

A 7% rise in visits and overnight stays in March 2004

The number of visitors coming from within the state rose by 7% and from overseas by 10%.

Hotel establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 130,250 visits in March 2004, 9,000 more than in the same month of last year, meaning a 7% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased in the provinces of Bizkaia (15%) and Gipuzkoa (3%), while in Alava the number remained virtually unchanged (0%), in relation to the figures for March 2003.

The number of visitors from the state grew by 7%, while visitors coming from overseas increased by 10%. Visitors from the state increased in number throughout the three provinces: 9% in Bizkaia, 7% in Gipuzkoa and 2% in Alava. Foreign visitors were more unevenly distributed as regards provinces, rising substantially in number in Bizkaia (39%), but falling 11% in Gipuzkoa and 7% in Alava.

Among visitors from the state, there was a rise in those coming from the Autonomous Communities of Madrid, Galicia, the Valencia Community, Castile and León, Aragón, Andalusia and the A.C. of the Basque Country itself. Those coming from Cantabria, the Canaries, the Balearic Isles and Asturias among others fell in number. As for foreign visitors, there was an increase in those coming mainly from France, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and USA-Canada, while there was a decrease in visitors from Portugal and South America among others.

Overnight stays registered in March 2004 came to 230,254, representing a 7% rise with regard to March last year, which is to say over 15,000 more overnight stays. The inter-annual evolution of overnight stays was positive in all three provinces, increasing 8% in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa respectively while in Alava there was a more modest rise of 4%.

The average length of stay for the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole remained unchanged in March in relation to the same period last year. This index rose in Gipuzkoa (5%) and Alava (3%), but fell in Bizkaia by 6% in inter-annual terms.

The degree of occupancy by places suffered a slight reduction of 1%, falling from 39.30% in March last year to 39.08% this March. Despite the improvement of this index in Alava (4%), in the case of Gipuzkoa it remained unchanged and fell three percent in Bizkaia, in each case with respect to the same month last year.

Agrotourism: A rise in the number of visitors (17%) and overnight stays (32%)

There were 7,220 visitors to the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country, 17% more than in the same month last year, growing 32% in Alava, 31% in Bizkaia and 5% in Gipuzkoa. Growth as regards visitors from the state was 19% in the A.C. of the Basque Country: Alava (31%), Bizkaia (27%) and Gipuzkoa (10%). Foreigners fell in number by 6% in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole.

There were 15,081 overnight stays in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in March, meaning a 32% increase in relation to the same month last year, with highly positive inter-annual growth rates in Bizkaia (58%) and Alava (53%), and a more modest one in Gipuzkoa (11%).

The average length of stay per visitor showed an improvement of thirteen per cent in the of the Basque Country overall in relation to March 2003, going from 1.85 days a year ago to 2.09 this March, a positive evolution that was shared by all three provinces of the community.

The degree of occupancy by places registered a substantial rise of 21%, due to the increase that occurred in Bizkaia (38%), Alava (27%) and Gipuzkoa (8%).

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	03/2004	%	03/2003	%	Δ%	03/2004	%	03/2003	%	Δ%	03/2004	%	03/2003	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	230.254	100	214.992	100	7	37.628	100	36.324	100	4	100.766	100	93.227	100	8
National	171.415	74	159.938	74	7	31.342	83	29.674	82	6	69.635	69	65.906	71	6
Foreigners	58.839	26	55.054	26	7	6.286	17	6.650	18	-5	31.131	31	27.321	29	14
Capital	144.208	63	142.326	66	1	28.743	76	27.145	75	6	70.592	70	67.823	73	4
Coast	27.039	12	18.885	9	43	-	-	-	-	-	7.071	7	7.584	8	-7
Inland	59.007	26	53.781	25	10	8.885	24	9.179	25	-3	23.103	23	17.820	19	30
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	130.250	100	121.163	100	7	22.783	100	22.687	100	0	57.225	100	49.567	100	15
National	100.479	77	94.098	78	7	18.938	83	18.548	82	2	41.857	73	38.510	78	9
Foreigners	29.771	23	27.065	22	10	3.845	17	4.139	18	-7	15.368	27	11.057	22	39
Capital	85.306	65	79.719	66	7	16.803	74	15.923	70	6	41.694	73	35.717	72	17
Coast	12.700	10	11.217	9	13	-	-	-	-	-	3.980	7	4.663	9	-15
Inland	32.244	25	30.227	25	7	5.980	26	6.764	30	-12	11.551	20	9.187	19	26
AVERAGE STAY	1,77		1,77		0	1,65		1,60		3	1,76		1,88		-6
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	39,08		39,30		-1	38,18		36,64		4	40,46		41,72		-3
Capital	41,29		42,54		-3	42,49		39,97		6	44,91		46,65		-4
Coast	38,89		35,96		8	-	-	-	-	-	24,63		33,47		-26
Inland	34,62		33,61		3	28,75		29,40		-2	36,59		32,15		14
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	49,86		50,47		-1	48,73		47,26		3	52,53		55,84		-6
Capital	53,19		55,26		-4	56,55		52,95		7	57,28		62,96		-9
Coast	45,47		42,77		6	-	-	-	-	-	32,54		44,97		-28
Inland	44,57		42,10		6	29,89		32,95		-9	49,21		40,17		23
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	15.081	100	11.393	100	32	2.643	100	1.729	100	53	5.690	100	3.592	100	58
National	13.718	91	10.567	93	30	2.466	93	1.684	97	46	4.823	85	3.477	97	39
Foreigners	1.363	9	826	7	65	177	7	45	3	293	867	15	115	3	654
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	7.220	100	6.154	100	17	1.293	100	982	100	32	2.523	100	1.921	100	31
National	6.872	95	5.783	94	19	1.245	96	952	97	31	2.391	95	1.877	98	27
Foreigners	348	5	371	6	-6	48	4	30	3	60	132	5	44	2	200
AVERAGE STAY	2,09		1,85		13	2,04		1,76		16	2,26		1,87		21
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	20,21		16,74		21	17,40		13,67		27	23,53		16,99		38
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	22,09		19,07		16	20,00		14,56		37	25,79		19,60		32

Source: EUSTAT