

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR) FEBRUARY 2006

7% increase in visitor entries in February 2006

Overnight stays, in addition, registered a 10% increase on February 2005

116,817 visitor entries were registered at hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in February 2006, i.e. 8,000 more than the same month the previous year, which represents a 7% increase according to Eustat data. Visitor entries increased in the provinces of Gipuzkoa (10%) and Bizkaia (9%), but not in Álava, where they fell by 2%.

State visitor entries increased by 7% and the number of foreign visitors also rose by 8%. State visitors increased in presence in Gipuzkoa (12%) and Bizkaia (7%), but fell slightly in Álava (-3%). The number of foreigners increased, mainly, in Bizkaia (17%), and more moderately in Gipuzkoa (1%), with a fall in numbers for this group in Álava (-2%).

Among state visitors there was an increase in numbers from Madrid, Catalonia, Andalusia, Aragón, Asturias, Extremadura and Galicia, mainly. Numbers fell from the Canaries and Castile la Mancha. Among foreign visitors, there was an increase in numbers from Germany, Italy, Portugal, South America and the USA-Canada and numbers fell in visitors from France, the UK and Holland, among others.

Overnight stays registered in February 2006 amounted to 209,715, which represents a 10% increase on February the previous year, i.e. almost 20,000 overnight stays more. Overnight stays had a positive inter-annual evolution in Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia with growth of 18% and 10%, respectively, while in Álava there was a 4% fall in overnight stays.

The average length of stay rose from 1.75 days the year before to 1.80 this past February for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. This index gained positions in Gipuzkoa (rising from 1.71 days in February last year to 1.84 days in February last), remained unvaried in Bizkaia (1.78 days average stay in both cases) and fell in Álava (from 1.75 to 1.73 days).

The level of occupancy by places increased slightly by 1%, rising from 35.84% in February last year to 36.36% in February this year. An improvement was registered only in the province of Gipuzkoa (16%). The level of occupancy by rooms fell from 47.44% to 46.88% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, this trend also negatively affecting Álava (-7%) and Bizkaia (-11%) but not Guipúzcoa, where the index grew by 17%.

Agrotourism: Increase in visitor entries (15%) and overnight stays (16%)

5,368 visitor entries were registered in agrotourism establishments in February this year in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 15% more than the same month last year, increasing by 40% in Álava, 12% in Bizkaia and 10% in Gipuzkoa. The increase in state visitors was 17% in the A.C. of the Basque Country: it rose 44% in Álava, increased by 14% in Bizkaia and grew by 12% in Gipuzkoa. The presence of foreign visitors fell by 17% for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, numbers falling in all three provinces: in Álava (-56%), Gipuzkoa (-16%) and Bizkaia (-7%).

Overnight stays spent at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 12,048 in February, which represents a 16% increase with regard to the same month the year before, with positive inter-annual growth rates in all three provinces: Álava (32%), Gipuzkoa (19%) and Bizkaia (4%).

The average stay per visitors rose in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country with regard to February 2005, rising from 2.22 days a year before to 2.24 in February last. This indicator fell in Álava (-6%) and Bizkaia (-7%), but improved in the case of Gipuzkoa (9%).

The level of occupancy by places increased by 4%, as a result of the increases registered in Álava (35%) and Gipuzkoa (7%), compared with the fall in Bizkaia (-14%). The level of occupancy by rooms improved eight percentage points in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country with the same provincial make-up as above.

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	02/2006	%	02/2005	%	Δ%	02/2006	%	02/2005	%	Δ%	02/2006	%	02/2005	%	Δ%
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	209.715	100	190.202	100	10	31.095	100	32.369	100	-4	99.771	100	90.877	100	10
National	159.395	76	145.263	76	10	25.218	81	26.636	82	-5	71.936	72	67.154	74	7
Foreigners	50.320	24	44.939	24	12	5.877	19	5.733	18	3	27.835	28	23.723	26	17
Capital	130.106	62	123.102	65	6	24.463	79	26.133	81	-6	66.934	67	62.831	69	7
Coast	22.414	11	18.103	10	24	-	-	-	-	-	8.245	8	7.813	9	6
Inland	57.195	27	48.997	26	17	6.632	21	6.236	19	6	24.592	25	20.233	22	22
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	116.817	100	108.718	100	7	18.023	100	18.476	100	-2	55.900	100	51.123	100	9
National	90.968	78	84.883	78	7	14.824	82	15.211	82	-3	42.181	75	39.427	77	7
Foreigners	25.849	22	23.835	22	8	3.199	18	3.265	18	-2	13.719	25	11.696	23	17
Capital	73.390	63	70.691	65	4	13.512	75	13.902	75	-3	37.704	67	35.576	70	6
Coast	11.135	10	10.236	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	4.528	8	4.388	9	3
Inland	32.292	28	27.791	26	16	4.511	25	4.574	25	-1	13.668	24	11.159	22	22
AVERAGE STAY	1,80		1,75		3	1,73		1,75		-1	1,78		1,78		0
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	36,36		35,84		1	34,15		36,88		-7	35,07		37,22		-6
Capital	38,94		38,08		2	38,93		42,71		-9	39,17		40,16		-2
Coast	36,69		32,38		13	-	-	-	-	-	29,01		28,59		1
Inland	31,50		32,33		-3	23,50		23,44		0	28,87		33,52		-14
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	46,88		47,44		-1	43,00		46,30		-7	46,27		51,83		-11
Capital	51,22		50,54		1	50,91		53,79		-5	51,88		56,30		-8
Coast	44,72		41,39		8	-	-	-	-	-	36,37		38,46		-5
Inland	39,40		42,42		-7	24,87		27,05		-8	37,80		45,76		-17
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	12.048	100	10.396	100	16	1.696	100	1.287	100	32	3.392	100	3.271	100	4
National	10.817	90	9.284	89	17	1.612	95	1.129	88	43	3.164	93	2.821	86	12
Foreigners	1.231	10	1.112	11	11	84	5	158	12	-47	228	7	450	14	-49
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	5.368	100	4.679	100	15	868	100	620	100	40	1.596	100	1.422	100	12
National	5.115	95	4.375	94	17	856	99	593	96	44	1.508	94	1.327	93	14
Foreigners	253	5	304	6	-17	12	1	27	4	-56	88	6	95	7	-7
AVERAGE STAY	2,24		2,22		1	1,95		2,08		-6	2,13		2,30		-7
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	15,52		14,86		4	11,95		8,84		35	13,34		15,45		-14
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	18,93		17,50		8	14,05		10,96		28	16,44		18,97		-13

Source: EUSTAT