

17% INCREASE IN VISITORS AND 8% RISE IN OVERNIGHT STAYS IN MAY 2002

Gipuzkoa, with 27% more visitors and 15% more overnight stays, is the province with the highest growth.

143,468 entries by visitors were registered in May 2002 in the hotel establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country, approximately 21,000 entries more than in the same month the year before, which represents a 17% increase according to data provided by the Eustat. The number of visitors increased in the three provinces, although disparately. There was a 6% increase in Alava, 13% in Bizkaia and 27% in Gipuzkoa.

Entries by state visitors increased 17%, practically the same increase as for foreign visitors (18%). State visitors increased in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa (16% and 27%, respectively) and remained practically stable in Alava; on the other hand, foreign visitors increased by 26% both in Alava and in Gipuzkoa, while in Bizkaia there was a more moderate increase of 7%.

Among state visitors there were increases for all the autonomous communities, especially in visitors from Madrid and Valencia, as well as from the A.C. of the Basque Country itself. Among foreign visitors there was a significant increase in visitors from France, and an important fall in the number of visitors from the USA-Canada.

Overnight stays registered in May 2002 came to 255,660, i.e. almost 20,000 more than the same month the year before, which represents an 8% increase in percentage terms. The number of overnight stays increased by 3% in Bizkaia, 6% in Alava and 15% in Gipuzkoa.

The length of the average stay by visitors staying at hotels in the A.C. of the Basque Country fell in May 2002, dropping from 1.93 days last year to 1.78 this. The average stay fell more sharply in Gipuzkoa (-10%) and Bizkaia (-8%) than in Alava (-1%).

The level of occupancy by places rose 2% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, as a result of the 18% increase registered in Gipuzkoa, while in Bizkaia it

decreased 2% and in Alava the level of occupancy was the same as the previous year. The level of occupancy by rooms fell 3% for the A.C. of the Basque Country due to the falls in Alava and Bizkaia (-7% and -8%, respectively), while in Gipuzkoa occupancy by rooms improved 6% during May 2002 with regard to the same month the previous year.

Agrotourism: Increase in overnight stays (40%) and visitors (30%)

5,732 entries by visitors were registered in Agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in May 2002, 30% more than the year before, rising 44% in Bizkaia, 36% in Gipuzkoa and remaining practically stable in Alava.

Overnight stays came to 12,787, 40% more than in May 2001, affecting the three provinces of the A.C. of the Basque Country, especially Gipuzkoa where the increase in overnight stays was 73% with regard to May 2001.

The average stay grew 7% for the whole of the A.C. of Euskadi, although the provinces performed differently, as the average stay increased in Gipuzkoa (28%) and Alava (15%) and fell in Bizkaia (-14%) with regard to the same month the year before.

For further information:

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA				D%			
	05/2002	%	05/2001	%	D%	05/2002	%	05/2001	%	D%	05/2002	%	05/2001	%	D%	05/2002	%	05/2001	%	
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	143.468	100	122.548	100	17	25.556	100	24.019	100	6	55.934	100	49.658	100	13	61.978	100	48.871	100	27
National	95.145	66	81.638	67	17	18.475	72	18.387	77	0	37.902	68	32.806	66	16	38.768	63	30.445	62	27
Foreign	48.323	34	40.910	33	18	7.081	28	5.632	23	26	18.032	32	16.852	34	7	23.210	37	18.426	38	26
OVERNIGHT STAYS	255.660	100	235.968	100	8	44.308	100	41.801	100	6	99.919	100	97.013	100	3	111.433	100	97.154	100	15
National	172.363	67	155.853	66	11	32.754	74	33.061	79	-1	64.658	65	61.926	64	4	74.951	67	60.866	63	23
Foreign	83.297	33	80.115	34	4	11.554	26	8.740	21	32	35.261	35	35.087	36	0	36.482	33	36.288	37	1
AVERAGE STAY	1,78		1,93		-8	1,73		1,74		-1	1,79		1,95		-8	1,80		1,99		-10
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	47,67		46,59		2	52,18		52,04		0	45,77		46,86		-2	47,81		44,33		8
AGRO-TOURISM																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	5.732	100	4.413	100	30	1.054	100	1.058	100	0	2.229	100	1.550	100	44	2.449	100	1.805	100	36
National	5.259	92	3.823	87	38	935	89	1.002	95	-7	2.105	94	1.377	89	53	2.219	91	1.444	80	54
Foreign	473	8	590	13	-20	119	11	56	5	113	124	6	173	11	-28	230	9	361	20	-36
OVERNIGHT STAYS	12.787	100	9.159	100	40	2.311	100	2.013	100	15	4.778	100	3.855	100	24	5.698	100	3.291	100	73
National	11.424	89	7.566	83	51	1.997	86	1.952	97	2	4.233	89	3.264	85	30	5.194	91	2.350	71	121
Foreign	1.363	11	1.593	17	-14	314	14	61	3	415	545	11	591	15	-8	504	9	941	29	-46
AVERAGE STAY	2,23		2,08		7	2,19		1,90		15	2,14		2,49		-14	2,33		1,82		28
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	19,93		15,56		28	19,67		17,94		10	23,42		21,29		10	17,79		11,14		60

Source: EUSTAT