

Expenditure on tourism in the Basque Country decreased by 43.4% in 2020 and stood at 2,878 million, 4.0% of GDP

In 2020, all the components of tourism expenditure in the Basque Country fell, as did expenditure on tourism by Basques beyond the borders

The pandemic and travel restrictions in 2020 impacted all the components of tourism expenditure in the Basque Country, along with expenditure on tourism by Basques beyond the borders; this expenditure stood at 2,878 million euros in the Basque Country, almost 2,206 million fewer than in 2019, representing a drop of 43.4%, according to data prepared by Eustat. As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), tourism expenditure fell 2.4 points, from 6.4% in 2019 to 4.0% in 2020.

The Tourism Satellite Account is compiled using the methodology of the World Tourism Organization (WTO, EUROSTAT, OCDE, 2010) and **computes a number of tourism-related economic parameters, from the viewpoint of both supply and demand**, integrating and linking these two perspectives with those used in the National Accounts to quantify the other economic activities.

To understand the exceptional nature of this drop, it should be noted that expenditure on tourism had only ever fallen once in the Basque Country since records began. This occurred in 2009 as a result of the economic crisis and, on that occasion, the decrease in tourism expenditure was only 164 million euros, a 4.4% drop compared to the previous year.

Contribution of tourism to the GDP of the Basque Country. Current Prices. 2010-2020

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020(a)
Total Tourist Spending	3.632.144	4.355.670	4.632.752	4.766.068	4.887.607	5.084.280	2.878.487
Incoming tourism	1.887.771	2.484.045	2.732.718	2.820.536	2.932.810	3.036.341	1.360.767
Other components of tourism	1.744.373	1.871.625	1.900.034	1.945.532	1.954.797	2.047.939	1.517.720
Total Tourist Spending (%)	100,0						
Incoming tourism	52,0	57,0	59,0	59,2	60,0	59,7	47,3
Other components of tourism	48,0	43,0	41,0	40,8	40,0	40,3	52,7
Porcentaje sobre el PIB p.m.	5,4	6,3	6,5	6,4	6,3	6,4	4,0
Total Tourist Spending	2,8	3,6	3,8	3,8	3,8	3,8	1,9
Incoming tourism	2,6	2,7	2,7	2,6	2,5	2,6	2,1

Source: Eustat. Tourism satellite account

Base 2015

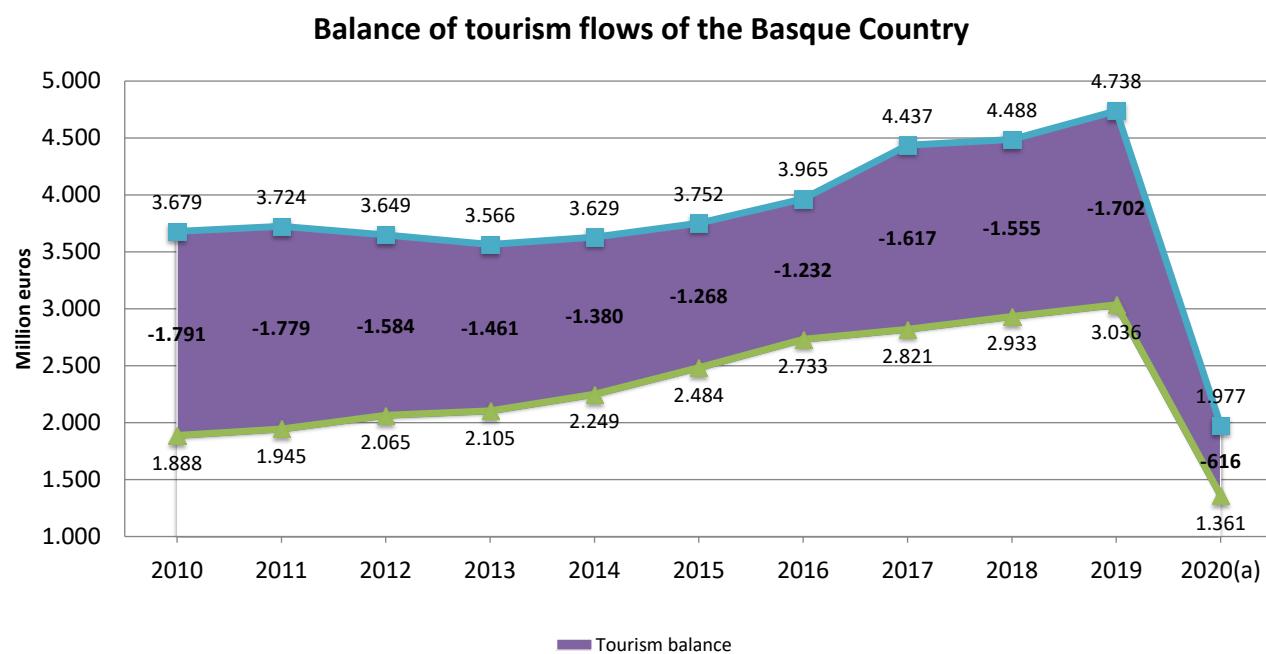
(a) Advance

The health crisis affected the two aggregates that comprise tourism expenditure, although the impact on ***Inbound tourism*** was greater. This component of the expenditure includes tourism expenditure in the Basque Country by people originating from abroad and the rest of Spain, which fell by 55.2% in 2020, compared to the previous year. The ***Other tourism components*** include expenditure on tourism by Basque residents in the Basque Country itself, expenditure by public Administrations on tourism-

related programmes and Gross Capital Formation (Investment) in characteristic tourist business lines. The pandemic also affected this second aggregate, albeit to a lesser extent, with a reduction of 25.9% compared to the previous year.

The decrease in tourism caused by the health crisis reduced the tourism balance deficit in the Basque Country

In 2020, the health crisis impacted both outbound tourism and inbound tourism. Both figures dropped to below half of the values registered the previous year. In absolute terms, the reduction was greater in **outbound tourism**, which led to an improvement in the tourism balance for the Basque Country, from -1,702 million euros in 2019 to -616 million in 2020. In terms of percentage of GDP, these data mean that the tourism balance went from -2.1% in 2019 to -0.9% in 2020.



Source: Eustat. Tourism satellite account

The effects of the pandemic were felt in all three Basque provinces

The impact of travel restrictions affected all three provinces. The greatest reduction occurred in Bizkaia, with 45.7%, 1.7 points lower than in 2019. Gipuzkoa suffered a drop of 42.7%, although its share of the total tourism expenditure rose half a percentage point. For its part, the fall in Álava was less marked, 38.1%, and its contribution to total expenditure on tourism increased by 1.2 points.

Contribution of tourism to the Basque economy by province and year, Absolute value and percentage on the GDP p.m. Current prices. 2010-2020

	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020(a)
TOURIST SPENDING							
Basque Country	3.632.144	4.355.670	4.632.752	4.766.068	4.887.607	5.084.280	2.878.488
Araba/Álava	508.500	612.728	642.301	655.759	662.360	676.772	418.786
Bizkaia	1.579.983	1.928.156	2.050.133	2.140.156	2.196.957	2.263.742	1.230.443
Gipuzkoa	1.543.661	1.814.786	1.940.318	1.970.153	2.028.290	2.143.766	1.229.259
PERCENTAGE STRUCTURE							
Basque Country	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100
Araba/Álava	14,0	14,1	13,9	13,8	13,6	13,3	14,5
Bizkaia	43,5	44,3	44,2	44,9	44,9	44,5	42,8
Gipuzkoa	42,5	41,6	41,9	41,3	41,5	42,2	42,7
PERCENTAGE ON GDP p.m.							
Basque Country	5,4	6,3	6,5	6,4	6,3	6,4	4,0
Araba/Álava	4,8	5,5	5,5	5,5	5,4	5,3	3,7
Bizkaia	4,6	5,6	5,7	5,7	5,7	5,6	3,4
Gipuzkoa	7,0	8,0	8,2	8,1	7,9	8,0	5,1

Source: Eustat. Tourism satellite account

Base 2015

(a) Avance

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