

## Tourist spending increased by 4.0% in the Basque Country and accounted for 6.1% of GDP in 2018

**It accounted for 7.6% of GDP in Gipuzkoa, 5.4% in Bizkaia and 5.1% in Álava**

Compared to the previous year, total tourist spending in the Basque Country in 2018 rose by 4.0%. This represented 6.1% of GDP for that year, the same as in 2017, according to data prepared by EUSTAT. In absolute terms, spending went from 4,474 million in 2017 to 4,651 million in 2018.

In terms of the components of tourist spending, this increase in spending in the Basque Country occurred mainly in *Inbound Tourism*, which increased by 6.8%, i.e. spending by tourists and day-trippers who come from abroad or the rest of Spain and, to a lesser extent, in *Other components of tourist spending* (+0.8%). Thus, the proportion of inbound tourism in overall spending reached 54.4% in 2018, up 1.4 points compared to 2017.

**Contribution of tourism to the Basque economy per year. Absolute value and percentage over GDP p.m. Current Prices. 2012-2018(a)**

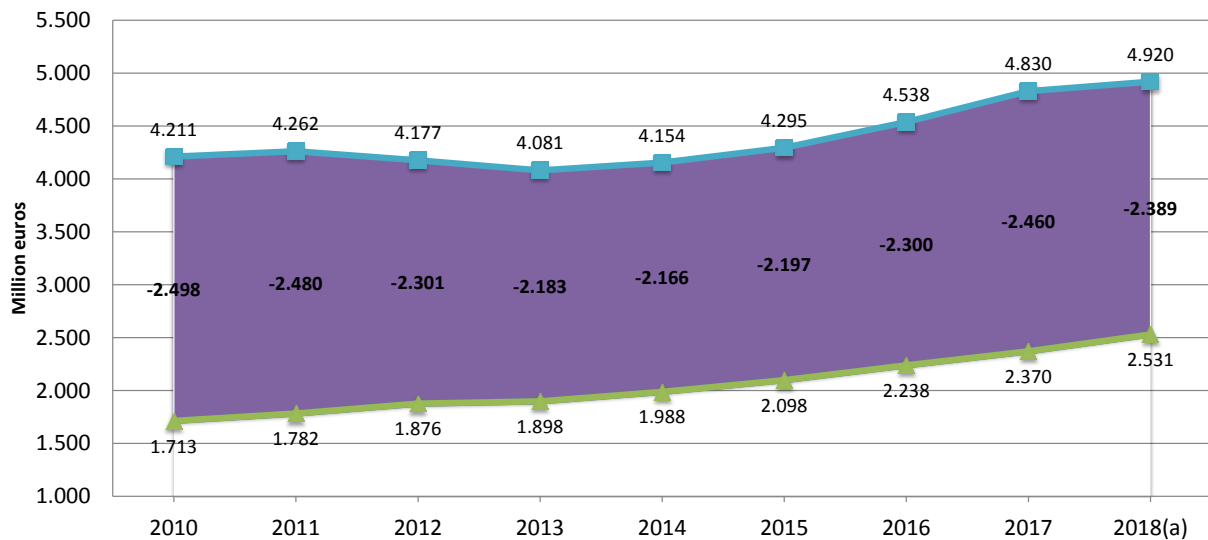
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018(a)
<b>Total Tourist Spending</b>	<b>3.799.935</b>	<b>3.803.144</b>	<b>3.921.201</b>	<b>4.119.211</b>	<b>4.305.184</b>	<b>4.473.543</b>	<b>4.651.303</b>
Incoming tourism	1.875.625	1.898.298	1.988.273	2.097.648	2.238.422	2.370.390	2.531.497
Other components of tourism	1.924.310	1.904.846	1.932.928	2.021.563	2.066.762	2.103.153	2.119.809
<b>Total Tourist Spending (%)</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Incoming tourism	49,4	49,9	50,7	50,9	52,0	53,0	54,4
Other components of tourism	50,6	50,1	49,3	49,1	48,0	47,0	45,6
<b>Porcentaje sobre el PIB p.m.</b>							
<b>Total Tourist Spending</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>6,1</b>
Incoming tourism	2,9	2,9	3,0	3,0	3,1	3,2	3,3
Other components of tourism	2,9	2,9	2,9	3,0	2,9	2,9	2,8

Source: Eustat. Tourism satellite account  
Base 2015  
(a) Advance

The item *Other components of tourist spending* includes spending by tourists and day-trippers from the Basque Country in the Region itself, spending on tourism related programmes by Basque public administrations and, finally, the gross capital formation (investment) of companies pertaining to the characteristic branches of tourism.

In turn, the deficit generated by the difference between **inbound tourism** spending (journeys and trips by non-residents in the Basque Country) and **outbound tourism** spending (journeys and trips by Basque residents outside of the Basque Country) stood at 2,389 million euros in 2018, representing 3.1% of GDP. For the first time in the last five years, the tourism balance deficit decreased, falling by 71.6 million euros.

### Balance of tourism flows of the Basque Country



Source: Eustat. Tourism satellite account

■ Tourism balance ▲ Incoming tourism ■ Outbound tourism

### Tourist spending increased in all three territories in 2018

Gipuzkoa registered an increase of 4.4% in tourist spending, 0.4 points above the average; Bizkaia and Álava saw growth of 4.1% and 2.4%, respectively.

By province, tourist spending in Bizkaia represented 44.9% of the total in 2018, 41.5% in Gipuzkoa and, finally, 13.6% in Álava.

### Contribution of tourism to the Basque economy by province and year. Absolute value and percentage over GDP p.m. Current prices. 2012-2018(a)

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018(a)
<b>TOURIST SPENDING</b>							
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>3.799.935</b>	<b>3.803.144</b>	<b>3.921.201</b>	<b>4.119.211</b>	<b>4.305.184</b>	<b>4.473.543</b>	<b>4.651.306</b>
Araba/Álava	571.949	551.456	563.089	579.464	596.885	615.511	630.337
Bizkaia	1.661.834	1.680.990	1.724.166	1.823.481	1.905.175	2.008.800	2.090.741
Gipuzkoa	1.566.152	1.570.698	1.633.946	1.716.266	1.803.124	1.849.232	1.930.228
<b>PERCENTAGE STRUCTURE</b>							
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>	<b>100,0</b>
Araba/Álava	15,1	14,5	14,3	14,1	13,9	13,8	13,6
Bizkaia	43,7	44,2	44,0	44,2	44,2	44,9	44,9
Gipuzkoa	41,2	41,3	41,7	41,7	41,9	41,3	41,5
<b>PERCENTAGE ON GDP p.m.</b>							
<b>Basque Country</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>5,8</b>	<b>5,9</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>6,0</b>	<b>6,1</b>	<b>6,1</b>
Araba/Álava	5,3	5,2	5,2	5,2	5,2	5,2	5,1
Bizkaia	5,0	5,1	5,1	5,3	5,3	5,4	5,4
Gipuzkoa	7,2	7,3	7,4	7,6	7,7	7,6	7,6

Source: Eustat. Tourism satellite account

Base 2015

(a) Avance

Gipuzkoa remained the province for which tourism acts as a driving force in the economy, accounting for 7.6% of GDP, a percentage which was maintained from the previous year. Bizkaia also maintained the weight of tourist spending on GDP compared to 2017 (5.4%). On the other hand, Álava dropped by one point, standing at 5.1% of GDP.

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