

## 8% increase in visitors in September 2004

**Over the summer months, July-September, 42,000 more visitor entries were registered than over the same period in 2003, an 8% rise.**

167,311 entries were registered by visitors at hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in September 2004, according to Eustat data. These figures reflect an 8% increase in relation to the same month the year before, ie 12,000 more entries. Entries by visitors has evolved positively in the three provinces: increasing in Bizkaia (18%), Gipuzkoa (2%) and Alava (1%).

The number of state visitors increased by 9% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country and the number of foreign visitors also increased, by 6%. State visitors increased their presence in two of the three provinces: Bizkaia (16%) and Gipuzkoa (9%), but reduced their presence in Alava (-5%). Foreign visitors also varied differently according to the province: increasing in Alava (24%) and Bizkaia (22%), but falling in Gipuzkoa (-11%).

Among state visitors there was an increase in most of the Autonomous Communities, with growth in numbers mainly from Madrid, Catalonia, Valencia, Andalusia, Aragon and Navarre. There was only a decrease in numbers from Asturias, the Balearic Isles, Extremadura and Galicia. Numbers rose for foreign visitors from France, the UK, Germany, USA-Canada and Belgium, among others. There was a drop in numbers from Portugal, Italy and Greece, mainly.

Overnight stays registered in September 2004 came to 332,756, which represents a 10% increase with regard to the month of September the year before, i.e. 29,000 more. Overnight stays developed quite differently on an inter-annual scale in the three provinces, increasing by 26% in Bizkaia, remaining stable in Gipuzkoa (0.0%) and falling slightly in Alava (-1%).

The average length of visitors' stay increased by 2% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising from 1.96 days in September 2003 to 1.99 days in September this year. The average length of stay has improved by 7% in Bizkaia and fallen by 2% in Alava and Gipuzkoa.

The level of occupancy by places, and also by rooms, improved by 7% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. The impact was different for the three provinces, rising sharply in Bizkaia and slightly in Gipuzkoa; on the other hand, falling slightly in Alava.

**Over the summer months, July-September**, there was an 8% increase in visitor entries to the A.C. of the Basque Country with regard to summer 2003, this growth affecting the province of Bizkaia mainly (21%) and Gipuzkoa to a lesser extent (2%), but in Alava there was a reduction (-1%). Overnight stays registered over this period increased by 12%, reaching 42,000 more overnight stays than in summer 2003. The increases were 24% in Bizkaia, 7% in Gipuzkoa and 2% in Alava.

## Agrotourism: drop in visitor entries (-1%) and rise in 16% overnight stays

7,961 visitor entries were registered in September at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 1% fewer than in the same month the year before, rising 8% in Bizkaia, but falling 7% and 2% in Gipuzkoa and Alava respectively.

Overnight stays carried out at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 23,922 in September, which represents 16% more than the same month the previous year, with positive inter-annual growth rates in the three provinces: Alava (26%), Bizkaia (21%) and Gipuzkoa (11%).

The average stay per visitor progressed by eighteen percent in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country in relation to September 2003, and rose from 2.55 days a year before to 3.00, this growth affecting all three provinces: Alava (30%), Gipuzkoa (20%) and Bizkaia (12%).

The level of occupancy by places registered 10% growth in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country and the level of occupancy by rooms also rose by 10%.

**Over the summer months, July-September**, there were 3% fewer entries to Basque agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country than the year before, but overnight stays increased by 12% over the same period, i.e. 13,000 more overnight stays.

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**Table 1: Monthly results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	09/2004	%	09/2003	%	Δ%	09/2004	%	09/2003	%	Δ%	09/2004	%	09/2003	%	Δ%
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	<b>332.756</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>303.841</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>48.285</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>48.823</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>144.064</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>114.645</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>
National	227.443	68	207.618	68	10	36.750	76	37.558	77	-2	90.862	63	73.763	64	23
Foreigners	105.313	32	96.223	32	9	11.535	24	11.265	23	2	53.202	37	40.882	36	30
Capital	210.722	63	188.894	62	12	36.951	77	35.752	73	3	99.415	69	77.602	68	28
Coast	43.066	13	39.515	13	9	-	-	-	-	-	15.655	11	12.817	11	22
Inland	78.968	24	75.432	25	5	11.334	23	13.071	27	-13	28.994	20	24.226	21	20
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	<b>167.311</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>154.907</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26.781</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26.554</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>71.747</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>61.025</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>
National	114.262	68	105.085	68	9	19.674	73	20.808	78	-5	46.917	65	40.598	67	16
Foreigners	53.049	32	49.822	32	6	7.107	27	5.746	22	24	24.830	35	20.427	33	22
Capital	105.368	63	94.738	61	11	19.196	72	17.641	66	9	50.056	70	41.343	68	21
Coast	19.825	12	19.439	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	7.878	11	7.274	12	8
Inland	42.118	25	40.730	26	3	7.585	28	8.913	34	-15	13.813	19	12.408	20	11
AVERAGE STAY	<b>1,99</b>		<b>1,96</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1,80</b>		<b>1,84</b>		<b>-2</b>	<b>2,01</b>		<b>1,88</b>		<b>7</b>
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	<b>56,42</b>		<b>52,88</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>50,65</b>		<b>51,11</b>		<b>-1</b>	<b>56,15</b>		<b>48,36</b>		<b>16</b>
Capital	59,70		55,11		8	55,91		54,49		3	60,67		51,19		19
Coast	58,31		55,93		4	-		-		-	49,60		45,40		9
Inland	48,48		46,80		4	38,75		43,70		-11	47,40		42,30		12
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	<b>68,00</b>		<b>63,47</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>61,49</b>		<b>63,09</b>		<b>-3</b>	<b>69,31</b>		<b>60,64</b>		<b>14</b>
Capital	71,64		66,59		8	68,05		69,22		-2	73,15		62,89		16
Coast	66,24		61,51		8	-		-		-	60,44		55,97		8
Inland	59,86		57,29		4	40,59		47,65		-15	61,71		56,48		9
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	<b>23.922</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>20.596</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3.375</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.679</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7.515</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6.195</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>21</b>
National	20.170	84	18.068	88	12	3.099	92	2.404	90	29	6.121	81	5.431	88	13
Foreigners	3.752	16	2.528	12	48	276	8	275	10	0	1.394	19	764	12	82
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	<b>7.961</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.074</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>1.380</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.414</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>2.756</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.552</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>
National	6.987	88	7.256	90	-4	1.304	94	1.312	93	-1	2.343	85	2.233	88	5
Foreigners	974	12	818	10	19	76	6	102	7	-25	413	15	319	13	29
AVERAGE STAY	<b>3,00</b>		<b>2,55</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>2,45</b>		<b>1,89</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>2,73</b>		<b>2,43</b>		<b>12</b>
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	<b>32,67</b>		<b>29,71</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>21,59</b>		<b>19,58</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>34,32</b>		<b>27,87</b>		<b>23</b>
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	<b>35,43</b>		<b>32,30</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>24,48</b>		<b>21,63</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>36,30</b>		<b>30,62</b>		<b>19</b>

Source: EUSTAT