

## The number of visitors rose by 15% in February 2008

***Overnight stays registered a 14% increase in relation to February 2007***

138.647 visitors were registered in the hotel establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in February 2008, 18,000 more than in the same month of last year, meaning a 15% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 17% in Gipuzkoa, by 15% in Bizkaia and by 8% in Álava.

The number of visitors from within the state grew by 12% and the number of foreigners by 22%. The amount of visitors from within the state increased in all three provinces. In Gipuzkoa they increased by 18%, in Álava they did so by 11% and in Bizkaia the rise was 9%. Overseas visitors increased by 33% in Bizkaia and 16% in Gipuzkoa, but decreased by 3% in Álava.

Among visitors from within the state a rise was registered for those coming from the Community of Valencia, Catalonia, Madrid and Andalucía, mainly. There was a fall for those coming from Asturias, the Balearic Islands, Castile and León, Galicia and Murcia. Among foreigners, those from France, Italy, Portugal, Germany and Holland, among others, rose in number and those coming from Ireland, Finland, Greece and Japan, among others, fell.

Overnight stays registered in February 2008 came to 249,910, representing a 14% increase in relation to February of last year, which is to say over 31,000 more overnight stays. Inter-annual evolution of overnight stays was positive in all three provinces: in Álava they increased by 11%, in Bizkaia they did so by 15% and in Gipuzkoa there was a 14% rise.

The average length of stay, for the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole, went from 1.81 days last year to 1.80 this February. This index decreased in Gipuzkoa (-3%) and increased in Álava and Bizkaia (3% and 1%, respectively), although Gipuzkoa, with 1.85 days, retained the highest rate. Álava attained 1.76 days average stay and Bizkaia 1.78.

The occupancy rate by place experienced an 8% increase, going from 36.11% last February to 38.83% this year. It could be seen that this rise affected all three provinces: in Álava and Bizkaia there was a 9% increase, in both cases, (coming to 38.03% and 39.34% respectively) and in Gipuzkoa the rise was 5%, coming to 38.5%.

## Agrotourism: The number of visitors and overnight stays increased by 20%

6,691 visitors were registered in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in February, 20% more than in the same month of last year, increasing by 31% in Álava, 22% in Gipuzkoa and by 7% in Bizkaia. The increase seen among visitors from within the state was 13% in the A.C. of the Basque Country: they rose by 27% in Álava and by 16% in Gipuzkoa, but in Bizkaia fell by 3%. The number of overseas visitors increased by 181% in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole, a drastic rise in percentage terms. In Gipuzkoa they increased by 192%, in Álava by 184% and in Bizkaia by 170%.

There were 15,147 overnight stays in the agrotourism establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in February, meaning a 20% increase compared to the same month last year, with positive inter-annual growth rates, especially in Álava and Gipuzkoa (46% and 21% respectively), with more modest results recorded in Bizkaia (1%).

The average stay per visitor remained virtually unchanged for the A.C. of the Basque Country as regards February 2007, going from 2.27 days a year previously to 2.26 this February. This index improved in Álava (12%) which had an average of 2.20 days, worsened in Bizkaia (-6%) coming to 2.44 days and remained practically unchanged in Gipuzkoa (2.21 days).

The occupancy rate by place registered a 12% increase, rising to 16.58%, as a result of the increases seen in Álava (26%) and Gipuzkoa (17%), while in Bizkaia there was a 5% decrease. Álava obtained an occupancy rate of 19.72%, Bizkaia one of 13.58% and Gipuzkoa one of 17.34%.

**Table 1: Monthly Results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	02 2008	%	02 2007	%	Δ %	02 2008	%	02 2007	%	Δ %	02 2008	%	02 2007	%	Δ %	02 2008	%	02 2007	%	Δ %
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	249.910	100	218.591	100	14	36.324	100	32.801	100	11	121.210	100	105.012	100	15	92.376	100	80.778	100	14
National	178.300	71	159.584	73	12	28.664	79	26.123	80	10	82.038	68	73.991	70	11	67.598	73	59.470	74	14
Foreigners	71.610	29	59.007	27	21	7.660	21	6.678	20	15	39.172	32	31.021	30	26	24.778	27	21.308	26	16
Capital	147.194	59	134.657	62	9	27.268	75	25.558	78	7	74.140	61	66.985	64	11	45.786	50	42.114	52	9
Coast	24.750	10	23.612	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	9.040	7	8.619	8	5	15.710	17	14.993	19	5
Inland	77.966	31	60.322	28	29	9.056	25	7.243	22	25	38.030	31	29.408	28	29	30.880	33	23.671	29	30
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	138.647	100	120.941	100	15	20.670	100	19.142	100	8	67.985	100	59.241	100	15	49.992	100	42.558	100	17
National	103.384	75	92.070	76	12	17.207	83	15.561	81	11	48.447	71	44.531	75	9	37.730	75	31.978	75	18
Foreigners	35.263	25	28.871	24	22	3.463	17	3.581	19	-3	19.538	29	14.710	25	33	12.262	25	10.580	25	16
Capital	83.756	60	77.478	64	8	14.867	72	14.119	74	5	41.920	62	38.724	65	8	26.969	54	24.635	58	9
Coast	12.767	9	11.045	9	16	-	-	-	-	-	4.764	7	4.712	8	1	8.003	16	6.333	15	26
Inland	42.124	30	32.418	27	30	5.803	28	5.023	26	16	21.301	31	15.805	27	35	15.020	30	11.590	27	30
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,80		1,81		-1	1,76		1,71		3	1,78		1,77		1	1,85		1,90		-3
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	38,83		36,11		8	38,03		34,92		9	39,34		36,09		9	38,50		36,66		5
Capital	41,53		38,97		7	42,18		40,60		4	41,79		38,88		7	40,74		38,18		7
Coast	34,65		35,01		-1	-		-	-	-	30,38		27,91		9	37,70		41,00		-8
Inland	35,82		31,37		14	29,32		23,37		25	37,68		33,49		13	35,96		32,21		12
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	49,67		46,61		7	47,77		45,15		6	51,52		46,70		10	47,94		47,17		2
Capital	53,07		50,19		6	54,26		52,91		3	54,45		49,75		9	50,00		49,19		2
Coast	42,32		43,90		-4	-		-	-	-	39,46		36,59		8	44,31		49,90		-11
Inland	46,03		40,92		12	30,52		27,35		12	49,38		43,68		13	46,86		43,05		9
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	15.147	100	12.659	100	20	3.505	100	2.396	100	46	4.040	100	3.995	100	1	7.602	100	6.268	100	21
National	12.478	82	11.221	89	11	3.057	87	2.336	97	31	3.115	77	3.449	86	-10	6.306	83	5.436	87	16
Foreigners	2.669	18	1.438	11	86	448	13	60	3	647	925	23	546	14	69	1.296	17	832	13	56
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	6.691	100	5.579	100	20	1.596	100	1.220	100	31	1.653	100	1.539	100	7	3.442	100	2.820	100	22
National	6.083	91	5.363	96	13	1.505	94	1.188	97	27	1.405	85	1.447	94	-3	3.173	92	2.728	97	16
Foreigners	608	9	216	4	181	91	6	32	3	184	248	15	92	6	170	269	8	92	3	192
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	2,26		2,27		0	2,20		1,96		12	2,44		2,60		-6	2,21		2,22		0
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	16,58		14,84		12	19,72		15,59		26	13,58		14,37		-5	17,34		14,87		17
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	19,08		18,22		5	21,27		18,38		16	16,97		17,36		-2	19,66		18,75		5

**Source: EUSTAT**
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