

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR) FEBRUARY 2004

20% rise in the number of visitors in February 2004

Overnight stays registered a 22% increase in relation to February 2003.

Hotel establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 110,370 visitors in February 2004, almost 19,000 visits more than in the same month last year, making a 20% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased in all three provinces: the highest inter-annual growth rate was in Gipuzkoa (29%), with Bizkaia in an intermediate position (21%), while growth in Álava was much more modest (4%).

The number of visitors from the state grew by 17%, while visitors from abroad increased their numbers by 34%. Visitors from the state increased their presence in Gipuzkoa (29%) and Bizkaia (15%) but their numbers remained unchanged in Alava (0%). The important growth in the number of foreign visitors was more evenly spread across the three provinces: in Bizkaia the figure rose 41% and in Alava and Gipuzkoa the rise was 28% in both cases.

Among visitors from the state there was a rise in those coming from almost all the Autonomous Communities, but especially from Madrid, Catalonia, Castile and León, Andalusia, the A.C. of the Basque Country itself and Navarre. As for foreigners there was a rise in those coming mainly from France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Portugal, Italy and South America.

The number of overnight stays registered in February 2004 came to 197,537, making a 22% increase in relation to February of last year, which is to say 26,000 more overnight stays. The inter-annual evolution of overnight stays was positive in all three provinces, increasing sharply in Gipuzkoa (35%) and with more modest growth of 18% and 7% in Bizkaia and Alava respectively.

The average length of stay for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country went from 1.76 days last year to 1.79 this February, due to the increase for this figure in Gipuzkoa (5%) and Alava (4%), given that in Bizkaia it fell by 2% in relation to the same month last year.

The degree of occupancy by places underwent an 11% improvement, going from 33.30% last February to 36.98% this February. This figure improved significantly in Gipuzkoa (24%) while in Alava and Bizkaia there was a much more modest increase of 3% in both cases.

Agrotourism: Rise in the number of visitors (15%) and overnight stays (31%)

In February 5,283 visitors registered in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country, 15% more than in the same month last year, growing 29% in

Alava and 28% in Gipuzkoa, although not so in Bizkaia, where there was a reduction of 11%. Growth in numbers of visitors from the state was 13% in the A.C. of the Basque Country: Alava (31%), Gipuzkoa (24%) and Bizkaia (-11%). Foreigners increased their presence by 45% in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole, rising 121% in Gipuzkoa and falling in Alava (-29%) and Bizkaia (-9%).

There were 11,556 overnight stays in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in February, making a 31% increase in relation to the same month last year, with highly positive inter-annual growth rates in Alava (75%) and Gipuzkoa (40%), much a more modest one in Bizkaia (4%).

The average stay per visitor showed an improvement of fifteen per cent in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole compared to February 2003, going from 1.91 days a year ago to 2.19 this February, a positive evolution that was shared by all three provinces of the community.

The degree of occupancy by places registered an important increase of 17%, as a result of the growth in Alava (46%) and Gipuzkoa (29%), given that, for this index, Bizkaia had a negative effect (-7%).

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA										
	02/2004	%	02/2003	%	Δ%	02/2004	%	02/2003	%	Δ%	02/2004	%	02/2003	%	Δ%	02/2004	%	02/2003	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	197.537	100	161.390	100	22	31.412	100	29.255	100	7	87.397	100	73.795	100	18	78.728	100	58.340	100	35
National	148.634	75	123.605	77	20	26.118	83	24.467	84	7	61.012	70	53.702	73	14	61.504	78	45.436	78	35
Foreigners	48.903	25	37.785	23	29	5.294	17	4.788	16	11	26.385	30	20.093	27	31	17.224	22	12.904	22	33
Capital	127.157	64	105.097	65	21	24.952	79	22.186	76	12	60.191	69	53.322	72	13	42.014	53	29.589	51	42
Coast	20.883	11	13.296	8	57	-	-	-	-	-	6.656	8	5.415	7	23	14.227	18	7.881	14	81
Inland	49.497	25	42.997	27	15	6.460	21	7.069	24	-9	20.550	24	15.058	20	36	22.487	29	20.870	36	8
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	110.370	100	91.613	100	20	18.613	100	17.934	100	4	48.298	100	39.881	100	21	43.459	100	33.798	100	29
National	84.438	77	72.322	79	17	15.306	82	15.349	86	0	35.404	73	30.761	77	15	33.728	78	26.212	78	29
Foreigners	25.932	23	19.291	21	34	3.307	18	2.585	14	28	12.894	27	9.120	23	41	9.731	22	7.586	22	28
Capital	74.057	67	59.515	65	24	14.050	75	12.605	70	11	34.603	72	28.935	73	20	25.404	58	17.975	53	41
Coast	9.659	9	7.734	8	25	-	-	-	-	-	3.556	7	3.071	8	16	6.103	14	4.663	14	31
Inland	26.654	24	24.364	27	9	4.563	25	5.329	30	-14	10.139	21	7.875	20	29	11.952	28	11.160	33	7
AVERAGE STAY	1,79		1,76		2	1,69		1,63		4	1,81		1,85		-2	1,81		1,73		5
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	36,98		33,30		11	34,13		33,10		3	38,37		37,08		3	36,72		29,57		24
Capital	39,75		35,13		13	39,45		36,20		9	41,10		40,67		1	38,12		27,71		38
Coast	33,57		29,59		13	-		-		-	25,56		28,74		-11	39,34		30,20		30
Inland	32,54		30,59		6	22,43		26,08		-14	37,16		30,71		21	33,07		32,39		2
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	48,04		44,62		8	44,61		44,81		0	51,46		50,75		1	45,87		38,24		20
Capital	52,32		47,03		11	53,34		50,25		6	55,46		54,80		1	47,36		35,28		34
Coast	38,19		38,45		-1	-		-		-	32,37		40,06		-19	42,54		37,39		14
Inland	42,27		41,10		3	24,16		29,44		-18	49,41		43,45		14	45,12		43,71		3
AGRO-TOURISM																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	11.556	100	8.808	100	31	2.147	100	1.224	100	75	3.462	100	3.344	100	4	5.947	100	4.240	100	40
National	9.998	87	8.120	92	23	2.050	95	1.172	96	75	2.461	71	2.984	89	-18	5.487	92	3.964	93	38
Foreigners	1.558	13	688	8	126	97	5	52	4	87	1.001	29	360	11	178	460	8	276	7	67
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	5.283	100	4.612	100	15	962	100	744	100	29	1.454	100	1.636	100	-11	2.867	100	2.232	100	28
National	4.976	94	4.400	95	13	945	98	720	97	31	1.367	94	1.540	94	-11	2.664	93	2.140	96	24
Foreigners	307	6	212	5	45	17	2	24	3	-29	87	6	96	6	-9	203	7	92	4	121
AVERAGE STAY	2,19		1,91		15	2,23		1,65		35	2,38		2,04		17	2,07		1,90		9
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	17,06		14,54		17	15,89		10,90		46	16,31		17,51		-7	18,02		14,01		29
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	19,27		16,76		15	17,90		12,28		46	18,10		20,32		-11	20,56		16,21		27

Source: EUSTAT