

## BASQUE YOUTHS LEAVE HOME LATER THAN THEY WOULD LIKE

**Increased unemployment and insecure jobs for youths decrease the options to buy a home and increases renting**

The Basque Youth Observatory has published “**Youth employment and home-leaving in the Basque Country 2011-2013**”, wide ranging research into the situation of youths in relation to employment and housing based on the replies to two home surveys conducted at the end of 2011 and 2013. In each, 1800 youths of 18 to 34 years were interviewed.

These are the most outstanding conclusions:

### **EMPLOYMENT: LESS AND MORE PRECARIOUS**

- ✓ **45.2 % of youths from 18 to 34 are working, 27.4 % study and 22.7 % are unemployed.** The results of the research show a slight drop in employment as a main activity, increased unemployment and extended time in education.
- ✓ **Permanent hiring drops and temporary jobs increase** that affects practically one third of youth employment. A slightly higher number of young women are in work than men, but they have more temporary employment, more part time jobs and an average monthly salary nearly 200 euros lower than men.
- ✓ **Disposable income has dropped** among youths compared with 2011, in spite of the stability of salaries, that on average barely exceed 1000€, due to the lower percentage of youths in work and the higher number of unemployed people with no income. Half the employed youths consider themselves badly paid and four out of ten do not have a job in keeping with their training.
- ✓ The statement that **the higher the level of studies the less unemployment** continues to be true. 32.3 % of those who have completed compulsory education are unemployed, compared with 19.1 % of those who have higher education.
- ✓ The difficulties of the labour market cause an increase in the number of youths who would accept a **cut in their labour conditions**: a change of profession, a lower job category and lower income than their qualifications should afford. There is also an increase in those who consider **self-employment** (39.4 %) and are willing to **go abroad** if they are offered an interesting job (42.7 %).

## LEAVING HOME: AT 30 AND TO RENT

- ✓ In spite of the difficulties, the percentage of people who have left their parents' home remains about half the youths from 18 to 34 years old (48.1 %). Leaving home takes place on average at 30 years old, **six years later than the age considered ideal** (24 years) and four years later than the average in the European Union (26 years).
- ✓ **The majority of youths who have left home live with a partner** (70.4 %). Leaving home alone is minority (15.7 %) due to high housing costs.
- ✓ Leaving home to rent increases and exceeds buying, that was more usual in 2011. **Half the youths who have left home (49.4 %) live in rented accommodation.**
- ✓ **Preference for renting has also grown spectacularly as a choice among those who have not left home.** In 2011, 18.4% of those who lived with their parents would have preferred renting to buying, while in 2013, 44.2% would prefer to rent, above all to avoid a mortgage loan.

## MORE HOME-LEAVERS IN SUBSIDISED AND SOCIAL HOUSING

- ✓ **There is a growth in the percentage of youths who have left home living in subsidised housing**, that goes from 9.9% in 2011 to 15.8% in 2013. In Álava, one out of every four young people who have left home live in subsidised housing.
- ✓ Within protected housing, **renting increases in a greater extent than owning.** Social leases have risen from 3% in 2011 to 7.7% and ownership from 6.9% to 8.1%.
- ✓ **The average amount of the mortgages youths pay** has dropped to 580 €. However, the average rent has increased, reaching 602 €. The differences between free market and subsidised housing are notable, above all with regard to tenancy: the average free market rent (662 €) paid by youths is double the average youth social rent (318 €).
- ✓ One out of every five youths who have left home is in a situation of **housing cost overburden**, as they spend more than 40% of the home income on paying a mortgage or rent. 26.5 % of the youth who have left home recognise they have **financial difficulties to reach the end of the month.**
- ✓ In spite of the difficulties, more than half (57.4 %) those who now live with their parents foresee leaving home within a three year period.

The full report may be found on the Basque Youth Observatory web page:

(<http://www.gazteukera.euskadi.eus/r58-854/en>)