

**Press release** 21/03/2002**SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS(EETR)****February 2002**

7% INCREASE IN VISITORS AND 6% RISE IN OVERNIGHT STAYS IN FEBRUARY 2002

The improvement in the number of visitors affects both state (+8%) and foreign visitors (+3%).

In hotel establishments in the A.C. of Euskadi there were 93,109 entries by visitors in February 2002, 7% more than in the same month the previous year, which means an inter-annual increase of 6,000 more entries. Entries by visitors have exceeded the previous year's data in the three provinces, but the intensity was not homogeneous. In Alava and Gipuzkoa there were increases of 12% and 11% respectively, while in Bizkaia the increase was much lower, only 1%.

Entries by state visitors increased by 8% in the whole of the A.C. of Euskadi and the number of foreign visitors increased by 3%. Both groups increased in Alava and Gipuzkoa. In Bizkaia, however, the number of foreign visitors fell (-5%).

There was an increase in state visitors mainly from Catalonia and Madrid, and from the A.C. of Euskadi itself. There was a reduction, among others, in visitors from Valencia, Castilla and León and Castilla-La Mancha. Among foreign visitors, there was a strong increase in visitors from the United Kingdom and a fall in visitors from Italy.

Overnight stays registered in February 2002 came to 165,192, i.e. almost 10,000 more than the same month the previous year, which represents a rise of 6% in percentage terms. The number of overnight stays rose in Gipuzkoa (13%) and Bizkaia (5%), but fell in Alava by 3% due to a higher reduction in the average stay by state visitors.

The length of the average stay by visitors staying at hotels in the A.C. of Euskadi was slightly shorter in February 2002, falling from 1.78 days last year to 1.77 this year. The average stay fell considerably in Alava (from 1.90 days to 1.65) and this explains the fact that overnight stays have fallen in this province, although there was an important increase in visitors (12%). The opposite is the case of Bizkaia, where there was a slight increase in visitors (1%) and a higher increase in overnight stays (5%) due to the growth in the average stay. In Gipuzkoa the increases were similar for both variables.

The level of occupancy improved both by places (3%) and by rooms (4%) in the whole of the A.C. of Euskadi. Hotel establishments in Gipuzkoa improved their level of occupancy most in the inter-annual period, in Bizkaia it was stable and the level of occupancy by places fell in Alava.

Agrotourism: Increase in overnight stays (7%) and, slightly less, in entries by visitors (1%)

There were 4,212 entries by visitors to Agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of Euskadi in February 2002, 1% more than the previous year, Alava (18%) and Gipuzkoa (8%) being the provinces with increases, compared with the fall by 12% in Bizkaia.

Overnight stays rose to 9,156, 7% more than in February 2001. The increases in overnight stays occurred in Gipuzkoa (9%) and Bizkaia (9%), as a result in the latter province of the large increase in the length of the average stay by visitors (24%), the opposite of the case in Alava (-15%).

For further information:


 Eustat	Euskal Estatistika Erakundea / Instituto Vasco de Estadística Donostia-San Sebastián, 1. 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz Tel:+34-945-01 75 00 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es Contact person: Gerardo Pérez Tlf:+34-945-01 75 06 Fax:+34-945-01 75 01 Press releases on the Internet : www.eustat.es
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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI					ARABA/ALAVA					BIZKAIA					GIPUZKOA				
	02/2002	%	02/2001	%	D%	02/2002	%	02/2001	%	D%	02/2002	%	02/2001	%	D%	02/2002	%	02/2001	%	D%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	93.109	100	87.192	100	7	19.349	100	17.298	100	12	37.691	100	37.350	100	1	36.069	100	32.544	100	11
National	70.543	76	65.329	75	8	16.245	84	14.733	85	10	26.789	71	25.834	69	4	27.509	76	24.762	76	11
Foreign	22.566	24	21.863	25	3	3.104	16	2.565	15	21	10.902	29	11.516	31	-5	8.560	24	7.782	24	10
OVERNIGHT STAYS	165.192	100	155.589	100	6	31.949	100	32.872	100	-3	71.752	100	68.175	100	5	61.491	100	54.542	100	13
National	119.795	73	113.826	73	5	26.071	82	27.195	83	-4	47.566	66	44.764	66	6	46.158	75	41.867	77	10
Foreign	45.397	27	41.763	27	9	5.878	18	5.677	17	4	24.186	34	23.411	34	3	15.333	25	12.675	23	21
AVERAGE STAY	1,77		1,78		-1	1,65		1,90		-13	1,90		1,83		4	1,70		1,68		1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	36,93		35,85		3	42,39		46,02		-8	38,77		38,85		0	32,91		29,14		13
AGRO-TOURISM																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	4.212	100	4.161	100	1	724	100	611	100	18	1.488	100	1.690	100	-12	2.000	100	1.860	100	8
National	4.060	96	4.006	96	1	692	96	554	91	25	1.456	98	1.620	96	-10	1.912	96	1.832	98	4
Foreign	152	4	155	4	-2	32	4	57	9	-44	32	2	70	4	-54	88	4	28	2	214
OVERNIGHT STAYS	9.156	100	8.545	100	7	1.612	100	1.605	100	0	3.584	100	3.292	100	9	3.960	100	3.648	100	9
National	8.484	93	7.783	91	9	1.408	87	1.377	86	2	3.412	95	2.872	87	19	3.664	93	3.534	97	4
Foreign	672	7	762	9	-12	204	13	228	14	-11	172	5	420	13	-59	296	7	114	3	160
AVERAGE STAY	2,17		2,05		6	2,23		2,63		-15	2,41		1,95		24	1,98		1,96		1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	16,92		16,28		4	16,69		17,58		-5	19,72		20,24		-3	15,06		13,46		12

Source: EUSTAT