

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS (EETR ) MARCH 2009

## Number of visitors fell by 13% in March 2009

### *The number of overnight stays was down by 14% compared to March 2008*

There were 143,765 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in March 2009, 21,000 down on the same month of the previous year, in other words a 13% decrease, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors fell by 16% in Álava, 14% in Bizkaia and 11% in Gipuzkoa.

However, it should be noted that Holy Week was in March in 2008, while it was in April in 2009. Therefore, when making any comparisons, care should be taken as the months of March in 2008 and 2009 are not totally comparable from the tourist point of view.

The number of visitors from within Spain fell by 8% and the number of overseas visitors was down by 24%. The number of visitors from within the State fell in the three provinces: they were down by 12% in Álava and Gipuzkoa and by 4% in Bizkaia. The number of foreign visitors also decreased in the three provinces: 31% in Álava, 25% in Bizkaia and 19% in Gipuzkoa.

There was an increase in the number of visitors from La Rioja, Madrid, Navarra and from Ceuta and Melilla. There was a greater drop in the number of visitors from Catalonia, Madrid, Cantabria and C. Valenciana. The number of foreign visitors from Finland and the Netherlands 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 March 2009 totalled 263,829, which was 14% down on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 44,000 fewer overnight stays. The year-on-year performance of overnight stays was negative in the three provinces: they were down 19% in Gipuzkoa, 16% in Álava and there was a 10% drop in Bizkaia.

The average length of stay for the Basque Country as a whole fell from 1.87 days in the previous year to 1.84 in March of this year. This decrease only occurred in Gipuzkoa (-6%), as there was a slight increase in Álava and in Bizkaia, of 1% in both cases.

The occupancy rate by bed fell by 20%, and dropped from 43.50% in March of last year to 34.97% this March. This decrease also affected all three provinces: it fell by 27% in Álava to 30.82%, by 22% in Gipuzkoa to 33.51% and by 15% in Bizkaia, down to 37.52%, the highest occupancy of the three provinces.

**Rural tourism: Drop in the number of visitors (-12%) and overnight stays (-29%) in the Basque Country.**

There were 8,535 visitors registered in March in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, 12% fewer than in the same month of the previous year. By provinces, special mention should be made of the 17% increase in Álava, while there were 31% fewer visitors in Bizkaia and 9% in Gipuzkoa. There was an 11% decrease in the number of visitors from the rest of Spain in the Basque Country: they were down by 28% in Bizkaia and 10% in Gipuzkoa, but were up by 19% in Álava. The number of overseas visitors decreased by 29% throughout the Basque Country, with the number down in the three provinces: there was a notable drop in percentage terms in Bizkaia (-54%) and a more moderate one in Álava and Gipuzkoa (-8% and -2%, respectively).

There were 20,592 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country in March, which was 29% down the same month of the previous year, with year-on-year negative growth being recorded in the three provinces: They fell by 46% in Bizkaia, by 25% in Gipuzkoa and by 13% in Álava.

The average length of stay per visitor in the Basque Country overall decreased with respect to March 2008, falling from 3.00 days a year ago to 2.41 days in the same month of 2009, with this negative evolution being recorded in the three provinces. The average stay in Álava was 2.40 days, down by 26%; it fell by 31% in Bizkaia to an average of 2.40 days and the decrease was less in Gipuzkoa, down by 16% to an average stay of 2.48 days.

The occupancy rate by bed fell by 36%, down from 28.47% occupancy to 18.32%, as a result of the decreases recorded in the three provinces. In Bizkaia, occupancy stood at 13.47% (-50%), while it was 20.88% in Gipuzkoa (-30%), while it was slightly better in Álava: 20.55% (-25%).

**Table 1: Monthly Results**

	BASQUE COUNTRY					ARABA/ALAVA					BIZKAIA					GIPUZKOA				
	03 2009	%	03 2008	%	Δ %	03 2009	%	03 2008	%	Δ %	03 2009	%	03 2008	%	Δ %	03 2009	%	03 2008	%	Δ %
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	263.829	100	307.637	100	-14	36.266	100	43.040	100	-16	132.828	100	147.634	100	-10	94.735	100	116.963	100	-19
National	189.732	72	224.460	73	-15	29.181	80	34.939	81	-16	90.145	68	102.331	69	-12	70.406	74	87.190	75	-19
Foreigners	74.097	28	83.177	27	-11	7.085	20	8.101	19	-13	42.683	32	45.303	31	-6	24.329	26	29.773	25	-18
Capital	170.414	65	182.561	59	-7	27.196	75	32.302	75	-16	91.170	69	91.160	62	0	52.048	55	59.099	51	-12
Coast	24.888	9	35.025	11	-29	-	-	-	-	-	8.617	6	12.611	9	-32	16.271	17	22.414	19	-27
Inland	68.527	26	90.051	29	-24	9.070	25	10.738	25	-16	33.041	25	43.863	30	-25	26.416	28	35.450	30	-25
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	143.765	100	164.428	100	-13	20.514	100	24.483	100	-16	70.753	100	79.055	100	-11	52.498	100	60.890	100	-14
National	109.760	76	119.869	73	-8	17.056	83	19.439	79	-12	53.107	75	55.397	70	-4	39.597	75	45.033	74	-12
Foreigners	34.005	24	44.559	27	-24	3.458	17	5.044	21	-31	17.646	25	23.658	30	-25	12.901	25	15.857	26	-19
Capital	92.406	64	97.803	59	-6	15.575	76	17.599	72	-12	46.274	65	46.928	59	-1	30.557	58	33.276	55	-8
Coast	13.813	10	15.894	10	-13	-	-	-	-	-	5.163	7	6.191	8	-17	8.650	16	9.703	16	-11
Inland	37.546	26	50.731	31	-26	4.939	24	6.884	28	-28	19.316	27	25.936	33	-26	13.291	25	17.911	29	-26
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,84		1,87		-2	1,77		1,76		1	1,88		1,87		1	1,80		1,92		-6
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	34,97		43,50		-20	30,82		42,00		-27	37,52		44,34		-15	33,51		43,04		-22
Capital	40,74		47,26		-14	34,48		46,73		-26	43,97		47,82		-8	39,39		46,73		-16
Coast	28,19		40,55		-30	-		-		-	24,47		37,42		-35	30,66		42,56		-28
Inland	27,65		38,39		-28	23,37		32,19		-27	29,64		40,38		-27	27,09		38,28		-29
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	45,69		53,24		-14	41,02		51,74		-21	50,91		55,12		-8	40,85		51,40		-21
Capital	54,15		57,47		-6	47,05		59,06		-20	60,26		57,70		4	48,39		56,13		-14
Coast	34,02		46,64		-27	-		-		-	30,75		48,11		-36	36,13		45,73		-21
Inland	35,35		48,32		-27	28,25		33,54		-16	39,27		52,42		-25	33,47		48,19		-31
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	20.592	100	29.123	100	-29	4.562	100	5.257	100	-13	5.104	100	9.383	100	-46	10.926	100	14.483	100	-25
National	18.532	90	26.202	90	-29	3.982	87	4.867	93	-18	4.568	89	8.070	86	-43	9.982	91	13.265	92	-25
Foreigners	2.060	10	2.921	10	-29	580	13	390	7	49	536	11	1.313	14	-59	944	9	1.218	8	-22
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	8.535	100	9.713	100	-12	1.904	100	1.628	100	17	2.217	100	3.211	100	-31	4.414	100	4.874	100	-9
National	8.015	94	8.982	92	-11	1.802	95	1.517	93	19	2.047	92	2.845	89	-28	4.166	94	4.620	95	-10
Foreigners	520	6	731	8	-29	102	5	111	7	-8	170	8	366	11	-54	248	6	254	5	-2
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	2,41		3,00		-20	2,40		3,23		-26	2,30		2,92		-21	2,48		2,97		-16
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	18,32		28,47		-36	20,55		27,40		-25	13,47		27,19		-50	20,88		29,80		-30
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	21,42		31,00		-31	23,70		29,26		-19	16,27		31,30		-48	24,29		31,49		-23

**Source: EUSTAT**
**For further information:**

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