

12% INCREASE IN VISITORS IN AUGUST 2002

Over the year, January-August, 90,000 more visitors have been registered than in the same period in 2001

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 174,496 entries by visitors in August 2002, 18,000 more entries than the same month the previous year, which represents a 12% increase according to Eustat data. Entries by visitors increased 18% in Bizkaia and 13% in Gipuzkoa, but fell 5% in Alava.

Entries by foreign visitors increased by 24%, well above the increase registered for State visitors (4%). The number of foreign visitors increased in all three provinces: 7% in Alava, 27% in Bizkaia and 26% in Gipuzkoa; on the other hand, State visitors increased by 11% in Bizkaia and 5% in Gipuzkoa, while in Alava there was a 10% decrease.

Among state visitors the main increases were in visitors from Madrid, Andalusia, the Community of Valencia, Asturias and Castilla and León, with a slight fall in numbers from Murcia, Cantabria and Aragón, among others. Among foreign visitors, there was an outstanding increase in numbers from Italy, France, the UK and Germany, and a slight fall in numbers from the USA-Canada.

Overnight stays registered in August 2002 came to 363,836, i.e., 43,000 more than in the same month the previous year, which represents a 13% increase in percentage. The number of overnight stays carried out increased by 21% in Bizkaia and 13% in Gipuzkoa, with no variation in Alava (0%).

The length of the average stay by visitors at hotels in the A.C. of the Basque Country increased in August 2002, rising from 2.05 days the previous year to 2.09 days in August this year. This improvement in the average stay occurred in Alava (5%) and Bizkaia (2%), and remained practically unchanged in Gipuzkoa (0%).

The level of occupancy both by places and by rooms increased by 9%, with higher growth in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa than in Alava.

Agrotourism: Increase in visitors (19%) and overnight stays (17%)

13,186 entries by visitors were registered in Agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in August 2002, 19% more than the year before, with 39% growth in Gipuzkoa, 13% in Bizkaia and an 18% fall in Alava. This number is based on a 27% rise in state visitors, as the number of foreign visitors fell by 15% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

The number of overnight stays came to 48,303, 17% more than in August 2001, this increase affecting the three provinces of the A.C. of the Basque Country: Alava (14%), Gipuzkoa (21%) and Bizkaia (13%).

The average stay fell 1% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising 39% in Alava, falling 13% in Gipuzkoa and remaining unchanged in Bizkaia (0%).

The level of occupancy by places and rooms increased 9% and 8%, respectively for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

For further information:

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA				D%			
	08/2002	%	08/2001	%	D%	08/2002	%	08/2001	%	D%	08/2002	%	08/2001	%	D%	08/2002	%	08/2001	%	
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	174.496	100	156.426	100	12	25.287	100	26.580	100	-5	61.071	100	51.938	100	18	88.138	100	77.908	100	13
National	102.439	59	98.261	63	4	16.905	67	18.727	70	-10	34.531	57	31.017	60	11	51.003	58	48.517	62	5
Foreign	72.057	41	58.165	37	24	8.382	33	7.853	30	7	26.540	43	20.921	40	27	37.135	42	29.391	38	26
OVERNIGHT STAYS	363.836	100	320.904	100	13	47.210	100	47.341	100	0	127.073	100	105.205	100	21	189.553	100	168.358	100	13
National	229.150	63	209.951	65	9	32.827	70	34.393	73	-5	76.998	61	63.692	61	21	119.325	63	111.866	66	7
Foreign	134.686	37	110.953	35	21	14.383	30	12.948	27	11	50.075	39	41.513	39	21	70.228	37	56.492	34	24
AVERAGE STAY	2,09		2,05		2	1,87		1,78		5	2,08		2,03		2	2,15		2,16		0
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	65,72		60,48		9	56,13		55,47		1	57,25		50,77		13	76,58		70,73		8
AGRO-TOURISM																				
ENTRY BY VISITORS	13.186	100	11.083	100	19	1.940	100	2.356	100	-18	3.967	100	3.508	100	13	7.279	100	5.219	100	39
National	11.360	86	8.926	81	27	1.724	89	1.793	76	-4	3.275	83	2.923	83	12	6.361	87	4.210	81	51
Foreign	1.826	14	2.157	19	-15	216	11	563	24	-62	692	17	585	17	18	918	13	1.009	19	-9
OVERNIGHT STAYS	48.303	100	41.172	100	17	5.890	100	5.169	100	14	14.699	100	13.020	100	13	27.714	100	22.983	100	21
National	42.255	87	33.577	82	26	5.121	87	3.725	72	37	12.422	85	10.326	79	20	24.712	89	19.526	85	27
Foreign	6.048	13	7.595	18	-20	769	13	1.444	28	-47	2.277	15	2.694	21	-15	3.002	11	3.457	15	-13
AVERAGE STAY	3,66		3,71		-1	3,04		2,19		39	3,71		3,71		0	3,81		4,40		-13
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	71,34		65,68		9	47,50		44,11		8	67,74		68,29		-1	82,47		72,05		14

Source: EUSTAT