICIPAL POPULATION UPDATE

The Municipal Population Update provides annual adjustments to the population data included in the Census and, up until 1996, by the Census Updates. Furthermore, it enables a comparison to be made of the intensity of the demographic phenomena- natural and migratory- and their contribution to the numerical changes in the population of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country at the various levels: provincial, regional and municipal.

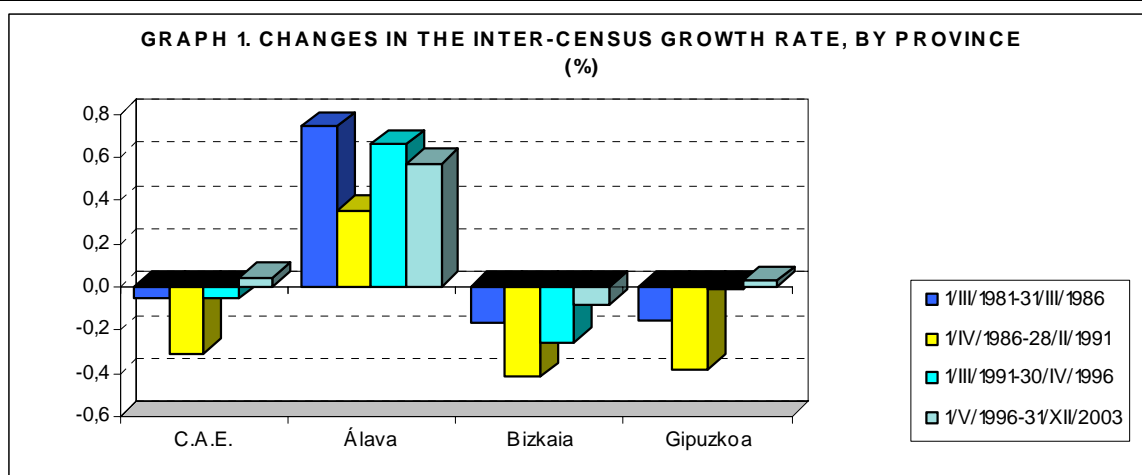
The aim is, therefore, to make updated information available annually with a date of reference of 31st December regarding the registered population of the municipalities of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country in the periods between censuses. As regards content, the Web provides population data and a provincial, regional and municipal breakdown of the population changes, as well as the population structure according to sex and age at a provincial level.

In order to clarify the reading of this analysis, it is necessary to point out that the population changes are dealt with according to their territorial definition from bigger to smaller: A.C. of Euskadi, provinces, regions, and, finally, municipalities grouped together according to size.

After a primary historical approximation through the Censuses and Census Updates of 1981, 1986, 1991 and 1996, the time period under consideration in the analysis covers two reference periods, the inter-census period from 1st May, 1996 until the Population Update which concerns us, dated 31st December, 2003; and the annual change since the latest Population Update published by **Eustat**.

### HISTORICAL APPROXIMATION

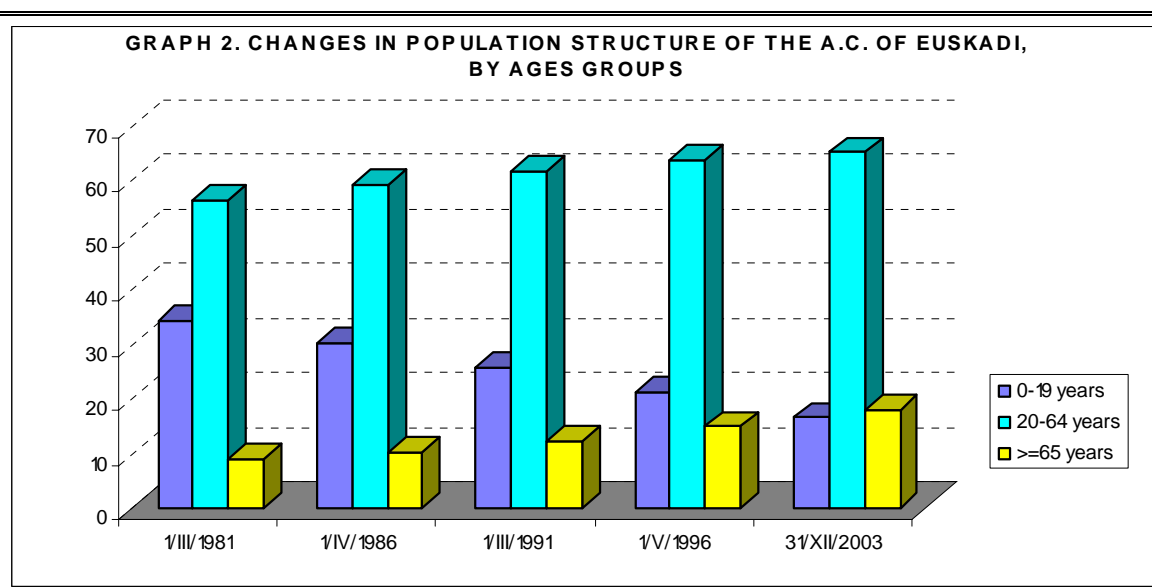
The changes in the important population figures reveal a slowing down in the trend of falling population which had begun in our Community at the beginning of the 80's. In fact, the rate of inter-census growth of the A.C. of the Basque Country –which indicates the average annual percentage change in population since the latest Census Update- converted to positive in the last period. In the first three inter-census periods to be analysed (1981-1986, 1986-1991 y 1991-1996), the rates oscillate between  $-0.1\%$  and  $-0.3\%$ . In the last inter-census period, between 1st May 1996 and December 2003, the rate is calculated at  $0.04\%$ .



Source: Eustat

Between 1981 and the end of 2003, the A.C. of the Basque Country registers a fall of 36,897 people, that is to say, 1.7% of its population. Alava is the only province in which there are constant increases in population, as it manages increases in all the analysed inter-census periods, winning 36,537 people between 1981 and December 2003, this is an increase of 14%. In the same period Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa fall in population, notably so Bizkaia with a fall of 56,341, representing 4.7% of its total population. Population in Gipuzkoa fell by 17,094 inhabitants in the same period, almost 2.5% of its population.

With regard to the structure of the population of the A.C. of the Basque Country, the changes in the distribution according to broad age groups reveals a sharp and continuous fall in numbers within the younger age groups, at the same time as an increase among the older age groups. Between 1981 and 2003 the population of the Community aged 0-19 fell from 34% to 17%, while the population aged 65 and over doubled in share from 9% to 18%.



Source: Eustat

### THE POPULATION OF THE A.C. OF THE BASQUE COUNTRY

According to the latest Census Update of 1st May 1996, the A.C. of the Basque Country had 2,098,055 inhabitants. This base figure has been corrected by the successive modifications made during the inter-census period and which were prompted by both the intrinsic errors of any census renewal (usually undervaluing) and errors due to census data handling. In fact, by 31st December 2003 a total of 32,331 omissions and 16,859 double or erroneous entries had been counted, so that the actual population at the date of this Update reaches 2,113,527 inhabitants.

Based on this corrected figure the population update is carried out taking into account the basic demographic components: natural growth and migratory balance. Between the Census Update of 1/5/96 and the Population Update of 31/12/03, the A.C. of the Basque Country has increased its population by 6,857 people to 2,120,384 inhabitants. In this period between censuses, the population change due to the difference between births and deaths is negative and represents 35% of the total change, specifically, -7.813 inhabitants, while the change corresponding to the balance between

people entering and people leaving our Community due to changing their place of residence is positive and represents the remaining 65%, put another way, 14,670 people.

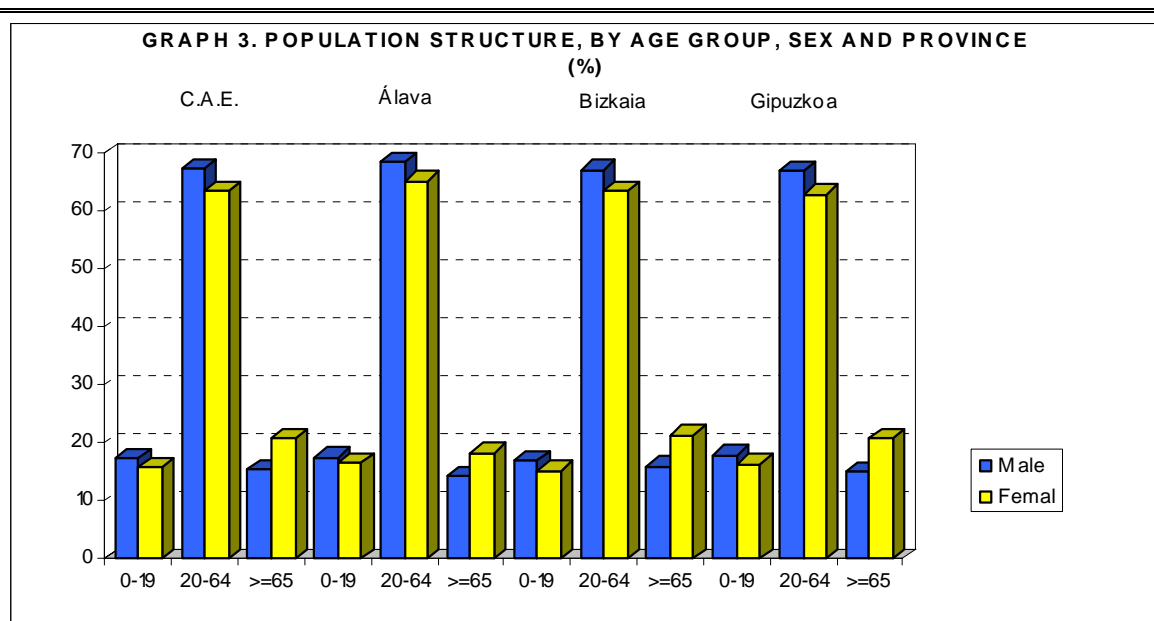
In the last inter-census period, between 1st May 1996 and 31st December 2003, the A.C. of the Basque Country registered an increase of 0.3% in its population. Alava increased in number of inhabitants by 4.4% and the population of Gipuzkoa was practically unchanged (0.2%). However, Bizkaia lost 0.6% of its population.

The distribution between the Provinces of the A.C. of the Basque Country on 31st December 2003 shows that a little more than half of the total population is concentrated in Bizkaia, 54%, while Gipuzkoa has 32% and Alava the remaining 14%.

Of all the registered inhabitants of the A.C. of the Basque Country in this Update, 1,036,715 are male and 1,083,669 female, a ratio of 1.05, that is to say there are 105 females in the Community for every 100 males. Bizkaia has 106 females for every 100 men, Gipuzkoa 104 females for every 100 males Alava, 101 females for every 100 males.

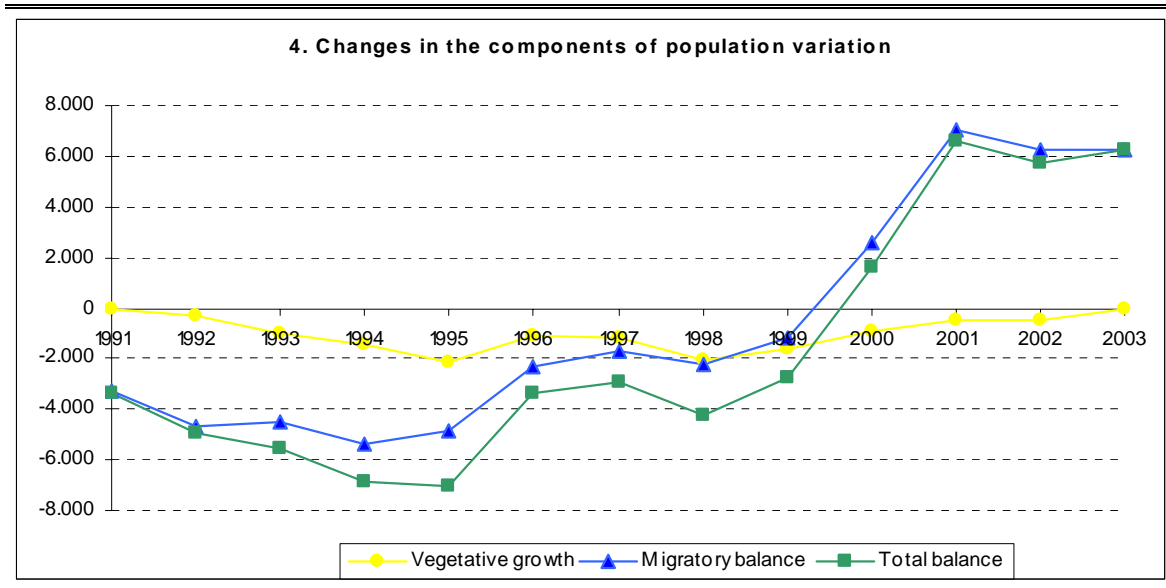
Among those aged 65 or over, due to their greater life expectancy, there are clearly more women than men, 21% are women compared to 15% of this age group represented by men.

The population pyramid of the Community at the end of 2003 indicates that 17% of the population is aged between 0 and 19, 65% fall into the 20-64 age group and 18% are aged 65 or over. Alava differs from Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa with a less aged population, having 2% fewer elderly people than the Community average.



Source: Eustat

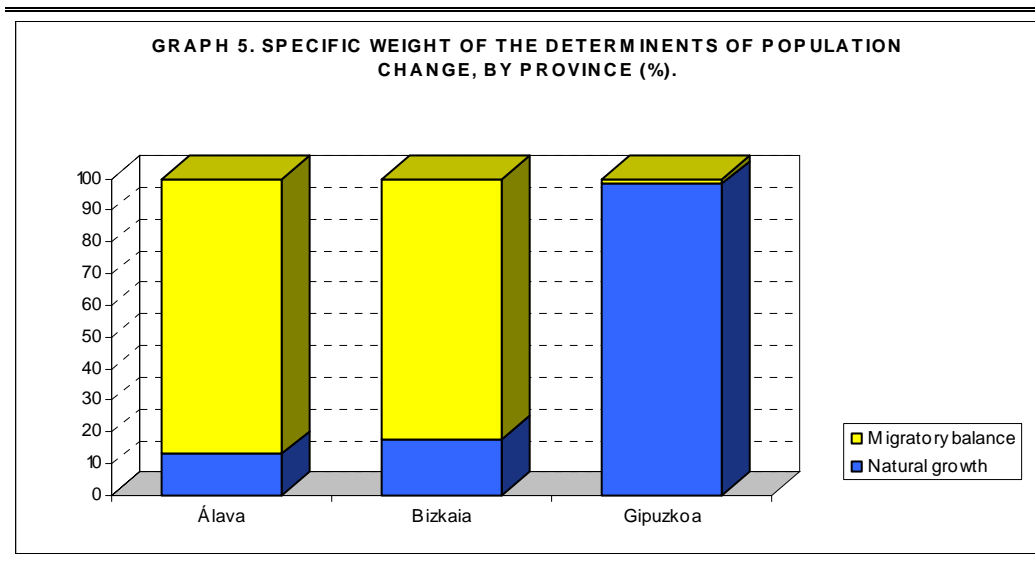
However, examination of the annual changes reveals that the rising trend of the population which began in 2000 was consolidated in 2003. From the latest Municipal Population Update (December 2002) the A.C. of the Basque Country increased in population by 6,213 inhabitants, 0.3%, as the sum of the natural and migratory balance was positive. All the demographic growth in the A.C. of the Basque Country is due to the migratory balance.



Source: Eustat

The annual variation is positive in the three provinces although there are slight differences at a provincial level in the composition of the changes. Alava, which increased in population by 2,578, is the province with the highest proportional population growth (0.9%); Bizkaia registers an increase of 3,142 inhabitants (0.3%) and the population of Gipuzkoa increased by 494 people, 0.1% of its population. Therefore all three provinces have contributed to the population recovery of the population of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

While in Alava and Bizkaia the balance between immigration and emigration is decisive in the determining the population change, in Gipuzkoa the variation in 2003 is due to the greater number of births than deaths.



Source: Eustat

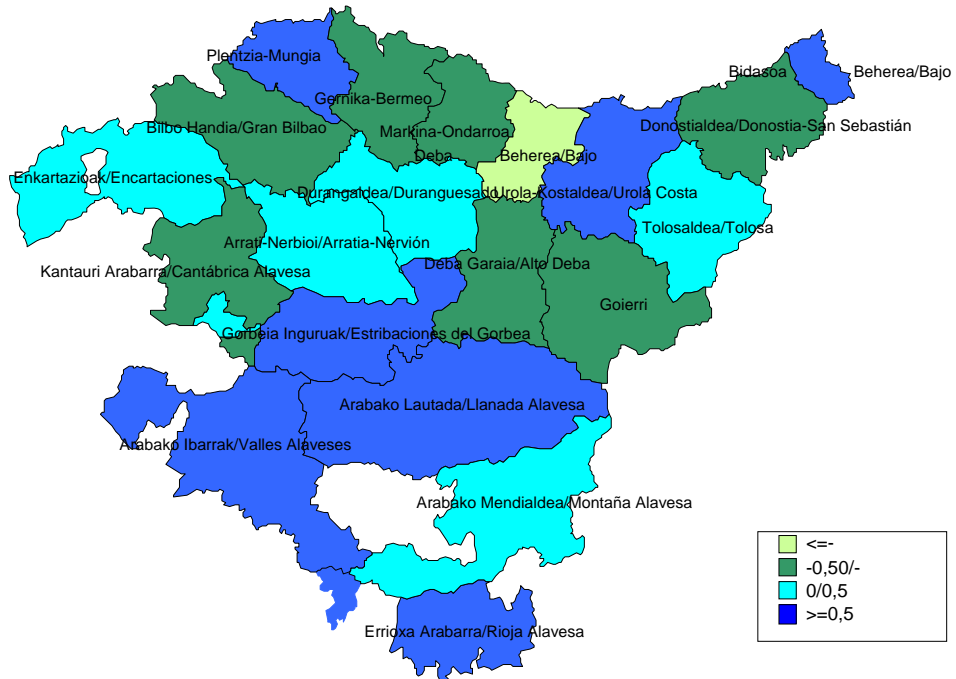
Examining the trends in the series of annual updates initiated by **Eustat** in 1991, a gradual change can be observed in the effect of the natural and migratory balances on the inter-annual population change of the A.C. of the Basque Country. Until 1999 negative natural growth exerted an increasingly important influence on the total population change, which was also negative. However, in 2000 the return for the first time since 1976 of a positive migratory balance brought about a positive total balance. Immigration contributed 99% of the demographic growth in the A.C. of the Basque Country in 2003, in spite of a still negative, although less pronounced, natural balance.

### **POPULATION IN THE REGIONS**

At the regional level, the three regions which include the capitals account for slightly more than two thirds of the total population of the Community; thus Llanada Alavesa includes 11% of the population of the A.C. of the Basque Country, Donostia-San Sebastián 15% and Gran Bilbao 41%.

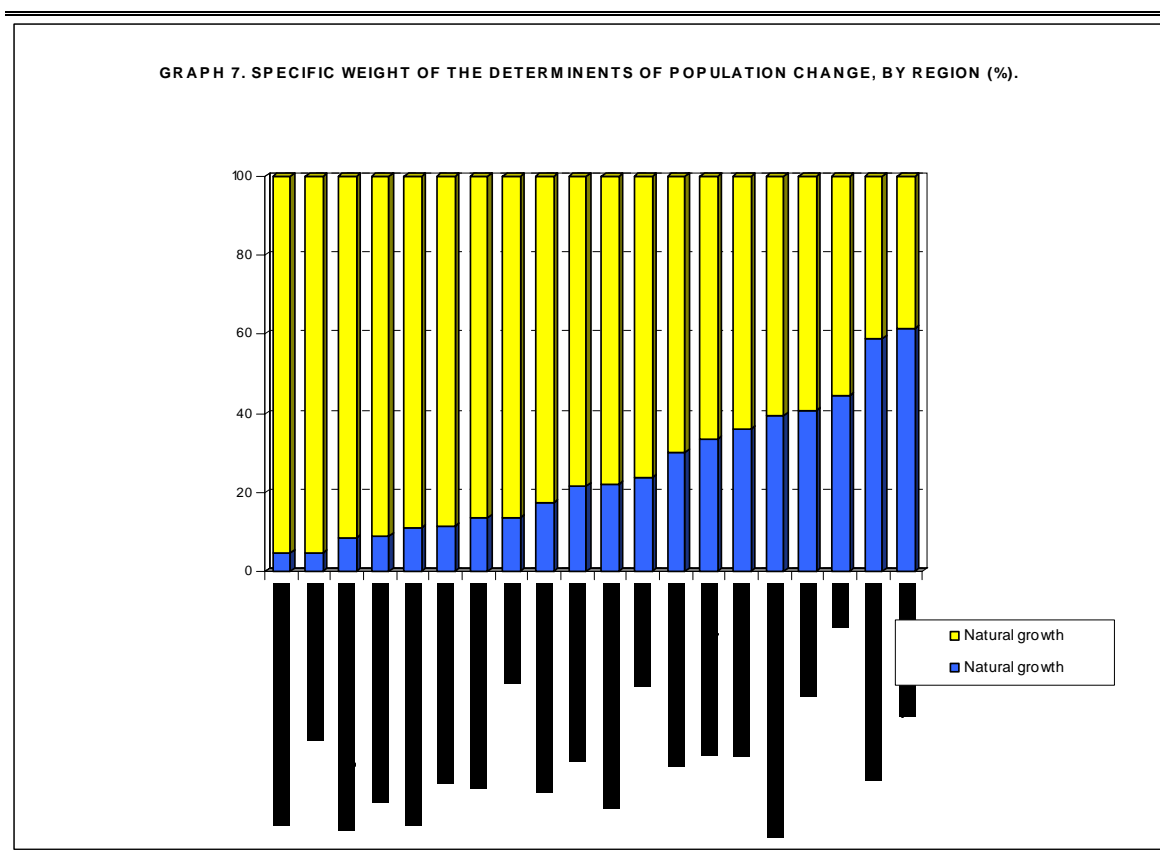
The inter-census data observed since the last Census Update up until this Update show that twelve of the twenty regions in our Community have positive population growth rates. Standing out in particular as regions with positive rates are the Valles Alaveses, Estribaciones del Gorbea and Plentzia-Mungia, with growth rates above 2%; while at the other end of the scale the region of Bajo Deba has a negative growth rate of -1%.

6. Inter-census growth rate by district (%). 1996-2003



Source: Eustat

Only four regions have suffered falls in population since the last Update: Bajo Deba, Alto Deba, Donostia-San Sebastián and Goierri. Altogether they lose 1,194 inhabitants (0.2%). The remaining regions benefit from population increases totalling 7,407 people, that is 0.5% of their population.



Source: Eustat

As regards the make-up of the population variation, with the exception of the region of Tolosa, all the regions with population increases register positive migratory balances, although the natural balance between births and deaths is not always positive, such as in the case of Valles Alaveses, Montaña Alaveses, Arratia-Nervi3n, Gran Bilbao, Encartaciones, Rioja Alaveses, Gernika-Bermeo y Markina-Ondarroa. On the other hand, all the regions with a population loss register negative migratory balances.

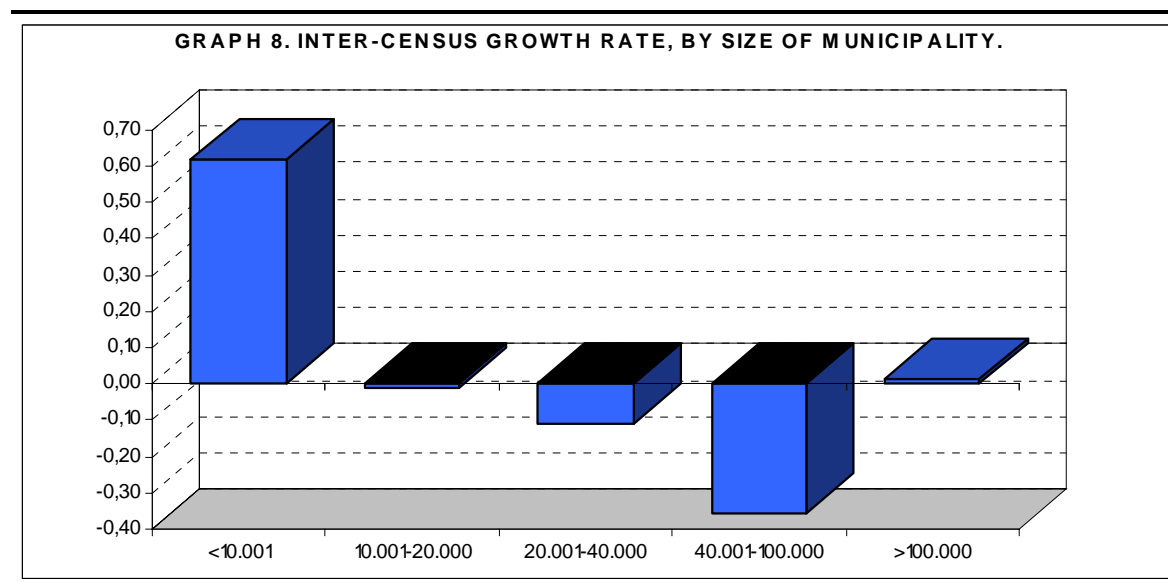
## POPULATION OF THE MUNICIPALITIES

Of the 250 municipalities which make up the A.C. of the Basque Country, 89 returned negative intercensus growth rates, that is to say, since the last Census Update of 1st May 1996 the number of inhabitants decreased, only one municipality had no changes and 160 had increases.

We have grouped the municipalities into the five following categories:

1. Large municipalities: more than 100,000 inhabitants,
2. Medium municipalities: 40,001-100,000 inhabitants,
3. Intermediate municipalities: 20,001-40,000 inhabitants,
4. Intermediate municipalities: 10,001-20,000 inhabitants,
5. Small municipalities: fewer than 10,001 inhabitants.

Community population increases are due to the categories which include municipalities of fewer than 10,001 inhabitants and, to a lesser extent, to those with populations of more than 100,000 inhabitants; in all the rest, population falls are observed since the last Census Update of May 1st 1996.

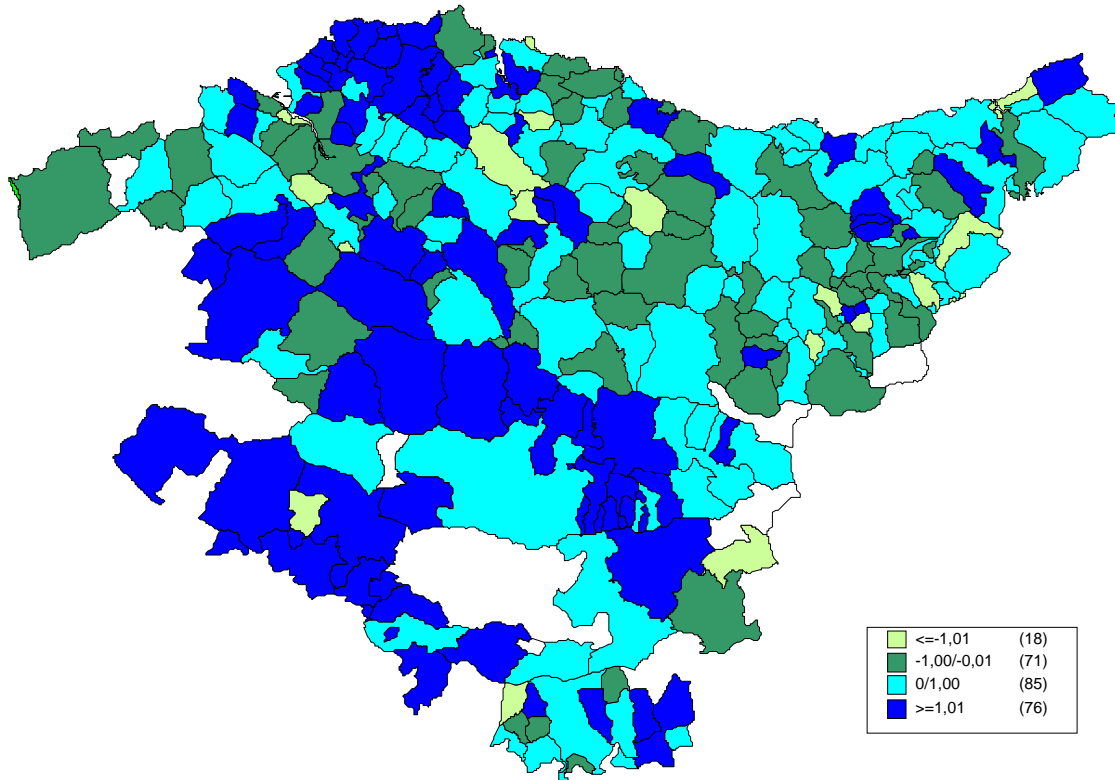


Source: Eustat

In relative terms, it is the category which includes municipalities of medium size (between 40,001 and 100,000 inhabitants), which includes the largest percentage falls, and has the most negative inter-census growth rates. Thus the smaller municipalities, as well as the three capitals which make up the category of more than 100,000 inhabitants, benefit from better performances with population increases.

Each of the categories will be analysed below separately, nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that the municipalities of A.C. of the Basque Country which, in 2003, benefited from the biggest absolute increases in their population data are Vitoria-Gasteiz with an increase of 1,237, Irun with 1,165 inhabitants more, Bilbao which gained 742 people, Arrigorriaga with 431 inhabitants more, Sopelana which gained 381 people and Durango which had 377 more inhabitants than in December 2002.

## 9. Inter-census growth rate by municipality (%). 1996-2003



Source: Eustat

On the other hand, the municipalities which suffered the largest falls in population in absolute terms in 2003 are Sestao, which lost 577 inhabitants, followed by Portugalete, 552 inhabitants, Basauri which lost 344 inhabitants, Pasaia with 282 fewer persons and Errenteria which registered a fall of 199 inhabitants.

In relative terms, the municipalities with more than ten thousand inhabitants where there was an annual increase of more than 1% were Arrigorriaga (3.7%), Sopelana (3.5%), Irun (2%), Mungia (1.7%), Durango (1.5%), Amorebieta-Etxano (1.4%), Zarautz (1.2%), Hondarribia (1.2%) and Erandio (1.2); at the other end of the table, the following municipalities registered relative annual falls of more than -1%: Sestao (-1.8%), Pasaia (-1.7%), Andoain (-1.1%), Portugalete (-1.1%), and Tolosa (-1%).

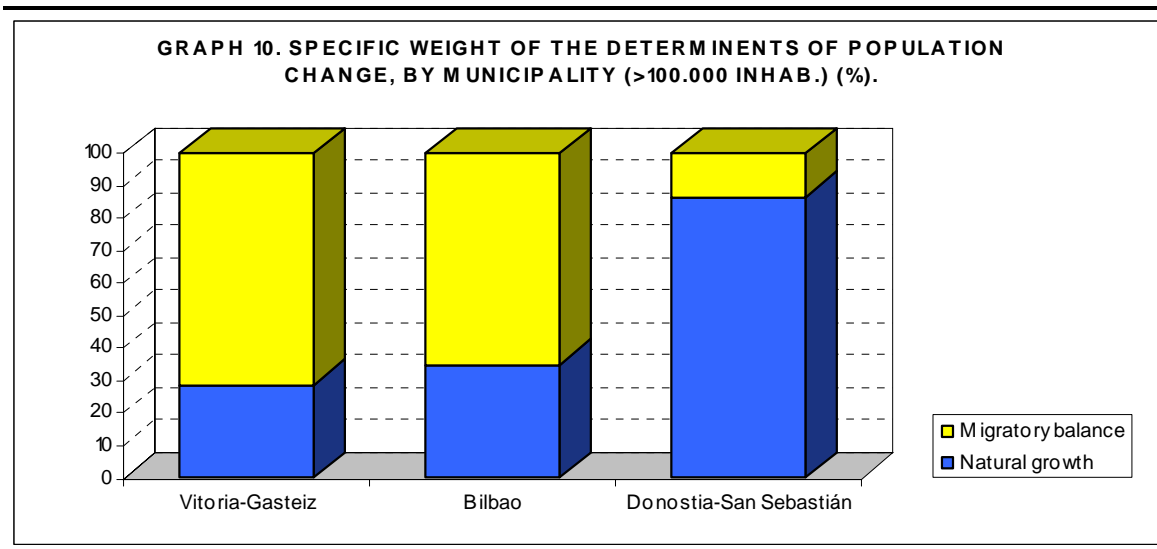
Those municipalities which registered the highest natural growth since the previous Municipal Population Update were the Alava capital (+353), the Guipuzcoan municipalities of Irun (+178) and Zarautz (+111) and the Vizcaya municipality of Leioa (+100). While in 2003 the municipalities which have the highest migratory balance are Bilbao (+1,609), Irun (987) and Vitoria-Gasteiz (+884).

### Large Municipalities

The capitals of the three provinces are the three municipalities with a population of more than 100.000 inhabitants and within them are concentrated almost 36% of the total population of the Community.

The rates of inter-census growth are positive in Donostia-San Sebastián (0.1%) and in Vitoria-Gasteiz (0.5%) although negative in Bilbao (-0.3%).

Since the last Population Update, the total annual variation in this group of municipalities stands at 0.2%. Bilbao and Vitoria-Gasteiz increased their population by 742 (0.2%) and 1,237 (0.6%) inhabitants respectively. Moving in the opposite direction is Donostia-San Sebastián, which fell in population by 157 inhabitants, that is to say, 0.1% in 2003.

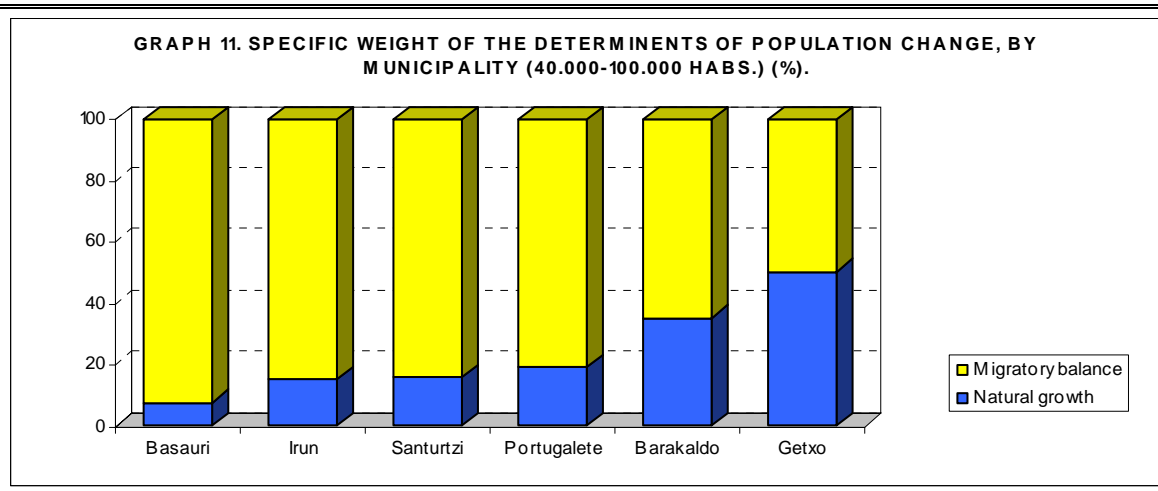


Source: Eustat

In 2003 Bilbao and Vitoria-Gasteiz are capitals which gain in population due to the migratory effect, while in Donostia-San Sebastián the natural balance has a greater influence and, as both components are negative, the fall in population is clear.

### Medium Municipalities

In the A.C. of the Basque Country there are six municipalities with a population of between 40,001 and 100,000 inhabitants accounting together for 18% of the total population of the Community. Four have negative inter-census growth rates: Barakaldo (-0.8%), Basauri (-0.8%), Portugalete (-1%), and Santurtzi (-0.7%). With positive growth are Getxo, in Bizkaia, with a rate of 0.2%, and Irun, in Gipuzkoa with a rate of 0.8%.



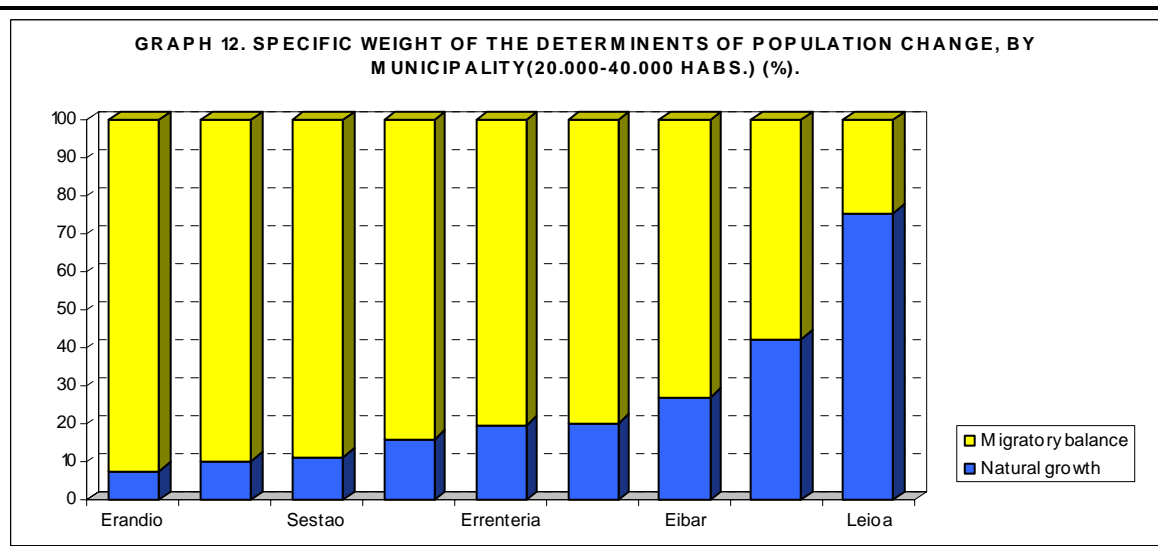
Source: Eustat

With regard to the most recent changes, the group of municipalities included in this category increased by 385 inhabitants and reveals an annual overall rate of change of 0.1%.

In all the municipalities which make up this group, the change in population is clearly determined by the migratory balance, except in Getxo where the variation is due in equal parts to both components (natural and migratory).

### Intermediate Municipalities

The nine municipalities with a population of between 20,001 and 40,000 inhabitants represent 12% of the total population of the Community. The following obtain positive inter-census growth rates: Durango (1.2%), Leioa (1.2%) and Zarautz (1.5%).



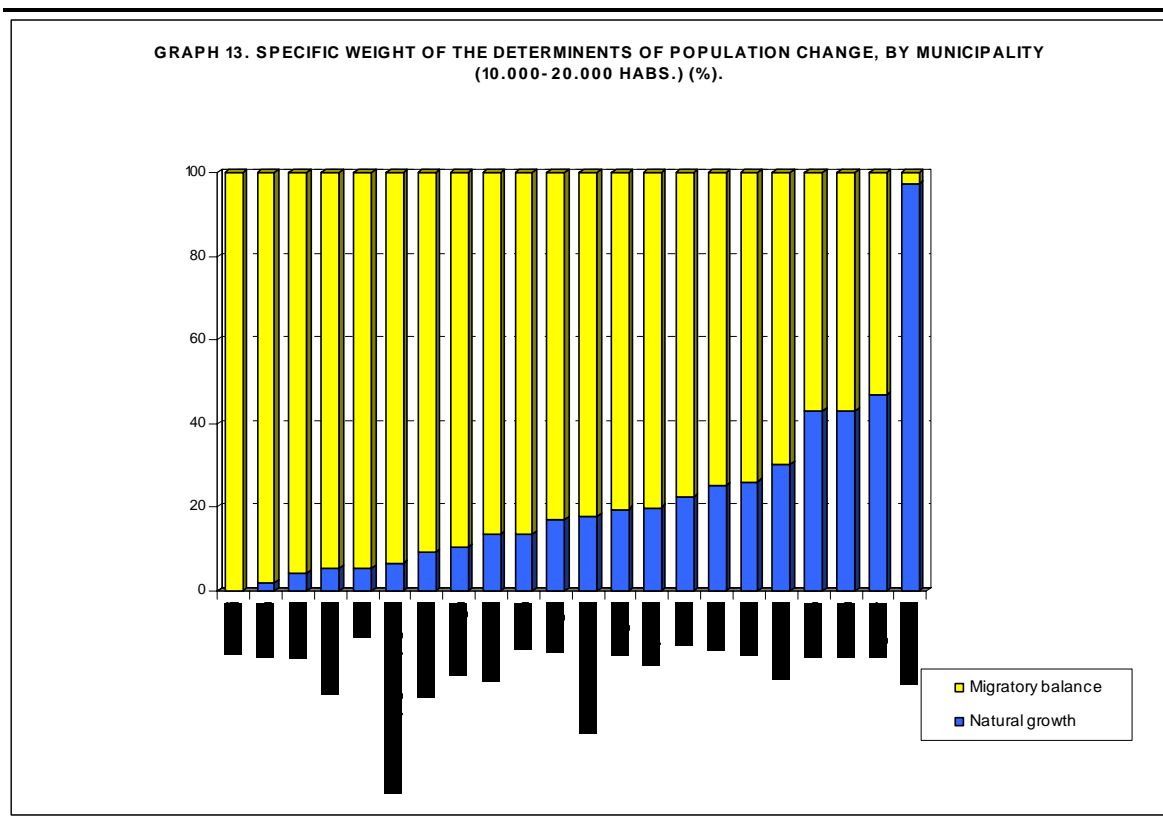
Source: Eustat

It is these municipalities, along with Erandio, which have registered increases in population since the last Update. On the other hand, Arrasate/Mondragon, Eibar, Errenteria, Galdakao and Sestao have had absolute losses in the number of inhabitants, particularly Sestao with a higher relative fall, above 1%. This category of municipalities has a total annual change of -0,1%. Except in Leioa, where the change is fundamentally due to natural growth, in all the municipalities in this category the determining factor in population changes are migratory balances.

15% of the population of the A.C. of the Basque Country reside in a total of 22 municipalities which have a population of between 10,001 and 20,000 inhabitants. The municipality of Pasaia stands out with an inter-census negative growth of lower than -1%, while others stand out with positive rates above 1%: Sopelana (2.4%), Arrigorriaga (1.8%), Mungia (1.4%) and Hondarribia (1%).

This category of municipalities increased by 490 inhabitants in all, returning a total annual change of 0.2%. Ten municipalities in this category increased their population and obtained an increase of 1,795 inhabitants representing 1.3% of their total population, while the twelve municipalities which decreased in population lost 1,305 inhabitants, that is to say 0.7%.

In the majority of the municipalities included in this category, the population change is determined by the migratory balance; although not in the municipality of Lasarte-Oria, in which it is natural growth which determines the population change.



Source: Eustat

### ***Small Municipalities***

Finally, the 210 remaining municipalities with fewer than 10,001 inhabitants make up 19% of the total population of the Community. Of these, 143 have positive inter-census growth rates and 67 negative. Among those municipalities with more than a thousand inhabitants, several stand out with positive growth rates above 3%, *Alegría-Dulantzi* (5.8%), *Zuia* (5.7%) y *Okondo* (3.4%) en *Álava*; *Irura* (5.1%) and *Astigarraga* (3.1%) in *Gipuzkoa* and *Bakio* (4.1%), *Gorliz* (4%) and *Loiu* (3.6%) in *Bizkaia*.

The group of municipalities each with fewer than 10,001 inhabitants increased its total number by 3,734 inhabitants and presents a bigger positive annual change, specifically 0.9%. Among this group of municipalities, those which increased in population did so by a total of 4,840, that is to say, 1.9% of the population of the total of the municipalities with positive growth, while the subgroup of municipalities which all lost population fell in total by 1,106 inhabitants, 0.7% of their initial population.

In previous Population Updates carried out by Eustat, population losses in this category gradually decreased in magnitude until 1995, when the trend reached a trough and the annual variation obtained a positive balance, beginning a positive trend that was confirmed in the following years.

In four out of five of these municipalities the population change corresponds to the migratory balance, while in the rest, the changes are determined by natural growth.