

## 3% increase in visitor entries in May 2006

### ***Overnight stays also registered a 4% increase on May 2005***

Hotel establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country registered 169,718 visitor entries in May 2006, i.e., 5.000 more than in the same period the year before, which represents a 3% increase, according to Eustat data. Visitor entries increased in the provinces of Bizkaia (9%) and Álava (8%), but not in Gipuzkoa where numbers fell (-5%).

The number of state visitors did not vary at all with regard to May 2005 and the number of foreign visitors grew by 11%. State visitors increased their presence in Bizkaia (7%) and Álava (3%), but dropped in number by 9% in Gipuzkoa. The number of foreign visitors increased in all three provinces: by 27% in Álava, 15% in Bizkaia and 3% in Gipuzkoa .

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

Overnight stays registered in May 2006 totalled 309,937, which represents a rise of 4% on May the year before, i.e. 11,000 more overnight stays. The inter-annual evolution was positive only in Bizkaia (13%), but fell both in Alava (-6%), and in Gipuzkoa (-2%).

The length of the average stay rose from 1.81 days the previous year to 1.83 days per visitor on average last May, for the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country. This index gained positions in Gipuzkoa (rising from 1.85 days in May last year to 1.92 days in May this year) and Bizkaia (where it rose from 1.77 last year to 1.83 days), while in Álava there was a drop (falling from 1.83 days the year before to 1.59 in May this year).

The level of occupancy by places registered a 5% decrease from 47.51% in May last year to 45.09% in May this year. negative This evolution affects all three provinces: Álava (-7%), Gipuzkoa (-5%) and Bizkaia (-4%). The level of occupancy by rooms also registered a 6% decrease, falling from 59.36% to 56.09% in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country, this negative evolution also affecting all three provinces.

### **Agrotourism: Visitor entries fell (-4%) and overnight stays also dropped (-2%)**

7,612 visitors were registered at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country in May, 4% fewer than the same month the year before; i.e. a 20% decrease in Alava and 7% in Gipuzkoa, with an 11% increase in Bizkaia. The decrease in state visitors was 6% in the A.C. of the Basque Country, while foreign visitors staying at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country rose in number by 10%.

Overnight stays at agrotourism establishments in the A.C. of the Basque Country came to 17,306 in May, which represents a 2% decrease with regard to the same month the year before, with negative a inter-annual evolution rate in Gipuzkoa (- 5%), and no change in the other two provinces: Álava (0.0%) and Bizkaia (0.0%).

The average stay per visitor improved on the previous level in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country with regard to May 2005, rising from 2.23 days a year before to 2.27 in May this year. This indicator gained positions in Álava (24%) and Gipuzkoa (3%), but lost ground in Bizkaia (-10%).

The level of occupancy by places registered a 14% decrease and the level of occupancy by rooms fell by 9% with regard to the position in May 2005, in the whole of the A.C. of the Basque Country.

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Table 1: Monthly results

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	05/2006	%	05/2005	%	Δ%	05/2006	%	05/2005	%	Δ%	05/2006	%	05/2005	%	Δ%
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>															
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	<b>309.937</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>298.832</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43.446</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>46.235</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>142.416</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>126.332</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>13</b>
National	211.058	68	213.352	71	-1	33.186	76	37.139	80	-11	94.144	66	85.432	68	10
Foreigners	98.879	32	85.480	29	16	10.260	24	9.096	20	13	48.272	34	40.900	32	18
Capital	193.650	62	189.966	64	2	31.324	72	34.039	74	-8	95.374	67	84.772	67	13
Coast	37.736	12	39.983	13	-6	-	-	-	-	-	14.023	10	13.985	11	0
Inland	78.551	25	68.883	23	14	12.122	28	12.196	26	-1	33.019	23	27.575	22	20
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	<b>169.718</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>164.676</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>27.248</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>25.313</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>77.883</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>71.266</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>9</b>
National	117.246	69	117.386	71	0	20.675	76	20.117	79	3	52.748	68	49.343	69	7
Foreigners	52.472	31	47.290	29	11	6.573	24	5.196	21	27	25.135	32	21.923	31	15
Capital	107.019	63	103.582	63	3	18.819	69	17.074	67	10	52.323	67	48.217	68	9
Coast	18.614	11	20.431	12	-9	-	-	-	-	-	7.308	9	7.551	11	-3
Inland	44.085	26	40.663	25	8	8.429	31	8.239	33	2	18.252	23	15.498	22	18
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	<b>1,83</b>		<b>1,81</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1,59</b>		<b>1,83</b>		<b>-13</b>	<b>1,83</b>		<b>1,77</b>		<b>3</b>
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	<b>45,09</b>		<b>47,51</b>		<b>-5</b>	<b>42,02</b>		<b>45,33</b>		<b>-7</b>	<b>43,26</b>		<b>45,21</b>		<b>-4</b>
Capital	50,35		51,53		-2	44,53		49,06		-9	50,23		49,25		2
Coast	42,02		49,84		-16	-	-	-	-	-	34,30		37,85		-9
Inland	36,88		38,26		-4	36,68		37,40		-2	33,54		39,19		-14
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	<b>56,09</b>		<b>59,36</b>		<b>-6</b>	<b>53,01</b>		<b>58,73</b>		<b>-10</b>	<b>54,34</b>		<b>58,23</b>		<b>-7</b>
Capital	63,36		65,15		-3	58,23		66,04		-12	62,08		63,71		-3
Coast	48,78		59,58		-18	-	-	-	-	-	42,57		48,04		-11
Inland	45,85		46,73		-2	40,25		41,83		-4	43,88		48,33		-9
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>															
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	<b>17.306</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>17.742</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>2.744</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.740</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5.170</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>5.150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>
National	14.420	83	15.526	88	-7	2.483	90	2.555	93	-3	4.502	87	4.493	87	0
Foreigners	2.886	17	2.216	12	30	261	10	185	7	41	668	13	657	13	2
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	<b>7.612</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>7.941</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>1.171</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1.458</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>2.579</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2.333</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>11</b>
National	6.750	89	7.156	90	-6	1.144	98	1.368	94	-16	2.258	88	2.132	91	6
Foreigners	862	11	785	10	10	27	2	90	6	-70	321	12	201	9	60
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	<b>2,27</b>		<b>2,23</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>2,34</b>		<b>1,88</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>2,00</b>		<b>2,21</b>		<b>-10</b>
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	<b>19,12</b>		<b>22,16</b>		<b>-14</b>	<b>16,48</b>		<b>17,68</b>		<b>-7</b>	<b>17,23</b>		<b>20,26</b>		<b>-15</b>
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	<b>22,45</b>		<b>24,59</b>		<b>-9</b>	<b>19,24</b>		<b>19,88</b>		<b>-3</b>	<b>19,75</b>		<b>22,21</b>		<b>-11</b>
<b>Source: EUSTAT</b>															