

## 9% increase in visitors in July 2005

### ***Overnight stays increased by 10% over the same monthly period***

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 190,882 entries by visitors in July 2005, over 15,000 entries more than the same month the year before, which represents a 9% increase, according to Eustat data. Entries by visitors evolved positively in all three provinces, rising sharply in Bizkaia (17%), with more intermediate growth in Gipuzkoa (5%) and developing by a more moderate inter-annual rate in Alava (2%), with regard to the same month the previous year.

Entries by state visitors grew by 8% in July 2005 for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising 20% in Bizkaia and 4% in Alava, but staying at the same level as the year before in Gipuzkoa (0.0%). The number of foreign visitors increased by 10% in the A.C. of the Basque Country, rising 12% in Guipúzcoa and 11% in Bizkaia, but decreasing their presence in Álava (-3%).

Among state visitors there was an increase in numbers from most of the Autonomous Communities. There were more visitors from Catalonia, Madrid, Andalusia, Aragón, Asturias, Castile la Mancha, Galicia and Navarre. Numbers fell however, from Cantabria, the Canaries and Valencia. Among foreign visitors, there was a rise in visitors from France, Germany, Holland, Portugal, the UK and Latin America, among others. Numbers fell from Belgium, Italy and the USA-Canada, mainly.

Overnight stays registered in July 2005 came to 373,626, which represents a 10% rise on July the year before, i.e. over 33,000 overnight stays more than in July 2004. Overnight stays also registered a positive inter-annual evolution in all three provinces, obtaining the highest growth in Bizkaia (20%), and evolving more moderately in Gipuzkoa (4%) and Álava (3%).

The length of the average stay grew by 1%, increasing from 1.94 days the year before to 1.96 days last July. This growth occurred in Bizkaia (3%) and Alava (1%), but there was no change in Gipuzkoa (0.0%).

The occupancy level both by places and by rooms increased by 7% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. Occupancy by places grew in Bizkaia (14%) and Guipúzcoa (5%), remaining stable in Alava (0.0%).

### **Agrotourism: Increase in visitors (12%) and overnight stays (13%)**

Last July a total of 11,956 visitors were registered in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 12% more than the same month the year before, growing 19% in Alava, 13% in Gipuzkoa and 7% in Bizkaia. State visitors rose in numbers by 10% and foreign visitors registered an inter-annual increase of 22%, in relation to July 2004.

Overnight stays in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 39,469 in July, which represents 13% growth with regard to the same month the year before, with important inter-annual growth in Gipuzkoa (21%) and Alava (14%), but a slight drop in Bizkaia (-1%).

The average stay per visitor registered a 1% increase, rising from 3.28 days the year before to 3.30 this July, in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

The occupancy level by places and rooms rose by 4% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. The increase in both indices affects the provinces of Álava and Gipuzkoa positively, but not so Bizkaia, where the two indices registered negative inter-annual growth.

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**Table 1: Monthly results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA				
	07/2005	%	07/2004	%	07/2005	%	07/2004	%	07/2005	%	07/2004	%	07/2005	%	07/2004	%	
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>																	
OVERNIGHT STAYS	373.626	100	340.108	100	10	49.854	100	48.361	100	3	147.949	100	123.261	100	20	175.823	100
National	247.310	66	225.068	66	10	38.175	77	36.533	76	4	93.564	63	77.860	63	20	115.571	66
Foreigners	126.316	34	115.040	34	10	11.679	23	11.828	24	-1	54.385	37	45.401	37	20	60.252	34
Capital	229.736	61	207.574	61	11	36.505	73	34.962	72	4	96.641	65	82.768	67	17	96.590	55
Coast	55.508	15	52.501	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	19.536	13	17.752	14	10	35.972	20
Inland	88.382	24	80.033	24	10	13.349	27	13.399	28	0	31.772	21	22.741	18	40	43.261	25
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	190.882	100	175.155	100	9	27.357	100	26.823	100	2	81.445	100	69.829	100	17	82.080	100
National	125.472	66	115.679	66	8	20.098	73	19.361	72	4	53.873	66	45.066	65	20	51.501	63
Foreigners	65.410	34	59.476	34	10	7.259	27	7.462	28	-3	27.572	34	24.763	35	11	30.579	37
Capital	116.164	61	107.824	62	8	19.151	70	18.124	68	6	51.456	63	48.069	69	7	45.557	56
Coast	25.403	13	24.508	14	4	-	-	-	-	-	10.794	13	9.718	14	11	14.609	18
Inland	49.315	26	42.823	24	15	8.206	30	8.699	32	-6	19.195	24	12.042	17	59	21.914	27
AVERAGE STAY	1,96		1,94		1	1,82		1,80		1	1,82		1,77		3	2,14	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	59,24		55,26		7	49,59		49,38		0	53,20		46,50		14	69,76	
Capital	62,54		56,64		10	53,55		51,62		4	56,29		48,87		15	75,77	
Coast	66,49		66,10		1	-		-	-	-	53,54		54,07		-1	76,54	
Inland	49,14		47,20		4	41,25		44,38		-7	45,43		36,17		26	55,78	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	66,40		62,08		7	57,05		57,83		-1	61,67		53,90		14	76,89	
Capital	70,20		63,45		11	63,28		62,37		1	64,72		55,93		16	82,51	
Coast	70,77		71,45		-1	-		-	-	-	60,94		60,47		1	78,82	
Inland	55,97		54,70		2	42,07		45,71		-8	54,51		44,81		22	64,78	
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>																	
OVERNIGHT STAYS	39.469	100	35.069	100	13	4.909	100	4.315	100	14	11.957	100	12.083	100	-1	22.603	100
National	32.160	81	28.420	81	13	4.305	88	3.926	91	10	8.794	74	9.263	77	-5	19.061	84
Foreigners	7.309	19	6.649	19	10	604	12	389	9	55	3.163	26	2.820	23	12	3.542	16
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	11.956	100	10.699	100	12	1.818	100	1.531	100	19	3.803	100	3.546	100	7	6.335	100
National	9.983	83	9.082	85	10	1.653	91	1.411	92	17	3.033	80	2.900	82	5	5.297	84
Foreigners	1.973	17	1.617	15	22	165	9	120	8	38	770	20	646	18	19	1.038	16
AVERAGE STAY	3,30		3,28		1	2,70		2,82		-4	3,14		3,41		-8	3,57	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	47,61		45,76		4	29,11		25,97		12	48,76		51,29		-5	54,45	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	50,33		48,62		4	30,99		29,18		6	49,75		53,72		-7	58,76	

Source: EUSTAT