

From 2009 to 2013, the percentage of young people who have lost purchasing power has increased by almost 20 points

Almost half of young people state that someone in their households has lost their job in the last two years

The [Basque Youth Observatory](#) has analysed data on the situation of young people aged 18 to 29 in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country taken from the latest survey published by the [Sociological Studies Office](#) of the Presidency of the Basque Government ([Basque Sociometer 51](#)). The survey was conducted last February 2013 and included 841 young people who were asked about their current situation.

Young Basque people aged between 18 and 29 give their current life a score of 5.9 out of 10 (two tenths above the average score for the total population of the Basque Country: 5.7).

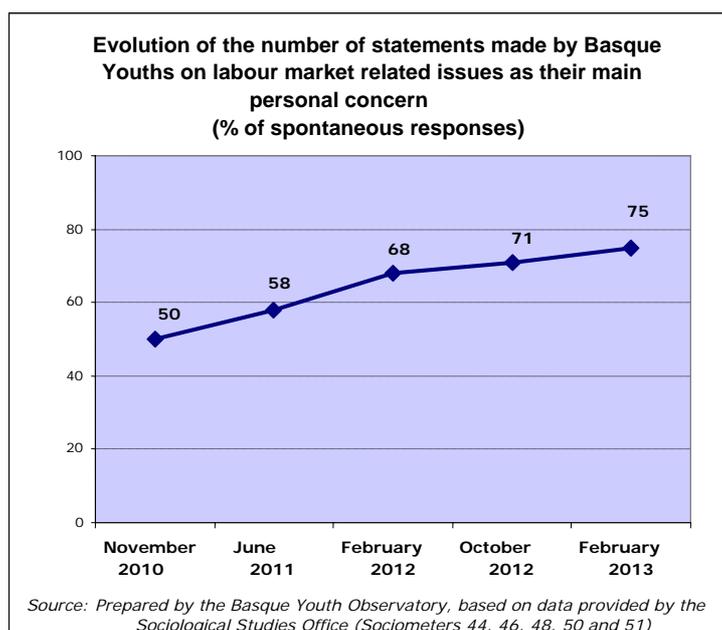
Young people are more optimistic than the rest of the population when assessing their future: they score their situation in one year's time with a 6.1 out of 10, compared to 5.7, which is the average for the general population.

This is despite the fact that a significant percentage of young people state that, over the last two years, they or another member of their household have lost their job (46 %), had to accept a reduction in their wages (39 %), have suffered a wage freeze

(34 %) or have had to accept a reduction in their workday (27 %).

It is logical, therefore, that when asking young people about their main issues or concerns, 75% mention problems related to the labour market and another 25% state economic problems.

The number of statements related to the labour market has increased significantly over the last two years: in [November 2010](#) these issues were mentioned by 50 % of young people aged 18 to 29, in [June 2011](#) this figure increased to 58 %, in [February 2012](#) it was 68 %, in [October 2012](#) it was 71% and, finally, in February 2013, it was mentioned by 75 % of young people.



In addition, in 2013 more than half of young people (56%) have stated that their purchasing power has decreased compared to the previous year: 23% say it has decreased a lot and another 33% that it has decreased slightly. The main reason given by those who have seen their purchasing power reduced is job loss (45%).

In [January 2009](#), at the beginning of the economic crisis, 38 % of young people aged 18 to 29 indicated that their purchasing power had decreased. However, the reasons mentioned referred more to an increase in prices (57%) rather than to job loss (27%)

It is not unreasonable to think that the group who claim to have seen their purchasing power reduced in 2013 (56% of young people) are among those who, in 2009, said their spending power had diminished and, therefore, their situation would have been further aggravated.

Considering that among the general population the percentage of those who have lost purchasing power in 2013 is 61%, i.e. five points higher than among young people, it can be concluded that young people are bearing the crisis better thanks to the economic cushion provided by their families. The generation of their parents (aged 45 to 64), on the other hand, is the group that has lost the most purchasing power (71%).

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