

**Press release** 23/04/2002SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS(EETR)March 2002

26% INCREASE IN VISITORS AND 31% RISE IN OVERNIGHT STAYS IN MARCH 2002

Easter and the Machine-tool Biennial falling in the month of March are the main reasons for the increases.

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of Euskadi registered 129,734 entries by visitors in March 2002, 26% more than the same month the previous year, which represents an inter-annual increase of almost 27,000 more entries. There were more entries by visitors than the year before in the three provinces, but the intensity varied. In Alava and Bizkaia there were increases of 15% and 19% respectively, while in Gipuzkoa the increase was higher, 40%.

Entries by state visitors increased 29% in the whole of the A.C. of Euskadi and the number of foreign visitors grew 18%. Both groups increased noticeably in Alava and Gipuzkoa. In Bizkaia, however, the increase in the number of foreign visitors was lower (4%).

Among state visitors there was an increase in numbers from Catalonia and Madrid, and the A.C. of Euskadi itself; the only reduction in presence was in visitors from Castile and León. Among foreign visitors, there was an increase in visitors from France, Germany and Portugal, with a reduction in visitors from Italy and the USA-Canada.

Overnight stays registered in March 2002 came to 243,861, i.e. 57,000 more than the same month the year before, which represents a 31% rise, in percentage terms. The number of overnight stays grew significantly in Alava (11%) and Bizkaia (23%), and very significantly in Gipuzkoa, 51%, due to a higher increase in visitors and their average stay in the province.

The length of the average stay for visitors staying at hotels in the A.C. of Euskadi was extended in March 2002, rising from 1.81 days last year to 1.88 this year. The average stay fell slightly in Alava (from 1.86 to 1.81 days) and this explains the fact that overnight stays increased less than entries by visitors to the province. The opposite occurs in

Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, where there was a sharp increase in entries by visitors, but overnight stays increased comparatively more.

The level of occupancy improved, both by places (23%) and by rooms (13%) in the whole of the A.C. of Euskadi. Hotel establishments in Gipuzkoa increased the level of occupancy more in the inter-annual period (40% by place and 22% by rooms), the increases in Alava were smaller (3% by places and 4% by rooms), the figures for Bizkaia occupying an intermediate position.

Agrotourism: Increase in overnight stays (99%) and visitors (46%)

There were 7,676 entries by visitors registered in Agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of Euskadi in March 2002, 46% more than the previous year, Alava (70%) registering the highest variation. Gipuzkoa (43%) and Bizkaia (38%) also obtained sharp increases.

The number of overnight stays came to 17,792, an increase of 99% on March 2001. Increases in overnight stays occurred in the three provinces. The most outstanding growth was in Alava (153%), with important increases in both Gipuzkoa (92%) and Bizkaia (85%).

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA				D%			
	03/2002	%	03/2001	%	D%	03/2002	%	03/2001	%	D%	03/2002	%	03/2001	%	D%	03/2002	%	03/2001	%	
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	129.734	100	102.948	100	26	23.926	100	20.884	100	15	49.712	100	41.930	100	19	56.096	100	40.134	100	40
National	99.469	77	77.287	75	29	19.645	82	17.401	83	13	36.326	73	29.087	69	25	43.498	78	30.799	77	41
Foreign	30.265	23	25.661	25	18	4.281	18	3.483	17	23	13.386	27	12.843	31	4	12.598	22	9.335	23	35
OVERNIGHT STAYS	243.861	100	186.192	100	31	43.192	100	38.750	100	11	97.987	100	79.424	100	23	102.682	100	68.018	100	51
National	184.640	76	135.364	73	36	36.227	84	32.249	83	12	68.315	70	51.523	65	33	80.098	78	51.592	76	55
Foreign	59.221	24	50.828	27	17	6.965	16	6.501	17	7	29.672	30	27.901	35	6	22.584	22	16.426	24	37
AVERAGE STAY	1,88		1,81		4	1,81		1,86		-3	1,97		1,89		4	1,83		1,69		8
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	46,57		38,01		23	50,41		48,92		3	46,65		39,92		17	45,05		32,13		40
AGRO-TOURISM																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	7.686	100	5.277	100	46	1.474	100	867	100	70	2.602	100	1.884	100	38	3.610	100	2.526	100	43
National	7.275	95	5.014	95	45	1.444	98	825	95	75	2.437	94	1.838	98	33	3.394	94	2.351	93	44
Foreign	411	5	263	5	56	30	2	42	5	-29	165	6	46	2	259	216	6	175	7	23
OVERNIGHT STAYS	17.792	100	8.926	100	99	3.530	100	1.393	100	153	6.310	100	3.402	100	85	7.952	100	4.131	100	92
National	16.639	94	8.246	92	102	3.383	96	1.281	92	164	5.714	91	3.149	93	81	7.542	95	3.816	92	98
Foreign	1.153	6	680	8	70	147	4	112	8	31	596	9	253	7	136	410	5	315	8	30
AVERAGE STAY	2,31		1,69		37	2,39		1,61		48	2,43		1,81		34	2,20		1,64		34
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	28,09		15,11		86	30,28		13,06		132	30,98		19,09		62	25,40		13,52		88