

## The number of visitors to the Basque Country was down 4% in February 2012

### ***There was also a drop of 7% in overnight stays***

There were 130,439 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in February 2012, 4932 down on the same month of the previous year, which is a decrease of 4%, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 4% in Álava, but dropped 1% in Bizkaia and 11% in Gipuzkoa.

Numbers of visitors from Spain fell by 6%, in the Basque Country as a whole. There was a rise in visitors from within Spain in Álava, where they increased by 2%, however in Bizkaia there was a drop of 3% and in Gipuzkoa they fell by 14%. The number of foreign visitors was up 3% in the Basque Country. in Araba they were up 18%, in Bizkaia 4%, but in Gipuzkoa they were down 1%.

Amongst travellers from other Autonomous Communities there was a greater percentage increase in those coming from Murcia, Andalusia, the Canary Islands and Ceuta and Melilla, whilst there was a decrease in those coming mainly from the Balearics, Asturias, La Rioja, Cantabria and Navarra. There was a rise amongst foreign visitors from, above all, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, the Nordic countries and Latin America. The drop in visitor numbers from Luxemburg, Belgium, Holland and Italy was particularly noteworthy.

Registered overnight stays in February 2012 totalled 228,384, 7% down on the same month of the previous year, that is, there were 17,680 less overnight stays. There was a positive year-on-year change in Overnight stays in Álava, where they rose by 1%, but in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa they were down 3% and 17%, respectively.

The average length of stay decreased with respect to February 2011, going from 1.82 days in February 2011 to 1.75 days for the same month of 2012, for the Basque Country as a whole. By provinces, in Álava it dropped from 1.94 to 1.88 days and in Bizkaia from 1.75 to 1.72 days, whilst in Gipuzkoa it went from 1.85 days in February 2011 to 1.72 days in the same month of 2012.

The bed occupancy rate was down 8%, and stood at 32.04% in February 2012 for the Basque Country as a whole. This drop affected the three provinces. In Álava the bed occupancy rate was down 7%, going from 34.93% in February 2011 to 32.57% in February 2012; in Bizkaia this drop was 5%, with the occupancy rate going from 33.89% in February 2011 to 32.29% in February 2012 and in Gipuzkoa there was a drop of 13%, where it went from 36.00% in February 2011 to 31.35% in February 2012.

## RURAL TOURISM

Visitor numbers fell by 18% and overnight stays were down 16%, compared to February 2011

In February this year there were 5192 registered visitors to rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, which was a drop of 18% with respect to the visitors to rural tourism establishments in February 2011. By provinces, it was observed that in Álava there was a drop of 7%, whilst visitor numbers were down by 21% in both Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa. Spanish visitors were down 17% as a whole in the Basque Country. They were down by 10% in Álava, 16% in Bizkaia and by 20% in Gipuzkoa. There was a drop in foreigner numbers in the Community as a whole, with a notable rise in Álava but a fall above all in Bizkaia and to a lesser extent in Gipuzkoa, all in percentage terms.

Overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country stood at 11,513 in February, which was a reduction of 16% on the previous year, whilst the year-on-year figures for Álava were positive, growing 2%, whereas in Gipuzkoa they were down 16% and in Bizkaia 27%.

The average length of stay increased in the Basque Country as a whole with respect to February 2011, going from 2.15 days one year ago to 2.22 days in February 2012. In Álava there was a rise of 10%, with the average stay going from 2.16 days in February 2011 to 2.37 days in February 2012; in Bizkaia there was a drop of 8%, with the average stay going from 2.39 days in February 2011 to 2.19 days in February 2012, and in Gipuzkoa there was a 6% rise in the average stay, where it went from 2.04 days in February 2011 to 2.17 days in the same month of this year.

There was a drop of 23% in the bed occupancy rate, where it went from 13.14% to 10.15%, as a result of the fall experienced in the three provinces. In Bizkaia there was a drop of 29%, in Gipuzkoa the fall was 26% and in Álava 8%.

**Table 1: Hotel and Rural Tourism Establishments in the Basque Country. Monthly results**

	BASQUE COUNTRY				ARABA / ÁLAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	02 2012	(%)	02 2011	(%)	Δ %	02 2012	(%)	02 2011	(%)	Δ %	02 2012	(%)	02 2011	(%)	Δ %					
	HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																			
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	228.384	100	246.064	100	-7	43.217	100	42.618	100	1	113.070	100	116.349	100	-3	72.097	100	87.097	100	-17
National	167.941	74	182.741	74	-8	34.832	81	34.964	82	0	80.783	71	81.973	70	-1	52.326	73	65.804	76	-20
Foreigners	60.443	26	63.323	26	-5	8.385	19	7.654	18	10	32.287	29	34.376	30	-6	19.771	27	21.293	24	-7
Capital	147.405	65	158.201	64	-7	34.435	80	35.115	82	-2	75.881	67	78.058	67	-3	37.089	51	45.028	52	-18
Coast	18.438	8	22.751	9	-19	-	-	-	-	-	4.892	4	6.548	6	-25	13.546	19	16.203	19	-16
Inland	62.541	27	65.112	26	-4	8.782	20	7.503	18	17	32.297	29	31.743	27	2	21.462	30	25.866	30	-17
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	130.439	100	135.371	100	-4	22.943	100	21.956	100	4	65.626	100	66.314	100	-1	41.870	100	47.101	100	-11
National	99.082	76	105.038	78	-6	19.296	84	18.868	86	2	49.601	76	50.912	77	-3	30.185	72	35.258	75	-14
Foreigners	31.357	24	30.333	22	3	3.647	16	3.088	14	18	16.025	24	15.402	23	4	11.685	28	11.843	25	-1
Capital	82.609	63	87.305	64	-5	17.346	76	16.593	76	5	42.762	65	44.226	67	-3	22.501	54	26.486	56	-15
Coast	10.092	8	12.047	9	-16	-	-	-	-	-	2.874	4	4.001	6	-28	7.218	17	8.046	17	-10
Inland	37.738	29	36.019	27	5	5.597	24	5.363	24	4	19.990	30	18.087	27	11	12.151	29	12.569	27	-3
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,75		1,82		-4	1,88		1,94		-3	1,72		1,75		-2	1,72		1,85		-7
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	32,04		34,79		-8	32,57		34,93		-7	32,29		33,89		-5	31,35		36,00		-13
Capital	36,79		39,87		-8	36,73		41,12		-11	38,23		39,89		-4	34,20		38,91		-12
Coast	27,04		34,49		-22	-	-	-	-	-	16,90		25,20		-33	34,52		40,52		-15
Inland	25,64		26,63		-4	22,57		20,50		10	26,30		26,09		1	26,10		30,00		-13
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	41,02		43,99		-7	41,80		43,89		-5	41,73		44,15		-5	39,50		43,80		-10
Capital	47,15		50,81		-7	47,03		52,71		-11	49,32		52,57		-6	43,35		46,66		-7
Coast	32,48		41,36		-21	-	-	-	-	-	22,36		32,23		-31	40,45		46,97		-14
Inland	33,33		34,29		-3	28,55		23,79		20	34,12		33,89		1	34,25		38,83		-12
<b>AGRI-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	11.513	100	13.652	100	-16	2.718	100	2.672	100	2	2.712	100	3.732	100	-27	6.083	100	7.248	100	-16
National	10.028	87	11.784	86	-15	2.457	90	2.536	95	-3	2.212	82	2.908	78	-24	5.359	88	6.340	87	-15
Foreigners	1.485	13	1.868	14	-21	261	10	136	5	92	500	18	824	22	-39	724	12	908	13	-20
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	5.192	100	6.352	100	-18	1.149	100	1.236	100	-7	1.238	100	1.560	100	-21	2.805	100	3.556	100	-21
National	4.874	94	5.888	93	-17	1.095	95	1.220	99	-10	1.135	92	1.344	86	-16	2.644	94	3.324	93	-20
Foreigners	318	6	464	7	-31	54	5	16	1	238	103	8	216	14	-52	161	6	232	7	-31
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	2,22		2,15		3	2,37		2,16		10	2,19		2,39		-8	2,17		2,04		6
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	10,15		13,14		-23	10,54		11,43		-8	8,03		11,25		-29	11,29		15,32		-26
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	11,71		15,56		-25	11,20		13,64		-18	10,21		14,62		-30	12,94		17,20		-25

Source: EUSTAT. Survey on Tourist Establishments of the Basque Country (EETR)

**For further information:**
[Basque Statistics Office](#)

C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz

 Tel: +34-945-01 75 00 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: [eustat@eustat.es](mailto:eustat@eustat.es)

Contact: Gerardo Pérez Aja

Tel:+34-945-01 75 06 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01

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