

Employment is rising among young people, but part-time employment is on the increase, especially among women

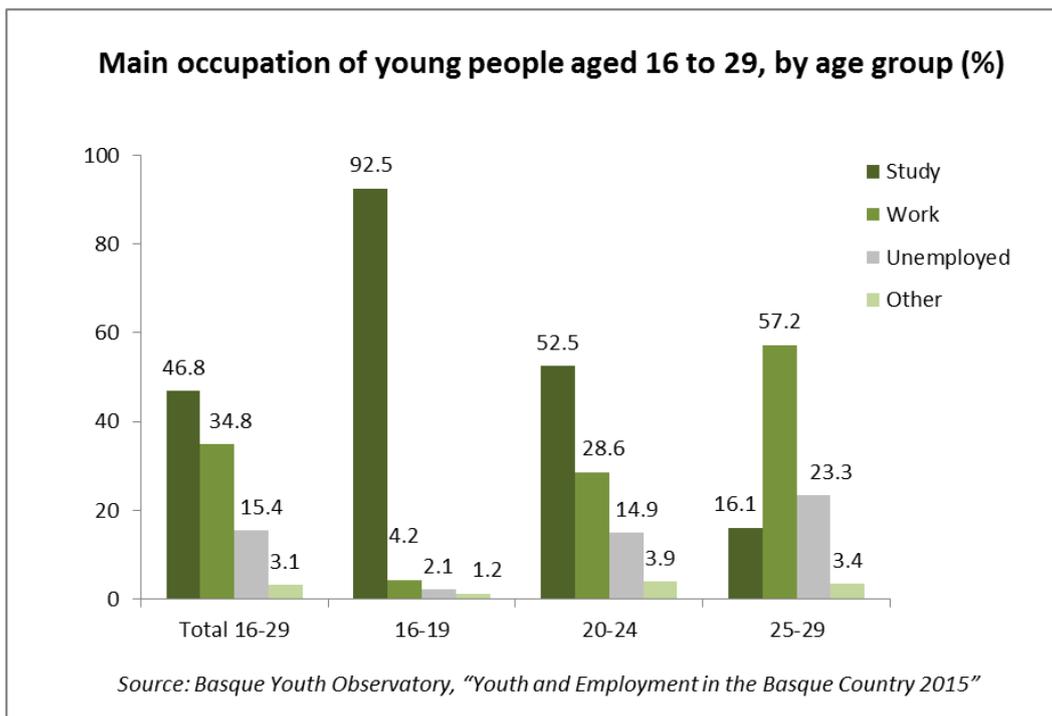
The Basque Youth Observatory presents its last report: "[Youth and Employment in the Basque Country 2015](#)". This report is based on a household survey during which 2,000 young people were interviewed.

The survey studies the labour experience of young people, access to jobs, the type of employment regarding types of contract and working hours, the percentage of self-employment and salaried employment, the sector, public or private, and also the situation of the unemployed people and their expectations of finding jobs.

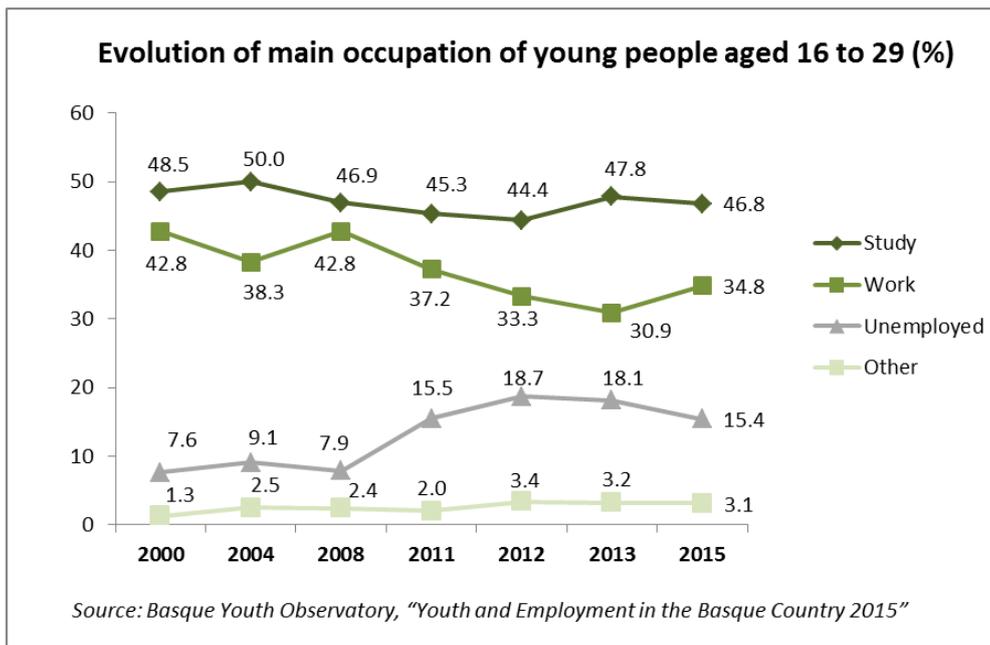
The data point to a break in the upward trend of unemployment among people aged 16 to 29 and an improvement in the expectation of finding employment. However, despite the higher number of young people in work, the figure for temporary employment is still high. Part-time jobs are on the increase, especially among women, and we are still seeing salaries around the one-thousand-euro mark.

Some of the results are included below:

Under the age of 25, most young people are studying; after that age, most work.



Between 2013 and 2015, employment figures improved and the percentage of young people aged 15 to 29 in work went from 30.9% to 34.8%, while the percentage of young unemployed people fell from 18.1% to 15.4%.



This percentage of young unemployed people places us above the EU28 average (9.1%) although in a better position than Spain as a whole (19.5%).

Working conditions of young employees

Most young employees are salaried workers in the private sector, only a small percentage of young people in work are self-employed (6.1% of young workers).

Indefinite term contracts grew from 40.6% in 2013 to 43.5% in 2015; however, the percentage of temporary contracts among young workers remained stable at 44.2%. Self-employment decreased.

One third of young people in work have part-time arrangements; especially in the case of women. Almost half of employed women work on a part-time basis, 48.9% compared to 22.1% in the case of men.

From 2013 to 2015, there was a slight recovery in full-time employment among men, something that did not occur in the case of women; in fact, the percentage of young women working part time increased by ten percentage points. The main reason to work part-time is to be unable to find full time employment (62.6%).

Average wages increased but the wages earned by young women fell. The average salary of a young working person aged 16 to 29 in the Basque Country was €996 per month in 2015.

While this is the average wage, there are great differences between groups. People working full-time earn €1,195 per month on average, compared to the €605 in the case of part-time workers.

Men earn more than women: €1,125 on average, compared to €867 for women. The wage gap is not only due to the greater percentage of women working part-time, because in the case of full-time employment, men earn slightly more than women: €1,242 on average for men compared with €1,119 for women.

Finally, the percentage of young people aged 16 to 29 who say their work is related to their qualifications stands at 52.7%, similar to the figure for 2013.

Unemployed youth

The vast majority of people who are unemployed have work experience (80.3%) and are actively seeking employment (82.8%).

The expectation of finding a job in the medium term (six months) has increased significantly since 2013. In that year, 30.5% of unemployed people hoped to find jobs; however, in 2015 that figure increased to 53.4%.

43.1% of unemployed youth have been unemployed for more than a year; more so in the case of women. Only 21.8% of unemployed people are drawing unemployment benefits.

The situation among people aged 30 to 34

The analysis of the situation involving people aged 30 to 34 confirms that, from the age of 30, the number of people entering the labour market increases and working conditions improve. Between 2013 and 2015, unemployment in this age group fell even more than among people under the age of 30, and the percentage of young people in work in the 30 to 34 age group increased by 7 percentage points since 2013.

Working people aged 30 to 34 have more indefinite term contracts (61%), more people work full-time (77.2%), and they have higher salaries (€1,242 a month, on average).

However, certain aspects do not improve with age. There is no substantial increase in the job-education match percentage (only 55.7% work in fields connected with their qualifications), and there is no increase in the percentage of people who feel they are well paid. The differences between men and women are still present at this age.

Despite the significant increase in occupation percentages compared to people under the age of 30, we find that 21% of the people in this group say they are unemployed, and half of them have been unemployed for over a year. Although the expectation of finding a job within six months had increased when compared to 2013, rising from 28.5% to 46.3% in 2015, the mood was more pessimistic than among people aged 30.

