

The number of visitors and overnight stays increased by 5% and 8% respectively in April 2009

The 2009 Easter Holiday figures compared to 2008 registered a 11% increase in the number of visitors and overnight stays were up by 10%

There were 167,590 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in April 2009, 8,500 up on the same month of the previous year, in other words a 5% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 7% in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa and fell by 4% in Álava, with respect to the same month of 2008. The effect of the Easter Holidays must be taken into account when analysing the monthly data, as Easter was in March in 2008 and in April in 2009.

The number of visitors from within Spain rose by 12% compared to April 2008, while the number of foreign visitors fell by 9%. There were more visitors from within Spain to Gipuzkoa and Bizkaia (16% and 15%, respectively) and fewer to Álava (-4%). The number of foreign visitors decreased in the three provinces: there were 12% fewer in Bizkaia, 8% in Gipuzkoa and 2% in Álava.

Registered overnight stays in April 2009 totalled 309,181, which was 8% up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 23,500 more overnight stays. The year-on-year evolution of overnight stays was positive in the three territories: they increased by 3% in Álava, by 6% in Bizkaia and by 13% in Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay rose by 3%: it went from 1.79 days in the previous April to 1.84 in April of this year, for the Basque Country as a whole. It rose by 7% in Álava, fell by 1% in Bizkaia and was up by 6% in Bizkaia.

The occupancy rate by bed rose slightly from 41.38% in April of last year to 41.62% this April. This rise was only due to Gipuzkoa, where the rate increased from 42.25% in April of last year to 45.22% in April 2009. There was a 11% downturn in Álava and the occupancy rate by bed fell under the average (32.10%), while Bizkaia posted a slightly lower occupancy rate in April 2009 (41.88%) than in the previous year (42.39%).

During the **first four months of the year**, there were a total of 529,826 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country, which was 9% down on the same period of 2008. The number of overnight stays during this four-month period came to 957,537, 10% lower than the figure for the first four months of the previous year. The average length of stay fell slightly from 1.83 days during this four-month period to 1.81 days for the same period of 2009. The degree of occupancy was down by 15% and dropped from 39.67% in the first four months of 2008 to 33.56% for the same period of this year.

Rural tourism: The number of visitors and overnight stays rose by 36% and 64% respectively.

There were 11,089 visitors registered in April in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country; 36% more than in the same month of last year, increasing by 40% in Bizkaia, 36% in Gipuzkoa and 30% in Álava. There was a 38% increase in the number of visitors from within Spain in the Basque Country: it was up by 39% in Álava, 43% in Bizkaia and 35% in Gipuzkoa. The number of overseas visitors increased by 10% throughout the Basque Country, with the number up in Gipuzkoa (41%) and Bizkaia (14%) and down in Álava (-45%).

There were 29,172 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country in April, which was 64% up on the same month of the previous year, with year-on-year positive growth in Gipuzkoa (74%), Bizkaia (60%) and Álava (47%).

The average length of stay per visitor increased with respect to April 2008, rising from 2.17 days a year ago to 2.63 days last April

The occupancy rate by bed rose from 18.06% to 26.08%, due to the increase registered in the three provinces: it stood at 24.27% in Álava, it increased to 22.96% in Bizkaia and was 29.09% in Gipuzkoa.

During the **first four months of 2009**, there were a total of 30,083 visitors registered in the rural tourism establishments of the Basque Country, which was 5% up on the same period of 2008.

The number of overnight stays in the period from January-April 2009 was 74,739, up 3% on the same period of the previous year.

Figures referring to Easter 2009

During the period between the Monday before Easter and the Friday after the Easter weekend (from the 6 to 17 April 2009), there was a 11% increase in the number of visitors and overnight stays were up 10% compared to the equivalent period of the previous year (from 17 to 28 March 2008) in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country.

The average stay at Easter fell slightly, down from 1.89 days in the previous year to 1.88 in 2009. The occupancy rate by beds rose from 43.05% in 2008 to 43.38% in 2009.

In rural tourism establishments, in the same period, there was a 29% increase in the number of visitors, while overnight stays were down by 3%, as the average stay fell from 3.86 days in 2008 to 2.92 days in 2009.

In the main days of the Easter celebrations (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Saturday), the occupancy rate was 69,87% in hotel establishment and reached 81,18% in the rural tourism establishments of the Basque Country.

Table 2: Monthly Results

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ARABA/ALAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	04 2009	%	04 2008	%	Δ %	04 2009	%	04 2008	%	Δ %	04 2009	%	04 2008	%	Δ %
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	309.181	100	285.405	100		8	36.879	100	35.975	100	3	146.204	100	137.852	100
National	218.015	71	184.768	65	18	28.242	77	27.495	76	3	97.880	67	86.776	63	13
Foreigners	91.166	29	100.637	35	-9	8.637	23	8.480	24	2	48.324	33	51.076	37	-5
Capital	192.312	62	172.620	60	11	25.599	69	26.145	73	-2	101.303	69	89.397	65	13
Coast	36.565	12	30.911	11	18	-	-	-	-	-	10.885	7	10.149	7	7
Inland	80.304	26	81.874	29	-2	11.280	31	9.830	27	15	34.016	23	38.306	28	-11
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	167.590	100	159.094	100		5	20.981	100	21.834	100	-4	81.301	100	75.944	100
National	120.771	72	107.457	68	12	16.276	78	17.022	78	-4	57.967	71	50.481	66	15
Foreigners	46.819	28	51.637	32	-9	4.705	22	4.812	22	-2	23.334	29	25.463	34	-8
Capital	105.230	63	96.550	61	9	14.031	67	15.624	72	-10	55.581	68	48.454	64	15
Coast	17.762	11	16.477	10	8	-	-	-	-	-	6.346	8	6.075	8	4
Inland	44.598	27	46.067	29	-3	6.950	33	6.210	28	12	19.374	24	21.415	28	-10
AVERAGE STAY	1,84		1,79		3	1,76		1,65		7	1,80		1,82		-1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	41,62		41,38		1	32,10		35,87		-11	41,88		42,39		-1
Capital	47,24		46,14		2	33,14		38,80		-15	50,17		48,34		4
Coast	39,90		35,67		12	-	-	-	-	-	29,62		29,09		2
Inland	32,90		35,77		-8	29,98		29,87		0	30,79		36,34		-15
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	50,05		51,16		-2	39,01		45,24		-14	52,52		52,35		0
Capital	58,20		55,99		4	42,44		49,93		-15	64,01		57,39		12
Coast	45,43		43,56		4	-	-	-	-	-	37,73		37,75		0
Inland	37,97		45,80		-17	31,60		34,91		-9	35,86		47,76		-25
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	29.172	100	17.765	100	64	5.344	100	3.630	100	47	8.609	100	5.380	100	60
National	26.686	91	14.495	82	84	5.066	95	2.817	78	80	7.545	88	4.430	82	70
Foreigners	2.486	9	3.270	18	-24	278	5	813	22	-66	1.064	12	950	18	12
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	11.089	100	8.171	100	36	2.151	100	1.655	100	30	3.484	100	2.492	100	40
National	10.306	93	7.461	91	38	2.057	96	1.484	90	39	3.188	92	2.232	90	43
Foreigners	783	7	710	9	10	94	4	171	10	-45	296	8	260	10	14
AVERAGE STAY	2,63		2,17		21	2,48		2,19		13	2,47		2,16		14
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	26,08		18,06		44	24,27		19,67		23	22,96		16,29		41
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	28,86		19,98		44	27,57		21,34		29	25,35		18,25		39

Source: EUSTAT
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