

The number of visitors increased by 3% in May 2005

Overnight stays registered a 4% increase during the same month.

The hotel establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 164,676 visitors in May 2005, almost 5,000 more than during the same month of last year, which meant a 3% increase, according to Eustat data. The evolution of the number of visitors was positive in the provinces of Gipuzkoa (7%) and Bizkaia (4%), but not so in Álava, where there was an 8% fall in relation to the same month of last year.

The number of visitors from other parts of the state grew by 7% in May 2005, rising 15% in Gipuzkoa and 7% in Bizkaia, but falling 6% in Álava. The number of overseas visitors underwent a 6% decrease in the A.C. of the Basque Country, with a reduced presence in all three provinces: Álava (-17%), Gipuzkoa (-7%) and Bizkaia (-3%).

Among visitors from the state, an increase was registered most Autonomous Communities. Numbers increased for those coming from Catalonia, Madrid, Andalucía, Aragón, Asturias, Cantabria, the Valencian Community and Galicia. They only fell for those coming from Extremadura, La Rioja, Murcia and Castile and León. As for overseas visitors, there was a rise in number for those coming from Italy and Latin America, among others. There was a fall for those coming from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the USA, Canada and Portugal, mainly.

Overnight stays registered in May 2005 came to 298,832, which represented a 4% rise in relation to last May, which to say over 10,000 more overnight stays. The inter-annual evolution of overnight stays was only positive in Gipuzkoa (8%) and Álava (7%), but decreased in Bizkaia (-2%).

The average length of stay remained stable at 1.81 days for the A.C. of the Basque Country. This index grew notably in Álava, going from 1.56 days last year to 1.83 days in May. It fell by 5 percentage points in Bizkaia and remained unchanged in the province of Gipuzkoa.

The degree of occupancy, both by places and rooms, remained steady in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole. In Álava it improved by 4% (by places) and 6% (by rooms). It fell by 7% in Bizkaia in both cases and improved by 7% and 5% respectively in Gipuzkoa.

Agrotourism: Numbers of visitors rose (19%) as did overnight stays (12%)

7,941 visitors were registered in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in May, 19% more than the same month last year, growing 33% in Gipuzkoa, 11% in Álava and 5% in Bizkaia. Visitors from the state increased in number by 20% in the A.C. of the Basque Country and those from overseas did so by 10%.

There were 17,742 overnight stays in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country during May, which meant 12% growth in relation to the same month of last year, with important inter-annual growth in Gipuzkoa (26%), more modest growth in Álava (4%) and a 5% fall in Bizkaia.

The average stay per visitor registered a fall in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole in relation to May 2004, going from 2.39 days a year previously to 2.23 this May, an inter-annual decrease that was true for all the three provinces.

The degree of occupancy by places registered a 6% increase and the degree of occupancy by rooms underwent a rise of 4%. The increase of both indices was also shared by the provinces of Álava and Gipuzkoa, but not by Bizkaia, where both showed a negative evolution.

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	05/2005	%	05/2004	%	Δ%	05/2005	%	05/2004	%	Δ%	05/2005	%	05/2004	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	298.832	100	288.706	100	4	46.235	100	43.021	100	7	126.332	100	128.555	100	-2
National	213.352	71	198.335	69	8	37.139	80	33.960	79	9	85.432	68	85.083	66	0
Foreigners	85.480	29	90.371	31	-5	9.096	20	9.061	21	0	40.900	32	43.472	34	-6
Capital	189.966	64	187.348	65	1	34.039	74	29.787	69	14	84.772	67	91.761	71	-8
Coast	39.983	13	34.927	12	14	-	-	-	-	-	13.985	11	12.050	9	16
Inland	68.883	23	66.431	23	4	12.196	26	13.234	31	-8	27.575	22	24.744	19	11
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	164.676	100	159.783	100	3	25.313	100	27.637	100	-8	71.266	100	68.709	100	4
National	117.386	71	109.305	68	7	20.117	79	21.363	77	-6	49.343	69	46.151	67	7
Foreigners	47.290	29	50.478	32	-6	5.196	21	6.274	23	-17	21.923	31	22.558	33	-3
Capital	103.582	63	101.466	64	2	17.074	67	17.878	65	-4	48.217	68	47.961	70	1
Coast	20.431	12	19.263	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	7.551	11	7.920	12	-5
Inland	40.663	25	39.054	24	4	8.239	33	9.759	35	-16	15.498	22	12.828	19	21
AVERAGE STAY	1,81		1,81		0	1,83		1,56		17	1,77		1,87		-5
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	47,51		47,41		0	45,33		43,64		4	45,21		48,43		-7
Capital	51,53		51,32		0	49,06		44,04		11	49,25		53,85		-9
Coast	49,84		46,91		6	-	-	-	-	-	37,85		37,67		0
Inland	38,26		39,21		-2	37,40		42,78		-13	39,19		39,24		0
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	59,36		59,62		0	58,73		55,16		6	58,23		62,64		-7
Capital	65,15		64,57		1	66,04		57,85		14	63,71		68,86		-7
Coast	59,58		54,40		10	-	-	-	-	-	48,04		46,82		3
Inland	46,73		49,69		-6	41,83		47,33		-12	48,33		51,33		-6
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	17.742	100	15.908	100	12	2.740	100	2.637	100	4	5.150	100	5.432	100	-5
National	15.526	88	12.942	81	20	2.555	93	2.512	95	2	4.493	87	4.438	82	1
Foreigners	2.216	12	2.966	19	-25	185	7	125	5	48	657	13	994	18	-34
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	7.941	100	6.666	100	19	1.458	100	1.318	100	11	2.333	100	2.216	100	5
National	7.156	90	5.953	89	20	1.368	94	1.248	95	10	2.132	91	1.991	90	7
Foreigners	785	10	713	11	10	90	6	70	5	29	201	9	225	10	-11
AVERAGE STAY	2,23		2,39		-7	1,88		2,00		-6	2,21		2,45		-10
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	22,16		20,85		6	17,68		15,55		14	20,26		23,06		-12
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	24,59		23,63		4	19,88		17,41		14	22,21		25,68		-14

Source: EUSTAT