

**SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR) MARCH 2006**

## **6% increase in the number of visitors in March 2006**

### ***Overnight stays, in addition, registered a 5% increase on March 2005***

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 152,382 visitor entries in March 2006, i.e. almost 9,000 more than in the same month the year before, which represents a 6% increase, according to Eustat data. Visitor entries increased in the provinces of Bizkaia (16%) and Álava (1%), but not in Gipuzkoa, where there was a 4% decrease.

Entries by state visitors increased by 6% and the number of foreign visitors grew by 7%. State visitors increased in presence in Bizkaia (17%) and Álava (3%), decreasing in Gipuzkoa (-6%). On the other hand, foreign visitors increased in number mainly in Bizkaia (14%) and, more moderately in Gipuzkoa (3%), but falling in number in Álava (-7%).

Among state visitors there was an increase in numbers from Madrid, Castile and León, Andalusia, Asturias and Cantabria, mainly. Numbers dropped from Catalonia, Galicia, Aragón and Castile la Mancha, among others. There was an increase in foreigners from France, Italy, Portugal and Latin America, while numbers fell from Germany, Belgium, the UK and the USA-Canada, among others.

Overnight stays registered in March 2006 came to 282,477, which represents a 5% increase on March last year, i.e. 12,000 more overnight stays. The inter-annual rate of overnight stays evolved more positively only in Bizkaia (14%), while in Álava and Gipuzkoa there were also decreases of 7% and 2%, respectively.

The average length of stay fell from 1.88 days the year before to 1.85 days per average visitor last March for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. This index rose in Gipuzkoa (from 1.90 days in March last year to 1.95 days this last month of March) and fell in Alava (from 1.84 days to 1.70) and Bizkaia (1.87 days last year to 1.84 days last March).

The level of occupancy by places decreased slightly by 3%, falling from 43.90% last March to 42.60% this March this year. This contraction affects all three provinces. The level of occupancy by rooms, however, registered 4% growth, rising from 53.79% to 55.80% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, this positive evolution also affecting Gipuzkoa (6%) and Bizkaia (5%), but not Álava, where the index fell by 5%.

## Agrotourism: Decrease in visitor entries (-10%) and overnight stays (-28%)

7,518 visitors entries were registered last March in agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country, 10% less than the same month the year before, specifically falling 25% in Álava and 26% in Bizkaia, while the only increase, 8%, corresponded to Gipuzkoa. The decrease in state visitors was 13% in the A.C. of the Basque Country, while foreign visitors staying at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country increased in number by 60%.

Overnight stays at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 16,253 in March, which represents a 28% decrease with regard to the same month the year before, with negative evolution rates in the three provinces: Álava (-40%), Bizkaia (-30%) and Gipuzkoa (-23%).

The average stay per visitor fell in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country with regard to March 2005, falling from 2.71 days a year before to 2.16 this last month of March. This indicator fell in the three provinces: Álava (-20%); Bizkaia (-6%) and Gipuzkoa (-28%).

The level of occupancy by places registered a 36% decrease and the level of occupancy by rooms fell by 27% with regard to the positions in March 2005, in all three provinces of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

**Note:** When interpreting the comparison of these inter-annual data we should remember, among other factors, that Holy Week 2005 coincided mainly in the month of March, while this year it has taken place in April.

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**Table 1: Monthly results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	03/2006	%	03/2005	%	Δ %	03/2006	%	03/2005	%	Δ %	03/2006	%	03/2005	%	Δ %	03/2006	%	03/2005	%	Δ %
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	<b>282.477</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>270.128</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>41.082</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>44.039</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>138.385</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>121.183</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>103.010</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>104.906</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-2</b>
National	212.864	75	206.689	77	3	32.614	79	36.535	83	-11	100.847	73	86.088	71	17	79.403	77	84.066	80	-6
Foreigners	69.613	25	63.439	23	10	8.468	21	7.504	17	13	37.538	27	35.095	29	7	23.607	23	20.840	20	13
Capital	178.543	63	167.119	62	7	32.144	78	31.286	71	3	94.653	68	82.770	68	14	51.746	50	53.063	51	-2
Coast	31.977	11	33.048	12	-3	-	-	-	-	-	10.200	7	11.793	10	-14	21.777	21	21.255	20	2
Inland	71.957	25	69.961	26	3	8.938	22	12.753	29	-30	33.532	24	26.620	22	26	29.487	29	30.588	29	-4
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	<b>152.382</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>143.867</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24.228</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>23.928</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>75.408</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>64.850</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>52.746</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55.089</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-4</b>
National	117.298	77	111.080	77	6	19.902	82	19.269	81	3	56.619	75	48.370	75	17	40.777	77	43.441	79	-6
Foreigners	35.084	23	32.787	23	7	4.326	18	4.659	19	-7	18.789	25	16.480	25	14	11.969	23	11.648	21	3
Capital	98.818	65	90.581	63	9	17.997	74	16.128	67	12	51.468	68	44.137	68	17	29.353	56	30.316	55	-3
Coast	13.587	9	15.480	11	-12	-	-	-	-	-	5.435	7	6.893	11	-21	8.152	15	8.587	16	-5
Inland	39.977	26	37.806	26	6	6.231	26	7.800	33	-20	18.505	25	13.820	21	34	15.241	29	16.186	29	-6
AVERAGE STAY	<b>1,85</b>		<b>1,88</b>		<b>-2</b>	<b>1,70</b>		<b>1,84</b>		<b>-8</b>	<b>1,84</b>		<b>1,87</b>		<b>-2</b>	<b>1,95</b>		<b>1,90</b>		<b>3</b>
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	<b>42,60</b>	<b>43,90</b>		<b>-3</b>	<b>40,12</b>		<b>44,69</b>		<b>-10</b>	<b>43,51</b>		<b>43,88</b>		<b>-1</b>	<b>42,44</b>		<b>43,60</b>		<b>-3</b>	
Capital	47,36	45,92		3	46,19		46,00		0	50,16		47,47		6	43,58		43,67		0	
Coast	39,42	43,21		-9	-		-	-	-	28,32		34,71		-18	48,28		50,01		-3	
Inland	35,10	39,99		-12	27,25		41,77		-35	35,92		39,25		-8	37,39		39,95		-6	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	<b>55,80</b>	<b>53,79</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>50,79</b>		<b>53,66</b>		<b>-5</b>	<b>59,11</b>		<b>56,53</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>53,46</b>		<b>50,46</b>		<b>6</b>	
Capital	62,00	56,93		9	59,88		58,04		3	66,85		60,85		10	54,72		49,93		10	
Coast	50,15	49,67		1	-		-	-	-	38,62		41,77		-8	58,86		55,62		6	
Inland	46,57	48,65		-4	30,10		42,15		-29	50,41		51,67		-2	48,67		48,25		1	
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	<b>16.253</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>22.624</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-28</b>	<b>2.361</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.907</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-40</b>	<b>5.284</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.597</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>8.608</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11.120</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-23</b>
National	14.311	88	21.615	96	-34	2.196	93	3.612	92	-39	4.508	85	7.233	95	-38	7.607	88	10.770	97	-29
Foreigners	1.942	12	1.009	4	92	165	7	295	8	-44	776	15	364	5	113	1.001	12	350	3	186
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	<b>7.518</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8.337</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>1.008</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.338</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>2.286</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.102</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-26</b>	<b>4.224</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3.897</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>
National	6.974	93	7.998	96	-13	937	93	1.268	95	-26	2.069	91	2.943	95	-30	3.968	94	3.787	97	5
Foreigners	544	7	339	4	60	71	7	70	5	1	217	9	159	5	36	256	6	110	3	133
AVERAGE STAY	<b>2,16</b>		<b>2,71</b>		<b>-20</b>	<b>2,34</b>		<b>2,92</b>		<b>-20</b>	<b>2,31</b>		<b>2,45</b>		<b>-6</b>	<b>2,04</b>		<b>2,85</b>		<b>-28</b>
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	<b>18,40</b>		<b>28,65</b>		<b>-36</b>	<b>14,99</b>		<b>23,60</b>		<b>-36</b>	<b>17,66</b>		<b>31,02</b>		<b>-43</b>	<b>20,17</b>		<b>29,33</b>		<b>-31</b>
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	<b>22,68</b>		<b>31,26</b>		<b>-27</b>	<b>18,58</b>		<b>24,69</b>		<b>-25</b>	<b>22,08</b>		<b>33,33</b>		<b>-34</b>	<b>24,61</b>		<b>32,71</b>		<b>-25</b>

**Source: EUSTAT**