

The number of visitors and overnight stays fell by 11% and 12% respectively in December

2008 ended with 3% fewer visitors and 4% fewer overnight stays at hotel establishments. However, rural tourism establishment ended the year with the number of visitors and overnight stays in the black

There were 126,390 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the A.C. of Basque Country in December 2008, 15,000 down on the same month of the previous year, in other words a 11% decrease, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors fell in the three provinces: it was down by 9% in Álava, 12% in Bizkaia and by 10% in Gipuzkoa, compared to the figures for December 2007.

The number of visitors from within the State fell by 9%, while the number of visitors from abroad was down by 16%. The number of visitors from within the State fell in the three provinces: it was down by 7% in Bizkaia and by 10% in both Álava and Gipuzkoa. Foreign visitors decreased 24% in Bizkaia and the number was also down, although more moderately, in Gipuzkoa (-10%) and there was a slight decrease in Álava (-2%).

There was an increase in the number of visitors mainly from Asturias and Navarra, while there was a decrease in visitors from the Catalonia, Madrid and Castilla-La Mancha, primarily. Among foreigners, there was a drop for practically all nationalities, but especially those coming from France, United Kingdom, Portugal and Italy, with solely those coming from South America, Sweden and other countries of Africa, Asia and Oceania showing an increase.

Registered overnight stays in December 2008 totalled 226,434, which was 12% down on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 30,000 fewer overnight stays. The year-on-year performance of overnight stays was negative in the three provinces: they fell by 5% in Álava, by 13% in Bizkaia and by 12% in Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay reduced by 1% during this year-on-year period for the A.C. of Basque Country as a whole: from 1.81 days in December 2007 to 1.79 days last December.

The occupancy rate by place fell from 37.9% in December 2007 to 31.15% in December 2008 and the occupancy rate by room dropped from 46.34% to 38.10%.

2008 annual balance for hotel establishments: 3% fewer visitors and 4% fewer overnight stays were registered than in the previous year.

2,020,446 visitors were registered in 2008, in other words, 73,000 fewer than the previous year. Even so, **the two million mark for the number of visitors staying at the hotel establishments of the A.C. of Basque Country was surpassed for the third year running.** The number of visitors decreased by 5% in Álava and by 3% in both Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa.

The number of overnight stays in 2008 came to 3,789,563 which is to say 167,000 fewer overnight stays than the previous year and negative figures were posted by Álava (-5%), Bizkaia (-4%) and in Gipuzkoa (-5%).

The average length of stay went from 1.89 days in the previous year to 1.88 in 2008. The occupancy rate in the A.C. of Basque Country as a whole fell from 46.94% in 2007 to 44.16% in 2008.

Table 1: Annual Results

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA		
	2008	2007	Δ %	2008	2007	Δ %	2008	2007	Δ %	2008	2007	Δ %
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS												
OVERNIGHT STAYS	3.789.563	3.956.867	-4	506.463	533.437	-5	1.761.063	1.826.987	-4	1.522.037	1.596.443	-5
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	2.020.446	2.093.346	-3	291.670	307.661	-5	963.042	994.357	-3	765.734	791.328	-3
AVERAGE STAY	1,88	1,89	-1	1,74	1,73	0	1,83	1,84	0	1,99	2,02	-1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL	44,16	46,94	-6	40,41	43,03	-6	43,69	45,57	-4	46,15	50,18	-8

Source: EUSTAT

RURAL TOURISM

The number of visitors was up by 6% and overnight stays were down by -1% in December.

There were 8,889 visitors registered in December in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, 6% more than in the same month of the previous year.

Overnight stays in rural tourism establishments of the Basque Country totalled 22,007 in December, which was down by 1% with respect to the same month of the previous year.

The average length of stay per visitor dropped from 2.64 to 2.48 days in the A.C. of Basque Country as a whole and the occupancy rate by place decreased by 14%, down to 19.53% in December 2008, with the occupancy rate by room decreasing by an inter-annual 11%

2008 Annual Balance for rural tourism: the number of visitors and overnight stays rose by 4% and 1% respectively.

112,341 visitors were registered in the rural tourism establishments of the A.C. of Basque Country over 2008, meaning 4% more than a year earlier, while the number of overnight stays totalled 326,158, 1% up on 2007.

The number of visitors increased in the three provinces: They rose in Álava by 6%, 4% in Gipuzkoa and 3% in Bizkaia. Overnight stays increased in Álava (5%), fell in Bizkaia (-2%) and remained unchanged in Gipuzkoa (0%).

The average stay per visitor in 2008 fell from 3 days in 2007 to 2.90 in 2008. The occupancy rate also worsened, going from 27.00% in 2007 to 26.29% in 2008.

Table 2: Annual Results

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA		
	2008	2007	Δ %	2008	2007	Δ %	2008	2007	Δ %	2008	2007	Δ %
AGRO-TOURISM												
OVERNIGHT STAYS	326.158	324.493	1	52.696	50.034	5	100.424	102.128	-2	173.038	172.331	0
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	112.341	108.163	4	20.467	19.328	6	36.471	35.419	3	55.403	53.416	4
AVERAGE STAY	2,90	3,00	-3	2,57	2,59	-1	2,75	2,88	-5	3,12	3,23	-3
OCCUPANCY LEVEL	26,29	27,00	-3	22,36	22,50	-1	24,17	25,43	-5	29,35	29,83	-2

Source: Eustat

Table 3: Monthly Results

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	12 2008	%	12 2007	%	Δ %	12 2008	%	12 2007	%	Δ %	12 2008	%	12 2007	%	Δ %
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	226.434	100	255.924	100	-12	35.507	100	37.322	100	-5	104.737	100	120.438	100	-13
National	169.587	75	192.430	75	-12	27.634	78	31.085	83	-11	77.990	74	86.943	72	-10
Foreigners	56.847	25	63.494	25	-10	7.873	22	6.237	17	26	26.747	26	33.495	28	-20
Capital	140.530	62	155.597	61	-10	27.293	77	27.719	74	-2	68.070	65	79.352	66	-14
Coast	20.566	9	28.132	11	-27	-	-	-	-	-	7.951	8	8.610	7	-8
Inland	65.338	29	72.195	28	-9	8.214	23	9.603	26	-14	28.716	27	32.476	27	-12
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	126.390	100	141.430	100	-11	19.102	100	20.899	100	-9	60.988	100	68.934	100	-12
National	97.800	77	107.241	76	-9	15.589	82	17.308	83	-10	47.340	78	50.992	74	-7
Foreigners	28.590	23	34.189	24	-16	3.513	18	3.591	17	-2	13.648	22	17.942	26	-24
Capital	79.006	63	86.441	61	-9	14.435	76	14.903	71	-3	39.522	65	44.306	64	-11
Coast	12.091	10	14.039	10	-14	-	-	-	-	-	4.396	7	4.992	7	-12
Inland	35.293	28	40.950	29	-14	4.667	24	5.996	29	-22	17.070	28	19.636	28	-13
AVERAGE STAY	1,79		1,81		-1	1,86		1,79		4	1,72		1,75		-2
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	31,15		37,97		-18	32,59		37,22		-12	29,89		37,27		-20
Capital	34,63		40,96		-15	38,13		40,08		-5	33,07		41,49		-20
Coast	26,79		37,39		-28	-	-	-	-	-	25,27		30,06		-16
Inland	26,75		32,99		-19	21,99		30,85		-29	25,39		31,46		-19
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	38,01		46,34		-18	40,50		42,82		-5	37,80		46,07		-18
Capital	42,49		49,11		-13	49,01		45,85		7	41,47		49,21		-16
Coast	30,99		42,29		-27	-	-	-	-	-	31,54		36,31		-13
Inland	32,38		42,41		-24	23,09		33,95		-32	32,62		42,43		-23
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	22.007	100	22.176	100	-1	4.612	100	4.339	100	6	7.193	100	6.991	100	-3
National	19.788	90	20.314	92	-3	4.290	93	4.216	97	2	6.182	86	6.726	96	-8
Foreigners	2.219	10	1.862	8	19	322	7	123	3	162	1.011	14	265	4	282
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	8.889	100	8.400	100	6	1.728	100	1.780	100	-3	2.963	100	2.980	100	-1
National	8.343	94	8.024	96	4	1.637	95	1.767	99	-7	2.726	92	2.949	99	-8
Foreigners	546	6	376	4	45	91	5	13	1	600	237	8	31	1	665
AVERAGE STAY	2,48		2,64		-6	2,67		2,44		9	2,43		2,35		3
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	19,53		22,77		-14	21,50		22,50		-4	19,40		21,22		-9
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	21,57		24,14		-11	23,99		22,55		6	21,84		22,28		-2

Source: Eustat

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