

Number of visitors rose by 1% in July 2009

Overnight stays increased by 3% in July

There were 216,140 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in July 2009, 3,000 up on the same month of the previous year, in other words a 1% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors rose by 4% in Bizkaia and in Álava, while they were down by 2% in Gipuzkoa with respect to the figures for July of the previous year.

The number of visitors from within Spain was up by 1% and the number of overseas visitors increased by 2% compared to the same month of the previous year. There were more Spanish visitors in Álava (5%) and in Bizkaia (6%), while the number fell by 6% in Gipuzkoa. The number of overseas visitors increased in the three provinces: by 3% in Gipuzkoa, 2% in Álava and 1% in Bizkaia.

There was an increase in the number of visitors from Aragón, Asturias, Canary Islands, Cantabria and Navarra, while there was a decrease in those from Galicia, Madrid and Castilla-León, primarily. As far as the overseas visitors were concerned, there was an increase in the number mainly from Central and South America, Sweden, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands and Finland, while there was a fall in the number of visitors from Germany, Austria, Greece, Italy, USA-Canada and Portugal.

Registered overnight stays in July 2009 totalled 422,064, which was 3% up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 13,000 more overnight stays. The year-on-year performance of overnight stays was positive in the three provinces: they were up by 10% in Álava and 2% in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay increased slightly for the Basque Country as a whole, and rose 1.92 days in July of the previous year to 1.95 days this past July. It rose by 6% in Álava and by 4% in Gipuzkoa, while it fell by 1% in Bizkaia. Thus, the average stay in Álava in July 2009 was 1.83 days, which was very similar to the length in Bizkaia (average of 1.82 days), while it was 2.16 days in Gipuzkoa.

The occupancy rate by bed fell by 3%, and dropped from 55.02% in July of last year to 53.31% this July, for the Basque Country as a whole. The rate performed negatively in the three provinces. Álava fell by 2% to a 45.6% occupancy rate, Bizkaia was down by 3% to an occupancy rate of 50.11% and the rate in Gipuzkoa decreased by 4% and had the highest occupancy rate by bed at 60.36%. The occupancy rate by rooms fell by 3% for the Basque Country as a whole.

Rural tourism: The number of visitors fell by(-1%) and overnight stays remained steady (0%).

There were 13,782 visitors registered in July in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, 1% fewer than in the same month of the previous year. However, the performance of the three provinces was not uniform. The number of visitors increased

by 15% in Álava, but fell by 8% in Bizkaia and 1% in Gipuzkoa. Visitors from within Spain increased in number, with growth of 3% registered for the Autonomous Community as a whole: they were up by 5% in Álava, 4% in Gipuzkoa and remained unchanged in Bizkaia (0%). The number of overseas visitors fell in Bizkaia and in Gipuzkoa, with significant decreases in relative terms, while they doubled in number in Álava.

There were 42,545 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country in July, which practically remained unchanged compared the same month of the previous year (0%), with year-on-year positive growth being recorded in Álava (14%) , negative in Bizkaia (-5%), while it remained unchanged in Gipuzkoa (0%).

The average length of stay per visitor in the Basque Country overall increased with respect to July 2008, rising from 3.03 days a year ago to 3.09 days this past July.

The occupancy rate per bed was 36.1%, which was down 9% on the same period of the previous year. This decrease was due to the performance of Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, which stood at 32.56% and 43.28%, respectively, in July 2009, which were decreases of 12 and 8%. Meanwhile, the occupancy rate for Álava was 24.69%, which was practically the same as in July 2008. The occupancy rate per room also fell by 5% in the Basque Country.

For further information:

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Table 1: Monthly Results

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ÁLAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA					
	07 2009	%	07 2008	%	Δ %	07 2009	%	07 2008	%	Δ %	07 2009	%	07 2008	%	Δ %
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	422.064	100	408.560	100		3 56.368	100	51.094	100		10 184.272	100	180.003	100	
National	257.138	61	254.195	62	1	40.000	71	36.114	71	11	109.790	60	107.107	60	3
Foreigners	164.926	39	154.365	38	7	16.368	29	14.980	29	9	74.482	40	72.896	40	2
Capital	252.315	60	236.737	58	7	38.638	69	35.342	69	9	113.646	62	110.841	62	3
Coast	58.452	14	56.440	14	4	-	-	-	-	-	20.910	11	19.138	11	9
Inland	111.297	26	115.383	28	-4	17.730	31	15.752	31	13	49.716	27	50.024	28	-1
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	216.140	100	213.156	100	1	30.754	100	29.600	100	4	101.501	100	97.808	100	4
National	132.545	61	131.225	62	1	21.529	70	20.594	70	5	61.329	60	58.046	59	6
Foreigners	83.595	39	81.931	38	2	9.225	30	9.006	30	2	40.172	40	39.762	41	1
Capital	126.563	59	123.673	58	2	19.432	63	19.704	67	-1	62.639	62	60.340	62	4
Coast	26.817	12	26.361	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	10.437	10	9.939	10	5
Inland	62.760	29	63.122	30	-1	11.322	37	9.896	33	14	28.425	28	27.529	28	3
AVERAGE STAY	1,95		1,92		2	1,83		1,73		6	1,82		1,84		-1
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	53,31		55,02		-3	45,64		46,52		-2	50,11		51,50		-3
Capital	58,43		58,58		0	48,38		50,33		-4	54,10		54,94		-2
Coast	59,46		61,05		-3	-		-		-	52,86		52,41		1
Inland	42,54		46,90		-9	40,62		39,76		2	42,09		44,97		-6
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	61,24		63,31		-3	54,54		55,60		-2	58,77		59,55		-1
Capital	67,83		67,56		0	60,73		62,42		-3	64,00		62,37		3
Coast	67,26		66,93		0	-		-		-	61,46		61,60		0
Inland	48,85		55,10		-11	42,74		42,88		0	48,94		53,82		-9
AGRO-TOURISM															
OVERNIGHT STAYS	42.545	100	42.338	100	0	5.663	100	4.952	100	14	12.759	100	13.381	100	-5
National	34.023	80	32.568	77	4	4.494	79	4.089	83	10	9.783	77	10.110	76	-3
Foreigners	8.522	20	9.770	23	-13	1.169	21	863	17	35	2.976	23	3.271	24	-9
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	13.782	100	13.958	100	-1	2.248	100	1.953	100	15	4.425	100	4.832	100	-8
National	11.440	83	11.139	80	3	1.850	82	1.756	90	5	3.557	80	3.557	74	0
Foreigners	2.342	17	2.819	20	-17	398	18	197	10	102	868	20	1.275	26	-32
AVERAGE STAY	3,09		3,03		2	2,52		2,54		-1	2,88		2,77		4
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	36,10		39,52		-9	24,69		24,61		0	32,56		37,11		-12
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	40,17		42,18		-5	29,78		25,82		15	36,13		39,05		-7

Source: EUSTAT