

**SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR) OCTOBER 2003**

## **A 7% rise in the number of visitors in October 2003**

***Overnight stays registered a 6% rise in the same monthly period.***

In the survey on hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country 144,698 visitors were registered in October 2003, according to Eustat data. These figures represent a 7% increase in relation to last year, which is to say 11,000 more visits. The influx of visitors evolved positively in all three provinces: it rose in Gipuzkoa (8%), in Alava (7%) and in Bizkaia (4%).

The number of visitors from within the state grew by 10% in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole although numbers of foreign visitors fell by 1%. Visitors from the state grew in number throughout the three provinces: Alava (12%), Gipuzkoa (15%) and Bizkaia (4%). The presence of foreigners was less evenly shared: in Bizkaia it increased (5%), but fell in Gipuzkoa (-3%) and in Alava (-9%).

There was an increase in visitors from all Communities of the state, except those travelling from the Canaries and Cantabria and the most important groups of visitors in terms of numbers were those from Madrid and Catalonia. Among foreign visitors, there was a slight increase in those from France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Belgium, although there was a decrease, also slight, in the numbers travelling from Germany, Portugal, South America and the USA-Canada.

The number of overnight stays registered in October 2003 rose to 280,727, which meant a 6% increase in relation to October last year, or some 17,000 more. The inter-annual evolution of overnight stays was markedly different in the three provinces, with a sharp increase of 30% in Alava, an 11% rise in Guipuzcoa, but a 6% fall in Bizkaia.

The length of the average stay in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole remained virtually unaltered, staying at 1.94 days per visitor, but distribution by provinces was very uneven: there was an important improvement in Alava (22%), going from 1.67 days last year to 2.03 days this October, a slight upturn in Gipuzkoa (2%) and a fall in Bizkaia from 2.15 days previously to the current 1.94.

The degree of occupancy by places suffered a 3% fall due to the decrease in the province of Bizkaia (-18%), whereas in both Alava and Gipuzkoa there were important increases of 14% and 8% respectively.

### **Agrotourism: Rise in the number of visitors (12%) and overnight stays (8%)**

There were 6,822 visitors to the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in October, 12% more than in the same month last year, growing 37% in Alava and 24% in Gipuzkoa, although in Bizkaia there was a fall of 9%. Numbers of visitors

from within the state grew 17%, while foreign visitors fell in number by 28%, which affected, in varying degrees, all three provinces.

There were 13,997 overnight stays in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in October, 8% more than in the same month last year, giving a positive inter-annual growth rate in the provinces of Alava (29%) and Gipuzkoa (15%), but a negative one in Bizkaia (-7%).

The average stay per visitor in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole fell by point four per cent with regard to October 2002, going from 2.14 days a year ago to 2.05 this year, a decrease that affected the provinces of Alava and Gipuzkoa.

The degree of occupancy by places dropped 6%, due to the fall in this case suffered by Bizkaia (-21%). However, the degree of occupancy by places improved 5% both in Alava and in Gipuzkoa.

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**Table 1: Monthly results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI					ARABA/ALAVA					BIZKAIA					GIPUZKOA				
	10/2003	%	10/2002	%	Δ%	10/2003	%	10/2002	%	Δ%	10/2003	%	10/2002	%	Δ%	10/2003	%	10/2002	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	280.727	100	263.955	100	6	54.169	100	41.578	100	30	112.850	100	119.812	100	-6	113.708	100	102.565	100	11
National	197.313	70	178.691	68	10	43.630	81	31.653	76	38	74.971	66	79.539	66	-6	78.712	69	67.499	66	17
Foreigners	83.414	30	85.264	32	-2	10.539	19	9.925	24	6	37.879	34	40.273	34	-6	34.996	31	35.066	34	0
Capital	178.241	63	175.063	66	2	38.415	71	30.466	73	26	77.400	69	87.508	73	-12	62.426	55	57.089	56	9
Coast	34.707	12	32.870	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	12.721	11	12.111	10	5	21.986	19	20.759	20	6
Inland	67.779	24	56.022	21	21	15.754	29	11.112	27	42	22.729	20	20.193	17	13	29.296	26	24.717	24	19
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	144.698	100	135.802	100	7	26.622	100	24.840	100	7	58.267	100	55.838	100	4	59.809	100	55.124	100	8
National	102.995	71	93.763	69	10	21.215	80	18.913	76	12	41.323	71	39.676	71	4	40.457	68	35.174	64	15
Foreigners	41.703	29	42.039	31	-1	5.407	20	5.927	24	-9	16.944	29	16.162	29	5	19.352	32	19.950	36	-3
Capital	92.850	64	86.872	64	7	18.014	68	16.458	66	9	40.457	69	38.966	70	4	34.379	57	31.448	57	9
Coast	16.110	11	17.615	13	-9	-	-	-	-	-	6.119	11	7.124	13	-14	9.991	17	10.491	19	-5
Inland	35.738	25	31.315	23	14	8.608	32	8.382	34	3	11.691	20	9.748	17	20	15.439	26	13.185	24	17
AVERAGE STAY	1,94		1,94		0	2,03		1,67		22	1,94		2,15		-10	1,90		1,86		2
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	47,16		48,45		-3	55,30		48,49		14	44,80		54,67		-18	46,32		42,75		8
Capital	50,81		53,59		-5	57,16		51,48		11	49,36		60,21		-18	49,24		46,74		5
Coast	44,78		43,72		2	-		-		-	35,75		42,42		-16	52,46		44,52		18
Inland	40,58		39,18		4	51,23		41,83		22	38,21		44,62		-14	38,15		34,73		10
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	58,96		61,86		-5	71,46		60,85		17	57,88		71,86		-19	55,13		52,68		5
Capital	64,28		68,48		-6	76,67		66,96		15	63,16		77,92		-19	58,54		57,09		3
Coast	51,02		53,68		-5	-		-		-	43,04		59,45		-28	57,00		50,80		12
Inland	50,62		49,39		2	56,07		43,76		28	51,08		57,18		-11	48,49		46,08		5
AGRO-TOURISM																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	13.997	100	12.985	100	8	2.872	100	2.220	100	29	5.104	100	5.515	100	-7	6.021	100	5.250	100	15
National	12.437	89	11.076	85	12	2.702	94	1.754	79	54	4.388	86	4.961	90	-12	5.347	89	4.361	83	23
Foreigners	1.560	11	1.909	15	-18	170	6	466	21	-64	716	14	554	10	29	674	11	889	17	-24
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	6.822	100	6.072	100	12	1.466	100	1.073	100	37	2.312	100	2.541	100	-9	3.044	100	2.458	100	24
National	6.328	93	5.390	89	17	1.420	97	940	88	51	2.132	92	2.271	89	-6	2.776	91	2.179	89	27
Foreigners	494	7	682	11	-28	46	3	133	12	-65	180	8	270	11	-33	268	9	279	11	-4
AVERAGE STAY	2,05		2,14		-4	1,96		2,07		-5	2,21		2,17		2	1,98		2,14		-7
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	19,00		20,12		-6	19,50		18,60		5	21,49		27,04		-21	17,11		16,30		5
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	21,46		23,04		-7	21,09		20,88		1	24,47		31,14		-21	19,61		18,74		5

Source: EUSTAT