

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR) AUGUST 2004

10% increase in the number of visitors and a 16% rise in overnight stays in August 2004

Over the months of June, July and August, 42,000 more visitors were registered than over the same period in 2003, which represents a 9% increase.

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 195,188 entries by visitors in August 2004, almost 18,000 more than during the same month the previous year, which represents a 10% increase, according to Eustat data. Entries by visitors increased in the provinces of Bizkaia (25%) and, to a lesser extent, in Gipuzkoa (4%), but not so in Alava, where there was a 7% reduction in relation to the data for August 2003.

Entries by state visitors increased 8%, while entries by visitors from abroad increased by 15%. Both state and foreign visitors increased their presence in Bizkaia (20% and 34%, respectively) and in Gipuzkoa (4% and 5%, respectively), while in Alava there was a fall for both groups (-6% and -8%, respectively).

Among state visitors there was an increase in numbers from Madrid, Catalonia, Andalusia, the Community of Valencia, Galicia, Asturias and Aragon among others, and a fall in numbers from Castile and Leon, Balearic Islands and Cantabria, mainly. Among foreign visitors, numbers increased from France, Germany, Italy, Portugal, USA- Canada, Holland, Ireland and the UK, among others, with a fall in numbers from Belgium, Denmark and Latin America.

Overnight stays registered in August 2004 amounted to a total of 424,075, which represents a 16% increase in relation to August the year before, i.e. 60,000 more overnight stays. The inter-annual evolution of overnight stays was positive in all three provinces in the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising 34% in Bizkaia, 8% in Gipuzkoa and 1% in Alava.

The length of the average stay increased by 5% in August 2004 for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising from 2.06 to 2.17 days. This rate also rose in all three provinces: 8% in Alava, 7% in Bizkaia and 4% in Gipuzkoa, in inter-annual terms.

The rate of occupancy by places registered a positive evolution with a 13% increase, from 61.44% in August last year to 69.25% in August this year. The rate of occupancy by rooms also improved by 13% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising 24% in Bizkaia and 10% in Gipuzkoa, but falling 2% in Alava.

Over the months of June, July and August there was a 9% rise in entries by visitors in the A.C. of the Basque Country in relation to the same period in 2003: Bizkaia saw an 18% increase and Gipuzkoa and Alava registered a 3% in both cases. Overnight stays over the same period registered a 13% increase, reaching a total of 120,000 more overnight stays than in the same months of 2003. The increase was 21% in Bizkaia and 8% in Alava and Gipuzkoa.

AGROTOURISM

Decrease in entries by visitors (-15%) but overnight stays increased (9%)

In August 10,580 entries by visitors were registered in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 15% fewer than in the same month the previous year, falling 18% in Alava, 14% in Bizkaia and 14% in Gipuzkoa. The drop in state visitors was 15% in the A.C. of the Basque Country, with decreases in all three provinces: a 21% decrease in Alava, 21% in Bizkaia and 8% in Gipuzkoa. The number of foreigner visitors also fell by 15% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, with an increase in this group in Alava (8%) and Bizkaia (15%) but with a substantial 45% fall in Gipuzkoa.

Overnight stays at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 58,946 in August 2004, which represents a 9% increase in relation to the same month the previous year, with positive inter-annual growth rates in all three provinces: a 13% rise in Alava, 10% in Gipuzkoa and 4% in Bizkaia.

The average length of stay rose from 4.36 days a year before to 5.57 in August this year, increasing by 39% in Alava, 28% in Gipuzkoa and 21% in Bizkaia, which means that despite the loss in the number of visitors there was an increase in overnight stays.

The rate of occupancy by places showed a 5% rise for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. By provinces, there was a 6% rise in Gipuzkoa, 5% in Bizkaia and (3%) in Alava.

Over the months of June, July and August 2004 the number of entries by visitors in agrotourism establishments increased by 4% in relation to the same months the previous year, and overnight stays rose by 13%, having a positive effect in all three provinces.

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	08/2004	%	08/2003	%	Δ%	08/2004	%	08/2003	%	Δ%	08/2004	%	08/2003	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	424.075	100	364.956	100	16	53.687	100	53.222	100	1	168.977	100	126.038	100	34
National	293.440	69	252.502	69	16	41.646	78	39.204	74	6	106.578	63	79.369	63	34
Foreigners	130.635	31	112.454	31	16	12.041	22	14.018	26	-14	62.399	37	46.669	37	34
Capital	255.645	60	217.784	60	17	35.586	66	36.687	69	-3	110.818	66	79.793	63	39
Coast	61.852	15	54.912	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	23.857	14	18.527	15	29
Inland	106.578	25	92.260	25	16	18.101	34	16.535	31	9	34.302	20	27.718	22	24
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	195.188	100	177.336	100	10	26.869	100	28.752	100	-7	80.344	100	64.191	100	25
National	125.383	64	116.420	66	8	18.833	70	20.017	70	-6	47.826	60	39.924	62	20
Foreigners	69.805	36	60.916	34	15	8.036	30	8.735	30	-8	32.518	40	24.267	38	34
Capital	117.505	60	105.419	59	11	17.102	64	18.496	64	-8	55.002	68	43.132	67	28
Coast	24.176	12	23.594	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	9.567	12	8.107	13	18
Inland	53.507	27	48.323	27	11	9.767	36	10.256	36	-5	15.775	20	12.952	20	22
AVERAGE STAY	2,17		2,06		5	2,00		1,85		8	2,10		1,96		7
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	69,25		61,44		13	55,00		54,47		1	63,74		51,53		24
Capital	69,45		61,05		14	52,75		54,41		-3	65,16		50,83		28
Coast	78,46		73,84		6	-		-		-	73,29		65,75		11
Inland	64,43		56,63		14	60,01		54,59		10	54,89		46,64		18
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	72,46		64,04		13	57,55		58,52		-2	67,58		54,53		24
Capital	72,27		63,53		14	57,01		59,95		-5	68,27		53,81		27
Coast	82,93		77,64		7	-		-		-	80,54		72,63		11
Inland	68,32		59,17		15	59,03		54,62		8	61,10		49,69		23
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	58.946	100	54.263	100	9	8.961	100	7.921	100	13	16.978	100	16.347	100	4
National	50.754	86	48.140	89	5	7.597	85	7.495	95	1	13.465	79	13.203	81	2
Foreigners	8.192	14	6.123	11	34	1.364	15	426	5	220	3.513	21	3.144	19	12
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	10.580	100	12.445	100	-15	2.168	100	2.655	100	-18	3.413	100	3.990	100	-14
National	9.095	86	10.708	86	-15	1.928	89	2.444	92	-21	2.630	77	3.311	83	-21
Foreigners	1.485	14	1.737	14	-15	240	11	211	8	14	783	23	679	17	15
AVERAGE STAY	5,57		4,36		28	4,13		2,98		39	4,97		4,10		21
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	74,54		70,92		5	53,23		51,62		3	70,67		67,61		5
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	77,77		72,86		7	53,66		53,27		1	75,43		70,62		7

Fuente: EUSTAT