

7% increase in visitors in July 2003

Entries by state visitors increased by 12%.

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 163,337 entries by visitors in July 2003, according to Eustat data. These figures reflect a 7% increase with regard to the same month the year before, i.e. almost 11,000 more visitors than in July 2002. Entries by visitors evolved differently in the three provinces. The highest inter-annual increase corresponded to Bizkaia (11%), followed by Gipuzkoa (8%), while in Alava there was a 1% reduction.

Entries by state visitors increased by 12% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, while entries by foreign visitors fell by 1%. State visitors increased their presence in all three provinces, although to different levels: 18% in Bizkaia, 12% in Gipuzkoa, and 2% in Alava. The number of foreign visitors fell in two provinces: Alava (-9%) and Bizkaia (-1%); whereas in Gipuzkoa there was a 1% increase.

Increases were registered for state visitors from Catalonia, Andalusia, Aragón and Asturias, in addition to those from the Autonomous Community and Navarre, but there was a decrease in the number of visitors from Madrid, Cantabria and Castile la Mancha. Among foreign visitors, there was an increase in numbers from France and the USA-Canada, and a reduction in numbers from Germany, the UK and South America.

The number of overnight stays registered in July 2003 came to 307,870, i.e. 21,000 more than the same month the year before, which represents a 7% increase. Overnight stays evolved differently in the three provinces over the inter-annual period, increasing in Bizkaia (12%) and Gipuzkoa (9%), but decreasing in Alava (-5%).

The average length of stay by visitors was stable in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, i.e. 1.88 days in July 2002 and 2003, increasing by 1% in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa and falling 4% in Alava.

The level of occupancy by places fell 2% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, the provincial breakdown being as follows: Alava (-19%), Bizkaia (0.0%) and Gipuzkoa (4%).

Agrotourism: Fall in number of visitors (-3%) and increase in overnight stays (7%).

9,552 entries by visitors were registered at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in July, 3% fewer than the same month the previous year, increasing by 5% in Alava, 2% in Gipuzkoa and falling 13% in Bizkaia. The decrease registered in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country is a result of the fall in

foreign visitors (-17%), as the number of state visitors remained stable over the inter-annual period (0.0%). The number of state visitors only increased in the province of Gipuzkoa (4%) , while foreign visitors increased in number in Alava (105%).

The number of overnight stays carried out at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 30,025 in July, which represented a 7% increase in relation to the same month the year before, with positive inter-annual growth rates in Alava (25%) and Gipuzkoa (13%), but an 8% decrease in Bizkaia.

The average stay per visitor improved by ten points in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country in relation to July 2002, increasing by 18% in Alava, 11% in Gipuzkoa and 5% in Bizkaia.

The level of occupancy by places fell 3% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, due to the 17% decrease in Bizkaia, despite improving in Alava (8%) and Gipuzkoa (5%).

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Table 1: Monthly Results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	07/2003	%	07/2002	%	Δ%	07/2003	%	07/2002	%	Δ%	07/2003	%	07/2002	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	307.870	100	286.551	100	7	45.335	100	47.786	100	-5	110.480	100	98.632	100	12
National	198.762	65	177.751	62	12	34.202	75	33.492	70	2	70.210	64	59.849	61	17
Foreigners	109.108	35	108.800	38	0	11.133	25	14.294	30	-22	40.270	36	38.783	39	4
Capital	195.512	64	182.725	64	7	32.063	71	35.343	74	-9	73.508	67	63.712	65	15
Coast	42.298	14	43.441	15	-3	-	-	-	-	-	14.998	14	16.514	17	-9
Inland	70.060	23	60.385	21	16	13.272	29	12.443	26	7	21.974	20	18.406	19	19
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	163.337	100	152.440	100	7	26.374	100	26.757	100	-1	58.860	100	53.122	100	11
National	105.316	64	93.835	62	12	19.241	73	18.908	71	2	38.723	66	32.818	62	18
Foreigners	58.021	36	58.605	38	-1	7.133	27	7.849	29	-9	20.137	34	20.304	38	-1
Capital	98.592	60	94.880	62	4	16.960	64	17.422	65	-3	38.694	66	35.260	66	10
Coast	22.896	14	22.730	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	8.391	14	8.765	16	-4
Inland	41.849	26	34.830	23	20	9.414	36	9.335	35	1	11.775	20	9.097	17	29
AVERAGE STAY	1,88		1,88		0	1,72		1,79		-4	1,88		1,86		1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	52,01		52,86		-2	46,07		56,71		-19	45,71		45,61		0
Capital	55,50		57,05		-3	47,44		60,20		-21	47,50		45,97		3
Coast	57,16		55,13		4	-	-	-	-	-	53,40		57,72		-7
Inland	42,29		42,24		0	43,07		48,71		-12	37,35		37,53		0
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	59,31		62,29		-5	56,26		70,40		-20	54,08		56,05		-4
Capital	63,18		66,76		-5	59,94		76,60		-22	56,44		56,44		0
Coast	61,31		62,65		-2	-	-	-	-	-	62,12		72,26		-14
Inland	49,28		50,04		-2	46,34		50,09		-7	43,02		47,06		-9
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	30.025	100	28.101	100	7	4.068	100	3.265	100	25	9.037	100	9.872	100	-8
National	25.276	84	22.930	82	10	3.804	94	3.097	95	23	6.933	77	7.206	73	-4
Foreigners	4.749	16	5.171	18	-8	264	6	168	5	57	2.104	23	2.666	27	-21
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	9.552	100	9.839	100	-3	1.376	100	1.308	100	5	3.036	100	3.470	100	-13
National	8.204	86	8.220	84	0	1.253	91	1.248	95	0	2.431	80	2.632	76	-8
Foreigners	1.348	14	1.619	16	-17	123	9	60	5	105	605	20	838	24	-28
AVERAGE STAY	3,14		2,86		10	2,96		2,50		18	2,98		2,84		5
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	41,50		42,60		-3	29,96		27,72		8	38,56		46,35		-17
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	43,61		44,32		-2	29,20		27,88		5	41,89		48,97		-14

Source: EUSTAT