

## 7% increase in entries by visitors in November 2003

***However, the number of overnight stays decreased by 1% due to the reduction in the length of the average stay by visitors***

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 125,651 entries by visitors in November 2003, according to Eustat data. These figures reflect a 7% increase in relation to the same month the previous year, i.e. over 8,000 entries more. Entries by visitors had a positive evolution in all three provinces, increasing in Gipuzkoa (11%), in Alava (9%) and in Bizkaia (3%).

Entries by state visitors grew by 4% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country and entries by foreign visitors increased by 18%. State visitors increased in presence in the provinces of Alava (12%) and Gipuzkoa (5%), falling in Bizkaia (-1%). The number of foreign visitors varied according to the province: rising in Gipuzkoa (32%) and Bizkaia (13%), while falling in Alava (-5%).

Among state visitors there was an increase in numbers from all the Communities, with the exception of Catalonia, C. Valenciana and the Canaries, the most significant group in numbers being from Madrid, Castile and León and Andalusia. Among foreigners, numbers rose from France, Italy, Portugal, the UK and the USA-Canada, but fell, however, for Germany, Ireland, Austria and Belgium.

Overnight stays registered in November 2003 came to 226,797, which represents a 1% decrease on November the year before, i.e. 2,000 fewer. Overnight stays had a quite varied inter-annual evolution in the three provinces, with a sharp 13% increase in Alava, 1% in Gipuzkoa and an 8% fall in Bizkaia.

The length of average stay fell from 1.95 days the year before to 1.80 this month for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. The provincial distribution reflects differing performances: an improvement in Alava, from 1.69 to 1.75 days, and a drop in Bizkaia, from 2.00 days before to 1.79 at present and in Gipuzkoa, which fell from 2.03 days to 1.84.

The level of occupancy by places fell 8% due to the fall in the provinces of Bizkaia (-15%) and Gipuzkoa (-7%), as there was a 9% increase in Alava.

### **Agrotourism: Increase in entries by visitors (9%) and drop in overnight stays (-3%)**

5,827 entries by visitors were registered in November in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 9% more than the same month the year before, rising

9% in Alava, 11% in Gipuzkoa and 6% in Bizkaia. The increase registered by state visitors was 7%, foreigners having increased in presence by 71%, thus affecting the growth of the provinces in percentage terms.

Overnight stays carried out at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 11,865 in November, which represents a 3% fall in relation to the same month the year before, with negative inter-annual growth rates in Alava (-3%) and Gipuzkoa (-10%), but positive in Bizkaia (8%).

The length of average stay per visitor registered an eleven percent fall in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country with regard to November 2002, and dropped from 2.28 days a year before to 2.04 this year, this decrease affecting the provinces of Alava (-11%) and Gipuzkoa (-19%).

The level of occupancy by places fell 9%, as a result of the decrease suffered by the average length of stay by visitors lodged at agrotourism establishments in Alava, Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia.

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**Table 1: Monthly results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	11/2002	%	11/2003	%	Δ%	11/2002	%	11/2003	%	Δ%	11/2002	%	11/2003	%	Δ%
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	228.890	100	226.797	100	-1	37.906	100	42.819	100	13	97.058	100	89.568	100	-8
National	174.744	76	168.597	74	-4	30.860	81	36.209	85	17	69.016	71	62.939	70	-9
Foreigners	54.146	24	58.200	26	7	7.046	19	6.610	15	-6	28.042	29	26.629	30	-5
Capital	151.282	66	149.727	66	-1	28.053	74	31.729	74	13	69.545	72	64.079	72	-8
Coast	23.659	10	23.338	10	-1	-	-	-	-	-	8.676	9	7.735	9	-11
Inland	53.949	24	53.732	24	0	9.853	26	11.090	26	13	18.837	19	17.754	20	-6
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	117.516	100	125.651	100	7	22.487	100	24.405	100	9	48.648	100	49.903	100	3
National	91.754	78	95.379	76	4	18.261	81	20.378	83	12	37.096	76	36.842	74	-1
Foreigners	25.762	22	30.272	24	18	4.226	19	4.027	17	-5	11.552	24	13.061	26	13
Capital	77.068	66	82.378	66	7	15.434	69	16.518	68	7	33.751	69	35.972	72	7
Coast	10.759	9	11.702	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	4.816	10	4.100	8	-15
Inland	29.689	25	31.571	25	6	7.053	31	7.887	32	12	10.081	21	9.831	20	-2
AVERAGE STAY	1,95		1,80		-8	1,69		1,75		4	2,00		1,79		-11
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	43,54		40,09		-8	41,35		45,08		9	45,05		38,23		-15
Capital	47,43		44,19		-7	42,60		48,81		15	49,43		42,41		-14
Coast	40,80		33,97		-17	-	-	-	-	-	34,93		26,66		-24
Inland	36,25		33,96		-6	38,15		37,00		-3	37,76		32,75		-13
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	56,78		52,32		-8	54,13		58,86		9	60,81		51,40		-15
Capital	62,18		58,04		-7	58,16		66,11		14	66,54		56,55		-15
Coast	49,86		40,63		-19	-	-	-	-	-	48,15		33,74		-30
Inland	47,11		44,71		-5	42,47		41,61		-2	49,20		44,69		-9
<b>AGRO-TURISM</b>															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	12.199	100	11.865	100	-3	2.073	100	2.006	100	-3	3.952	100	8	6.174	100
National	11.526	94	10.741	91	-7	2.017	97	1.873	93	-7	3.838	97	3.779	88	-2
Foreigners	673	6	1.124	9	67	56	3	133	7	138	114	3	493	12	332
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	5.340	100	5.827	100	9	1.033	100	1.129	100	9	1.703	100	1.809	100	6
National	5.145	96	5.494	94	7	1.012	98	1.104	98	9	1.664	98	1.710	95	3
Foreigners	195	4	333	6	71	21	2	25	2	19	39	2	99	5	154
AVERAGE STAY	2,28		2,04		-11	2,01		1,78		-11	2,32		2,36		2
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	18,88		17,10		-9	17,41		14,70		-16	19,09		18,86		-1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	21,56		19,12		-11	19,63		16,02		-18	23,08		22,13		-4

**Source: EUSTAT**