

## Number of visitors rose by 2% in August 2009

### ***Overnight stays increased by 5% in August***

There were 225,929 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in August 2009, 4,000 up on the same month of the previous year, in other words a 2% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 5% in Álava and 3% in Gipuzkoa, but remained steady in Bizkaia (0%), compared to the same month of 2008.

The number of visitors from within Spain was up by 10%, while the number of overseas visitors fell by 9% compared to the same month of the previous year. The number of Spanish visitors increased in the three provinces: by 9% in Álava, 14% in Bizkaia and 7% in Gipuzkoa. However, the number of foreign visitors remained steady in Álava (0%), but fell in Bizkaia (-14%) and in Gipuzkoa (-3%).

There was practically an overall increase in numbers in terms of the visitors from within Spain, although the greatest increase was in those from Catalonia, Madrid, Andalusia, Comunidad Valenciana and Cantabria. In terms of foreign visitors, the fall in numbers was also generalised, particularly in those from Italy, France, the United Kingdom and Germany, while the visitors from South and Central America, USA-Canada, Belgium and Japan rose in number.

Registered overnight stays in August 2009 totalled 484,696, which was 5% up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 22,000 more overnight stays. The year-on-year byformance of overnight stays was positive in the three provinces: they were up by 9% in Álava, 3% in Bizkaia and 5% in Gipuzkoa.

The duration of the average stay rose from 2.09 days in August last year to 2.15 this year for the Basque Country as a whole. It rose by 3% in Álava and in Bizkaia and by 2% in Gipuzkoa. Thus, the average stay in Álava in August 2009 was 1.89 days, 2.02 days in Bizkaia, while it was 2.36 days in Gipuzkoa.

The occupancy rate by bed remained steady, falling from 61.59% last August to 61.44% this August, for the Basque Country as a whole. Álava fell by 2% to a 45.6% occupancy rate, Bizkaia was down by 1% to an occupancy rate of 57.78% and the rate in Gipuzkoa increased by 1% and had the highest occupancy rate by bed at 72.93%. The occupancy rate by room remained practically unaltered for the Basque Country as a whole.

### **Rural tourism: The number of visitors increased (5%) and overnight stays remained steady (0%).**

There were 15,716 visitors registered in August in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, 5% more than in the same month of the previous year. However, the byformance of the three provinces was not uniform. The number of visitors fell by 14% in Álava, but increased by 13% in Bizkaia and 4% in Gipuzkoa. Both visitors from within Spain and from abroad increased in number, with growth of 3% and 11%, respectively, registered for the Autonomous Community as a whole. The two categories fell in Álava, with the number

of visitors from within Spain falling by 13% and those from abroad by 20%. Both the Spanish and foreign visitors increased in number in Bizkaia (15 and 7% respectively), in the same way as in Gipuzkoa (1 and 25%, respectively).

There were 69,800 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country in August, which practically remained unchanged compared to the same month of the previous year (0%), with year-on-year negative growth being recorded in Álava (-3%) , positive in Bizkaia (4%), while it was negative in Gipuzkoa (-2%).

The average length of stay by visitor in the Basque Country overall decreased with respect to August 2008, falling from 4.65 days a year ago to 4.44 days this August. The average stay improved in Alava and worsened in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa.

The occupancy rate by bed was 58.9%, which was down 8% on the same period of the previous year. This drop was seen in the three provinces, with decreases of 14% being recorded in Alava, 9% in Gipuzkoa and 4% in Bizkaia. The occupancy rate by rooms also fell by 7% in the Basque Country as a whole.

**Table 1: Monthly Results**

	BASQUE COUNTRY				ÁLAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	08 2009	%	08 2008	%	Δ %	08 2009	%	08 2008	%	Δ %	08 2009	%	08 2008	%	Δ %	08 2009	%	08 2008	%	Δ %
<b>HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	484.696	100	462.483	100	5	54.749	100	50.409	100	9	210.320	100	203.416	100	3	219.627	100	208.658	100	5
National	320.267	66	284.372	61	13	40.081	73	35.975	71	11	129.720	62	110.488	54	17	150.466	69	137.909	66	9
Foreigners	164.429	34	178.111	39	-8	14.668	27	14.434	29	2	80.600	38	92.928	46	-13	69.161	31	70.749	34	-2
Capital	283.542	58	261.633	57	8	34.691	63	33.919	67	2	131.936	63	121.719	60	8	116.915	53	105.995	51	10
Coast	74.457	15	70.598	15	5	-	-	-	-	-	27.403	13	24.428	12	12	47.054	21	46.170	22	2
Inland	126.697	26	130.252	28	-3	20.058	37	16.490	33	22	50.981	24	57.269	28	-11	55.658	25	56.493	27	-1
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	225.929	100	221.848	100	2	28.964	100	27.492	100	5	103.981	100	103.925	100	0	92.984	100	90.431	100	3
National	137.733	61	125.389	57	10	18.909	65	17.413	63	9	60.718	58	53.423	51	14	58.106	62	54.553	60	7
Foreigners	88.196	39	96.459	43	-9	10.055	35	10.079	37	0	43.263	42	50.502	49	-14	34.878	38	35.878	40	-3
Capital	130.589	58	124.647	56	5	18.713	65	18.044	66	4	65.122	63	60.585	58	7	46.754	50	46.018	51	2
Coast	28.123	12	28.032	13	0	-	-	-	-	-	11.297	11	10.584	10	7	16.826	18	17.448	19	-4
Inland	67.217	30	69.169	31	-3	10.251	35	9.448	34	8	27.562	27	32.756	32	-16	29.404	32	26.965	30	9
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	2,15		2,09		3	1,89		1,83		3	2,02		1,96		3	2,36		2,31		2
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	61,44		61,59		0	44,25		44,94		-2	57,78		58,22		-1	72,93		72,07		1
Capital	65,44		63,87		2	43,73		46,84		-7	62,84		59,90		5	81,21		78,98		3
Coast	75,36		73,77		2	-		-	-	-	67,17		64,48		4	81,13		79,86		2
Inland	49,34		53,04		-7	45,18		41,49		9	45,02		52,89		-15	56,12		57,91		-3
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	65,52		65,21		0	46,54		48,03		-3	62,91		62,03		1	77,71		76,69		1
Capital	69,98		68,33		2	47,35		51,99		-9	68,03		64,44		6	86,84		85,10		2
Coast	81,40		76,66		6	-		-	-	-	72,07		69,40		4	88,65		81,29		9
Inland	52,58		56,12		-6	45,05		40,13		12	50,40		55,64		-9	58,87		63,33		-7
<b>AGRO-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	69.800	100	69.888	100	0	8.326	100	8.580	100	-3	23.051	100	22.230	100	4	38.423	100	39.078	100	-2
National	58.146	83	58.324	83	0	6.980	84	7.850	91	-11	17.262	75	16.997	76	2	33.904	88	33.477	86	1
Foreigners	11.654	17	11.564	17	1	1.346	16	730	9	84	5.789	25	5.233	24	11	4.519	12	5.601	14	-19
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	15.716	100	15.032	100	5	1.958	100	2.272	100	-14	5.783	100	5.113	100	13	7.975	100	7.647	100	4
National	12.892	82	12.498	83	3	1.731	88	1.989	88	-13	4.512	78	3.922	77	15	6.649	83	6.587	86	1
Foreigners	2.824	18	2.534	17	11	227	12	283	12	-20	1.271	22	1.191	23	7	1.326	17	1.060	14	25
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	4,44		4,65		-5	4,25		3,78		12	3,99		4,35		-8	4,82		5,11		-6
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	58,91		64,23		-8	36,10		41,75		-14	58,00		60,21		-4	69,01		76,12		-9
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	62,68		67,40		-7	38,51		44,81		-14	59,77		62,81		-5	75,15		80,41		-7

Source: EUSTAT

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