

Just over half of the young people in the Basque Autonomous Region declare they read books regularly for pleasure - girls more than boys

The number of young readers has increased over the last few years

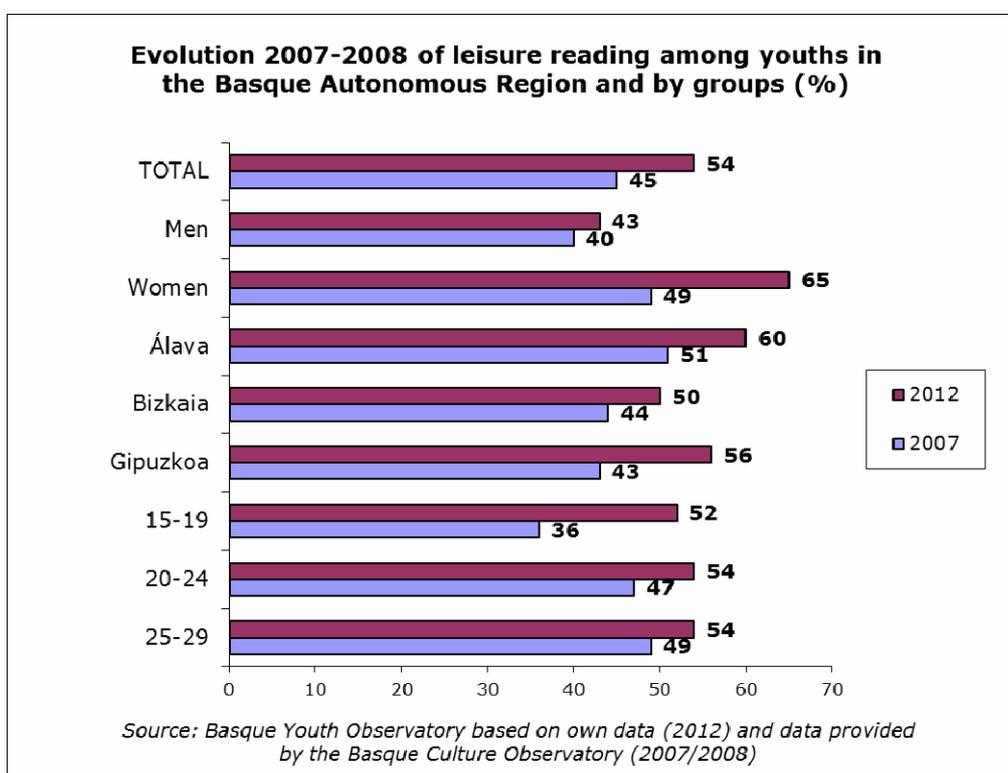
On occasion of the World Book Day, the [Basque Youth Observatory](#) is presenting some data about book-reading among Basque youths aged 15 to 29.

According to the results of the survey carried out in 2012 by the Basque Youth Observatory, involving a sample of 1,500 young people, 54 % of youths claim to have read a book within the previous month for leisure (regardless of what they had to read for work or studies).

The percentage of reading unrelated to work or studies is higher among young people than among the general population in the Basque Autonomous Region (41 %, according to data published by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports in its [Survey on Cultural Habits and Practices 2010-2011](#)).

Reading for pleasure is far more common among young women (65 %) than among young men (43 %). It is also somewhat more common among young people from Alava, where the percentage reaches 60 % (compared with 56 % in Gipuzkoa and 50 % in Bizkaia). By contrast, no significant differences can be appreciated regarding age.

The overall "reading for pleasure" rate is significantly higher than five years before for the same group (45 %), according to data provided by the [Basque Culture Observatory](#) based on statistics on cultural habits, practices and consumption in the Basque Autonomous Region (2007-2008).



If we analyse the figures registered in the different groups, we shall observe a general increase in all three provinces. Álava is still the province with the highest rate of regular readers while, on the other hand, Bizkaia, in spite of the increase, has become the territory with the lowest percentage of young readers. In any event, Gipuzkoa has registered the largest increase in reading rates.

On the other hand, the increase in leisure reading has been significantly higher among women (sixteen points more than five years before) than among men (only a three-point increase).

By age groups, the greatest increase has been registered in the youngest group: the percentage for those aged 15 to 19 has risen from 36 % to 52 %. In all other age groups the increases have also been notable but not so significant (in the 20 to 24 age group the percentage rose from 47 % to 54 % and among those aged 25 to 29 from 49 % to 54 %).

The commercial success of certain collections of juvenile literature in recent years may partly explain this increase in reading rates, especially among the youngest group and among girls.

Finally, if we compare the reading percentages of Basque youths with the figures for Spanish youths (based on data provided by the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports), we can see that far more young people in the Basque Country claim to have read a book for leisure, i.e. not for work or study, in the month previous than in Spain (54 % compared with 38 %).

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