

## The number of visitors fell by 4% in May 2008

### ***Overnight stays decreased by 2% in May***

There were 183,410 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the A.C. of the Basque Country in May 2008; more than 8,000 fewer visitors than in the same month of last year resulting in a 4% decrease, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 2% in Bizkaia, but fell by 12% in Gipuzkoa and 2% in Álava, compared with the same month of 2007.

With respect to May 2007, the number of visitors from within the state fell by 7% and the number of overseas visitors grew by 1%. In the three provinces, visitors from within the state rose by 1% in Bizkaia, while they fell by 16% in Gipuzkoa and 4% in Álava. Overseas visitors increased by 3% in Álava and Bizkaia, but decreased by 2% in Gipuzkoa.

There was an increase in the number of visitors from Asturias, Castilla y León, La Rioja and Murcia. The greatest decrease was among the visitors from Catalonia and Madrid. As far as overseas visitors were concerned, there was an increase in the number of visitors from France, Portugal and Italy, while the number from The Netherlands, United Kingdom and USA-Canada were down.

Registered overnight stays in May 2008 came to 337,866, which was a 29% decline from May 2008, that is, 6,000 fewer overnight stays. The year-on-year evolution of overnight stays was positive in Bizkaia, up by 4%, but decreased by 4% in Álava and by 7% in Gipuzkoa.

Throughout the A.C of the Basque Country, the average length of stay was down 2 percentage point, from 1.80 days in May of the previous year to 1.84 days this past May. It decreased by 2% in Álava, was up by 2% in Bizkaia and 6% in Gipuzkoa.

The occupancy rate by bed was up by 1%, and went from 46.76% in May of last year to 47.00% this May. The occupancy rate by room remained practically unchanged. Both occupancy rates increased in Bizkaia and decreased in Álava and in Gipuzkoa.

**Rural tourism: The number of visitors and overnight stays rose by 7% and 33% respectively.**

There were 8,431 visitors registered in May in rural tourism establishments in the A. C. of the Basque Country; 7% more than the same month of last year, increasing by 21% in Álava, 8% in Bizkaia and 1% in Gipuzkoa. There was a 9% increase in visitors from within the state to A.C of the Basque Country, rising by 14% in Álava, 10% in Bizkaia and 6% in Gipuzkoa. The number of overseas visitors dropped by 11% throughout the A.C of the Basque Country, increasing in Álava (141%), but not in Bizkaia where it fell 10% and Gipuzkoa where it was down by 33%.

There were 25,713 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the A.C of the Basque Country in May, which was 33% compared to the same month of the previous year, with year-on-year positive growth being recorded in the three provinces: Álava (46%), Gipuzkoa (30%) and Bizkaia (28%).

The average length of stay per visitor increased with respect to May 2007, going from 2.45 days a year ago to 3.05 days this past May.

The occupancy rate by place increased by 31% in the A.C. of the Basque Country as a whole, due to the positive impact of the three territories. The occupancy rate per room improved by 18%, due to the increase registered in the three provinces.

**Table 1: Monthly Results**

	A.C. OF EUSKADI			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	05 2008	%	05 2007	%	Δ %	05 2008	%	05 2007	%	Δ %	05 2008	%	05 2007	%	Δ %
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>															
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	337.866	100	343.561	100	-2	44.124	100	46.158	100	-4	163.247	100	157.595	100	4
National	223.082	66	231.272	67	-4	32.673	74	34.403	75	-5	105.364	65	101.817	65	3
Foreigners	114.784	34	112.289	33	2	11.451	26	11.755	25	-3	57.883	35	55.778	35	4
Capital	202.231	60	207.113	60	-2	32.111	73	34.135	74	-6	105.268	64	99.695	63	6
Coast	41.665	12	39.279	11	6	-	-	-	-	-	12.687	8	12.417	8	2
Inland	93.970	28	97.169	28	-3	12.013	27	12.023	26	0	45.292	28	45.483	29	0
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	183.410	100	191.311	100	-4	28.035	100	28.635	100	-2	90.337	100	88.998	100	2
National	121.040	66	129.593	68	-7	20.968	75	21.790	76	-4	59.062	65	58.764	66	1
Foreigners	62.370	34	61.718	32	1	7.067	25	6.845	24	3	31.275	35	30.234	34	3
Capital	110.432	60	116.742	61	-5	19.870	71	20.696	72	-4	57.039	63	56.541	64	1
Coast	19.704	11	19.136	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	7.464	8	7.234	8	3
Inland	53.274	29	55.433	29	-4	8.165	29	7.939	28	3	25.834	29	25.223	28	2
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,84		1,80		2	1,57		1,61		-2	1,81		1,77		2
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	47,00		46,76		1	40,71		43,26		-6	48,40		44,77		8
Capital	52,23		52,76		-1	46,04		48,23		-5	55,23		51,90		6
Coast	46,38		42,63		9	-	-	-	-	-	34,48		32,38		6
Inland	38,86		38,87		0	31,10		33,46		-7	41,20		37,42		10
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	58,40		58,12		0	50,22		54,17		-7	61,51		56,31		9
Capital	65,83		67,57		-3	59,21		61,87		-4	70,70		67,51		5
Coast	52,71		50,07		5	-	-	-	-	-	41,00		38,92		5
Inland	48,43		46,15		5	35,39		36,55		-3	52,21		44,07		18
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>															
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	25.713	100	19.387	100	33	5.290	100	3.614	100	46	7.035	100	5.499	100	28
National	21.815	85	15.049	78	45	4.768	90	2.958	82	61	6.188	88	4.353	79	42
Foreigners	3.898	15	4.338	22	-10	522	10	656	18	-20	847	12	1.146	21	-26
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	8.431	100	7.910	100	7	1.812	100	1.502	100	21	2.639	100	2.449	100	8
National	7.619	90	7.000	88	9	1.629	90	1.426	95	14	2.376	90	2.158	88	10
Foreigners	812	10	910	12	-11	183	10	76	5	141	263	10	291	12	-10
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	3,05		2,45		24	2,92		2,41		21	2,67		2,25		19
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	24,37		18,63		31	25,86		19,33		34	20,14		15,78		28
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	27,08		22,99		18	28,71		24,06		19	21,88		19,32		13

Source: EUSTAT

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