

**Press release** 20/03/2003**SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS(EETR)****February 2003**

## **2% FALL IN ENTRIES BY VISITORS AND OVERNIGHT STAYS IN FEBRUARY 2003**

**Increase in the number of State visitors (3%) was not enough to compensate for the drop in foreign visitors (-15%).**

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 91,613 guests in February 2003, 1,500 fewer entries than the same month the previous year, which represents a 2% fall according to EUSTAT data. Entries by visitors increased 6% in Bizkaia and fell in Alava and Gipuzkoa by 7% and 6%, respectively.

The number of State visitors increased 3% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, while the number of foreign visitors has fallen by 15%. State visitors increased substantially in Bizkaia (15%) and fell both in Alava (-6%) and Gipuzkoa (-5%). The number of foreign visitors fell in all three provinces: Alava (-17%), Bizkaia (-16%) and Gipuzkoa (-11%).

Among State visitors, there was an increase in visitors from Madrid, Valencia, Castile and León and the A.C. of the Basque Country itself, and a drop in numbers from Andalusia, Catalonia and Galicia, among others. Among foreign visitors, the most significant decreases in the number of visitors were from France, the UK, Portugal, Italy and Germany.

The number of overnight stays registered in February 2003 came to 161,390, i.e. almost 4,000 fewer than the same month the year before, which represents a 2% drop in percentage terms. The number of overnight stays increased by 3% in Bizkaia, but fell in Alava and Gipuzkoa, by 8% and 5% respectively.

The length of the average stay by visitors fell from 1.77 days in February the year before to 1.76 last February, and this decrease affected the provinces of Alava (-1%) and Bizkaia (-3%), while Gipuzkoa improved its position by 2%. The level of occupancy by places fell from 36.9% in February 2002 to 33.3% in February this year, while the level of occupancy by rooms showed a 5% improvement in the same period.

**Agrotourism: Increase in the number of visitors (9%) and drop in overnight stays (-4%)**

4,612 entries by visitors were registered in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in February 2003, 9% more than the same month the previous year, increasing 12% in Gipuzkoa, 10% in Bizkaia and 3% in Alava. The growth registered in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country stems both from foreign (39%) and State visitors (8%).

The number of overnight stays carried out in the Agrotourism sector came to 8,808, 4% fewer than in February 2002, this decrease affecting the provinces of Alava (-24%) and Bizkaia (-7%), as in the province of Gipuzkoa there was a 7% increase.

The average stay per visitor fell from 2.17 days in February last year to 1.91 registered in February this year, which represents a 12% decrease. In this sense, the level of occupancy fell by 14% and 13 %, by places or by rooms.

For further information:


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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI					ARABA/ALAVA					BIZKAIA					GIPUZKOA				
	02/2003	%	02/2002	%	D%	02/2003	%	02/2002	%	D%	02/2003	%	02/2002	%	D%	02/2003	%	02/2002	%	D%
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>																				
<b>ENTRY BY VISITORS</b>	91.613	100	93.109	100	-2	17.934	100	19.349	100	-7	39.881	100	37.691	100	6	33.798	100	36.069	100	-6
National	72.322	79	70.543	76	3	15.349	86	16.245	84	-6	30.761	77	26.789	71	15	26.212	78	27.509	76	-5
Foreign	19.291	21	22.566	24	-15	2.585	14	3.104	16	-17	9.120	23	10.902	29	-16	7.586	22	8.560	24	-11
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	161.390	100	165.192	100	-2	29.255	100	31.949	100	-8	73.795	100	71.752	100	3	58.340	100	61.491	100	-5
National	123.605	77	119.795	73	3	24.467	84	26.071	82	-6	53.702	73	47.566	66	13	45.436	78	46.158	75	-2
Foreign	37.785	23	45.397	27	-17	4.788	16	5.878	18	-19	20.093	27	24.186	34	-17	12.904	22	15.333	25	-16
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,76		1,77		-1	1,63		1,65		-1	1,85		1,90		-3	1,73		1,70		2
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	33,30		36,93		-10	33,10		42,39		-22	37,08		38,77		-4	29,57		32,91		-10
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>ENTRY BY VISITORS</b>	4.612	100	4.212	100	9	744	100	724	100	3	1.636	100	1.488	100	10	2.232	100	2.000	100	12
National	4.400	95	4.060	96	8	720	97	692	96	4	1.540	94	1.456	98	6	2.140	96	1.912	96	12
Foreign	212	5	152	4	39	24	3	32	4	-25	96	6	32	2	200	92	4	88	4	5
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	8.808	100	9.156	100	-4	1.224	100	1.612	100	-24	3.344	100	3.584	100	-7	4.240	100	3.960	100	7
National	8.120	92	8.484	93	-4	1.172	96	1.408	87	-17	2.984	89	3.412	95	-13	3.964	93	3.664	93	8
Foreign	688	8	672	7	2	52	4	204	13	-75	360	11	172	5	109	276	7	296	7	-7
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,91		2,17		-12	1,65		2,23		-26	2,04		2,41		-15	1,90		1,98		-4
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	14,54		16,92		-14	10,90		16,69		-35	17,51		19,72		-11	14,01		15,06		-7

Source: EUSTAT