

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR)FEBRUARY 2009

Number of visitors fell by 15% in February 2009

The number of overnight stays were down by 19% compared to February 2008

There were 117,488 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in February 2009, 21,000 down on the same month of the previous year, in other words a 15% decrease, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors fell by 21% in Álava, 18% in Bizkaia and 12% in Gipuzkoa.

The number of visitors from within Spain fell by 13% and the number of overseas visitors was down by 23%. The number of visitors from within the State fell in the three provinces: The number was down by 21% in Álava, by 17% in Gipuzkoa and by 6% in Bizkaia. The number of foreign visitors also decreased in the three provinces: 25% in Bizkaia, 22% in Alava and 19% in Gipuzkoa.

The main increase was in the number of visitors from Galicia, Asturias and Extremadura, while there was a greater drop in the number of visitors from Catalonia, Madrid, Cantabria and C. Valenciana. The number of foreign visitors from Denmark, Finland, Greece, Ireland and Japan rose, while there was a decrease in the number of visitors from France, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom and Germany, among others.

Registered overnight stays in February 2009 totalled 201,664, which was 19% down on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 48,000 fewer overnight stays. The year-on-year performance of overnight stays was negative in the three provinces: they were down 23% in Gipuzkoa, 22% in Álava and there was a 16% drop in Bizkaia.

The average length of stay for the Basque Country as a whole fell from 1.80 days in the previous year to 1.72 in February of this year. This decrease was noted in the three territories, in Gipuzkoa (-6%), Bizkaia (-4%) and Alava (-2%).

The occupancy rate by bed fell by 21%, and dropped from 38.83% in February of last year to 30.78% this February. This decrease also affected all three territories: the rate was down by 29% in Álava, by 21% in Gipuzkoa and by 18% in Bizkaia.

Rural tourism: Drop in the number of visitors (-6%) and overnight stays (-5%) in the Basque Country.

There were 6,313 visitors registered in February in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, 6% down on the same month of the previous year. The number increased by 13% in Gipuzkoa and fell by 26% in Bizkaia and in Álava. There was a 2% decrease in the number of visitors from the rest of Spain in the Basque Country: they were down by 23% in Álava and 19% in Bizkaia, but were up by 15% in Gipuzkoa. The number of overseas visitors decreased by 40% throughout the Basque Country, with the number down in the three provinces: there was a notable drop in percentage terms in Álava and Bizkaia and a more moderate one in Gipuzkoa (-7%).

There were 14,379 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country in February, which was 5% down the same month of the previous year, with year-on-year positive growth being recorded in Gipuzkoa (17%), but it fell in Bizkaia and Alava by 31% and 22%, respectively.

The average length of stay per visitor in the Basque Country overall increased with respect to February 2008, rising from 2.26 days a year ago to 2.28 days this February. This positive trend was noted in Gipuzkoa (3%) and Álava (5%), while this index fell in Bizkaia (-7%).

The occupancy rate by bed fell by 12%, down from 16.58% occupancy to 14.66%, as a result of the decreases recorded in Bizkaia (-37%) and Álava (-29%), while there was a 11% increase in Gipuzkoa, placing it at 19.33%.

Table 1: Monthly Results

	BASQUE COUNTRY				ARABA/ALAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	02 2009	%	02 2008	%	Δ %	02 2009	%	02 2008	%	Δ %	02 2009	%	02 2008	%	Δ %	02 2009	%	02 2008	%	Δ %
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	201.664	100	249.910	100	-19	28.198	100	36.324	100	-22	102.210	100	121.210	100	-16	71.256	100	92.376	100	-23
National	147.556	73	178.300	71	-17	23.130	82	28.664	79	-19	72.252	71	82.038	68	-12	52.174	73	67.598	73	-23
Foreigners	54.108	27	71.610	29	-24	5.068	18	7.660	21	-34	29.958	29	39.172	32	-24	19.082	27	24.778	27	-23
Capital	129.176	64	147.194	59	-12	22.964	81	27.268	75	-16	69.855	68	74.140	61	-6	36.357	51	45.786	50	-21
Coast	15.897	8	24.750	10	-36	-	-	-	-	-	7.045	7	9.040	7	-22	8.852	12	15.710	17	-44
Inland	56.591	28	77.966	31	-27	5.234	19	9.056	25	-42	25.310	25	38.030	31	-33	26.047	37	30.880	33	-16
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	117.488	100	138.647	100	-15	16.341	100	20.670	100	-21	60.006	100	67.985	100	-12	41.141	100	49.992	100	-18
National	90.185	77	103.384	75	-13	13.624	83	17.207	83	-21	45.300	75	48.447	71	-6	31.261	76	37.730	75	-17
Foreigners	27.303	23	35.263	25	-23	2.717	17	3.463	17	-22	14.706	25	19.538	29	-25	9.880	24	12.262	25	-19
Capital	76.360	65	83.756	60	-9	13.153	80	14.867	72	-12	40.643	68	41.920	62	-3	22.564	55	26.969	54	-16
Coast	9.950	8	12.767	9	-22	-	-	-	-	-	3.946	7	4.764	7	-17	6.004	15	8.003	16	-25
Inland	31.178	27	42.124	30	-26	3.188	20	5.803	28	-45	15.417	26	21.301	31	-28	12.573	31	15.020	30	-16
AVERAGE STAY	1,72		1,80		-4	1,73		1,76		-2	1,70		1,78		-4	1,73		1,85		-6
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	30,78		38,83		-21	27,03		38,03		-29	32,38		39,34		-18	30,29		38,50		-21
Capital	34,94		41,53		-16	32,60		42,18		-23	37,53		41,79		-10	32,14		40,74		-21
Coast	24,70		34,65		-29	-	-	-	-	-	23,71		30,38		-22	25,54		37,70		-32
Inland	25,59		35,82		-29	15,45		29,32		-47	25,37		37,68		-33	29,77		35,96		-17
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	41,40		49,67		-17	36,52		47,77		-24	44,96		51,52		-13	38,42		47,94		-20
Capital	48,00		53,07		-10	44,48		54,26		-18	52,67		54,45		-3	41,92		50,00		-16
Coast	32,07		42,32		-24	-	-	-	-	-	32,23		39,46		-18	31,93		44,31		-28
Inland	32,89		46,03		-29	19,05		30,52		-38	34,09		49,38		-31	36,45		46,86		-22
AGRO-TOURISM																				
OVERNIGHT STAYS	14.379	100	15.147	100	-5	2.724	100	3.505	100	-22	2.786	100	4.040	100	-31	8.869	100	7.602	100	17
National	12.528	87	12.478	82	0	2.632	97	3.057	87	-14	2.463	88	3.115	77	-21	7.433	84	6.306	83	18
Foreigners	1.851	13	2.669	18	-31	92	3	448	13	-79	323	12	925	23	-65	1.436	16	1.296	17	11
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	6.313	100	6.691	100	-6	1.184	100	1.596	100	-26	1.230	100	1.653	100	-26	3.899	100	3.442	100	13
National	5.947	94	6.083	91	-2	1.156	98	1.505	94	-23	1.143	93	1.405	85	-19	3.648	94	3.173	92	15
Foreigners	366	6	608	9	-40	28	2	91	6	-69	87	7	248	15	-65	251	6	269	8	-7
AVERAGE STAY	2,28		2,26		1	2,30		2,20		5	2,27		2,44		-7	2,27		2,21		3
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	14,66		16,58		-12	14,06		19,72		-29	8,49		13,58		-37	19,33		17,34		11
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	17,83		19,08		-7	16,50		21,27		-22	11,13		16,97		-34	23,34		19,66		19

Source: EUSTAT
For further information:

Basque Statistics Office
 C/ Donostia-San Sebastián, 1 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz
 Tf: +34-945-01 75 00 Fax: +34-945-01 75 01 E-mail: eustat@eustat.es
 Contact: Gerardo Pérez Aja
 Tel: +34-945-01 75 06 Fax: +34-945-01 75 01
 Online press releases: www.eustat.es
 Databank: <http://www.eustat.es/bancopx/english/indice.asp>