

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR) JANUARY 2004

There was a 14% rise in the number of visitors in January 2004

Additionally, overnight stays registered a 13% increase in relation to January 2003.

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 94,206 visitors in January 2004, almost 12,000 more than in the same month of last year, giving an increase of 14%, according to Eustat data. Numbers of visitors increased significantly in all three provinces: the highest rate of inter-annual growth occurred in Alava (21%), followed by Bizkaia (17%), with Gipuzkoa in third place (9%).

Numbers of visitors from within the state grew by 14%, while the figure for foreign visitors was one percent higher, at 15%. Visitors from the state grew in number in Alava (24%), Bizkaia (12%) and Gipuzkoa (12%). The distribution of foreign visitors as regards provinces was uneven: there was a sharp increase in Bizkaia (33%), a more modest rise in Alava (8%) and their numbers fell in Gipuzkoa (-1%).

Among visitors from the state, an increase was registered in those coming from the majority of the Autonomous Communities, especially the ones coming from Catalonia, Galicia, Andalucía, Asturias, Cantabria and Navarre. As for foreigners, there was an increase in those coming from Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, USA- Canada and Portugal, while the number of visitors from France remained virtually unchanged.

Overnight stays registered in January 2004 came to 165,231, representing a 13% increase in relation to January of last year, or in other words, almost 20,000 more overnight stays. Inter-annual evolution in overnight stays was positive throughout the three provinces, with a sharp increase of 33% in Alava, and more modest growth of 12% and 7% in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa respectively.

The length of the average stay in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole went down from 1.77 days last year to 1.75 in January 2004. This was due to the decrease in this index registered in Bizkaia (-4%) and Gipuzkoa (-2%), even though Alava made a significant improvement on its previous position (10%).

The degree of occupancy by places improved by 7%, going from 28.79% in January last year to 30.68% this January. In this respect, there was a significant improvement in Alava (34%), a much more modest rise in Gipuzkoa (4%), while evolution of this variable remained stable in Bizkaia (0%).

Agrotourism: A rise in the number of visitors (18%) and overnight stays (35%)

In January, 3,728 visitors were registered in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country, 18% more than in the same month last year, growing 45% in

Alava and 57% in Gipuzkoa, but not in Bizkaia, which suffered a 22% reduction. The growth in numbers of visitors from the state was 17% in the A.C. of the Basque Country: Alava (38%), Gipuzkoa (59%) and Bizkaia (-24%). Numbers of foreigners grew 47% in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole, and the evolution was positive throughout the three provinces.

Overnight stays in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 8,915 for January, making a 35% increase compared to the same month last year, and inter-annual growth rates were highly positive in Alava (90%) and Gipuzkoa (66%), although evolution was negative in Bizkaia (-7%).

The average stay per visitor registered an improvement of fourteen percent in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole in relation to January 2003, going from 2.10 days a year ago to 2.39 this January, a positive evolution that was repeated in all three provinces.

The degree of occupancy by places showed a dramatic increase of 20%, as a result of the rise experienced in Alava (57%) and Gipuzkoa (47%), although Bizkaia had a negative impact in this area (-15%).

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	01/2004	%	01/2003	%	Δ%	01/2004	%	01/2003	%	Δ%	01/2004	%	01/2003	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	165.231	100	145.935	100	13	29.501	100	22.229	100	33	76.032	100	67.676	100	12
National	123.974	75	109.588	75	13	24.350	83	18.305	82	33	53.187	70	49.563	73	7
Foreigners	41.257	25	36.347	25	14	5.151	17	3.924	18	31	22.845	30	18.113	27	26
Capital	108.057	65	95.267	65	13	23.951	81	16.444	74	46	52.240	69	45.076	67	16
Coast	14.748	9	10.350	7	42	-	-	-	-	-	6.524	9	5.984	9	9
Inland	42.426	26	40.318	28	5	5.550	19	5.785	26	-4	17.268	23	16.616	25	4
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	94.206	100	82.503	100	14	16.683	100	13.820	100	21	41.752	100	35.739	100	17
National	72.751	77	63.769	77	14	13.849	83	11.188	81	24	31.275	75	27.856	78	12
Foreigners	21.455	23	18.734	23	15	2.834	17	2.632	19	8	10.477	25	7.883	22	33
Capital	61.299	65	53.938	65	14	12.477	75	9.425	68	32	29.353	70	24.643	69	19
Coast	8.106	9	5.697	7	42	-	-	-	-	-	3.207	8	3.230	9	-1
Inland	24.801	26	22.868	28	8	4.206	25	4.395	32	-4	9.192	22	7.866	22	17
AVERAGE STAY	1,75		1,77		-1	1,77		1,61		10	1,82		1,89		-4
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	30,68		28,79		7	32,12		24,00		34	31,28		31,35		0
Capital	32,83		29,43		12	35,57		24,23		47	33,35		31,06		7
Coast	26,80		29,86		-10	-	-	-	-	-	22,78		34,35		-34
Inland	27,49		27,15		1	22,63		23,36		-3	29,87		31,14		-4
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	39,60		40,43		-2	42,76		36,78		16	40,76		44,24		-8
Capital	41,88		41,91		0	48,29		39,97		21	42,72		45,62		-6
Coast	34,40		41,80		-18	-	-	-	-	-	30,11		46,51		-35
Inland	36,13		36,56		-1	25,62		25,69		0	39,85		39,39		1
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	8.915	100	6.606	100	35	1.514	100	797	100	90	2.818	100	3.046	100	-7
National	7.976	89	5.914	90	35	1.302	86	761	95	71	2.345	83	2.903	95	-19
Foreigners	939	11	692	10	36	212	14	36	5	489	473	17	143	5	231
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	3.728	100	3.153	100	18	703	100	486	100	45	1.156	100	1.475	100	-22
National	3.469	93	2.977	94	17	659	94	478	98	38	1.070	93	1.404	95	-24
Foreigners	259	7	176	6	47	44	6	8	2	450	86	7	71	5	21
AVERAGE STAY	2,39		2,10		14	2,15		1,64		31	2,44		2,07		18
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	12,43		10,39		20	10,39		6,61		57	12,50		14,64		-15
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	14,11		11,88		19	10,63		7,92		34	14,41		16,93		-15

Source: EUSTAT