

[SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS \(EETR\) MARCH 2010](#)

Number of visitors rose by 13% in March 2010

Number of overnight stays was up by 10% compared to March 2009

There were 161,885 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in March 2010, 18,000 up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, a 13% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors rose by 24% in Álava, 17% in Gipuzkoa and 6% in Bizkaia.

The number of visitors from within Spain was up by 11% and the number of overseas visitors rose by 17%. The number of visitors from within Spain increased in the three provinces: It rose by 18% in Álava and Gipuzkoa, in both case, and by 4% in Bizkaia. Foreign visitors were also up in number in the three provinces, with increases of 51% in Álava, 17% in Bizkaia and 11% in Gipuzkoa.

With regard to the visitors from within Spain, the greatest increase in the percentage of visitors was from the Madrid, Galicia, Asturias, Catalonia, Castilla y León and the Canary Islands, while only those from Andalusia, the Balearic Islands, Cantabria and Ceuta & Melilla fell in number. There was an increase in the number of foreign visitors from France, Belgium, Germany, the United Kingdom and Central and South America, while there was a drop in the number from Finland, Italy, Greece and Portugal.

Registered overnight stays in March 2010 totalled 289,054, which was 10% up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 25,000 more overnight stays. The year-on-year performance of overnight stays was positive in the three provinces: they rose by 21% in Álava, 16% in Gipuzkoa and 2% in Bizkaia.

The average length of stay for the Basque Country as a whole fell from 1.84 days in the previous year to 1.79 in March of this year. This index fell in the three provinces: In Bizkaia, it rose from an average stay of 1.88 days in March 2009 to 1.80 day in March of this year. In Álava, it was up from 1.77 in March 2009 to 1.73 in March 2010, and in Gipuzkoa, it rose from 1.80 in March 2009 to 1.79 for March of this year.

The occupancy rate by beds was up 1% to 35.47% in March 2010. It should be noted that this increase affected Álava and Gipuzkoa, where occupancy was up 4% and 12%, respectively, to 32.13% occupancy in Álava and 37.43% in Gipuzkoa. In Bizkaia, the occupancy rate by beds fell by 6% from 37.52% in March last year to 35.16% in March 2010.

RURAL TOURISM

The number of visitors was up by 15% and of overnight stays increased by 5% in the Basque Country, compared to March 2009

The number of visitors in rural tourism establishments of the Basque Country totalled 9,827 in March, which was up by 15% with respect to the same month of the previous year, with positive results in the three provinces. The numbers increased by 21% in Bizkaia, 17% in Gipuzkoa and 4% in Álava. The number of visitors from within Spain was up by 18% in the Basque Country: they fell by 23% in Bizkaia, by 20% in Gipuzkoa and by 6% in Álava. The number of overseas visitors decreased by 24% throughout the Basque Country, as there was a significant drop in the number in Gipuzkoa and Álava, and to a smaller degree in Bizkaia in percentage terms.

There were 21,721 overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country in March, which was 5% up on the same month of the previous year, with year-on-year positive growth being recorded in the three provinces: The numbers increased by 15% in Bizkaia, 3% in Álava and 2% in Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay per visitor in the Basque Country overall decreased with respect to March 2009, falling from 2.41 days a year ago to 2.21 days in the same month of 2009, with this negative evolution being recorded in the three provinces. There was a drop in Gipuzkoa of 13% as the average stay fell from 2.48 days in March 2009 to 2.16 days in March 2010. In Bizkaia, it dropped from an average stay in March 2009 to 2.19 in the same month of this year and it fell in Álava from 2.40 days in March 2009 to 2.37 days in March 2010.

The degree of occupancy by beds barely fluctuated (0%), rising from 18.32% occupancy to 18.35%, as a result in the increase noted in Bizkaia (13%) that offsets the falls registered in Álava (-5%) and Gipuzkoa (-4%).

Table1: Monthly results

| | BASQUE COUNTRY | | | | ÁLAVA | | | | BIZKAIA | | | | GIPUZKOA | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----|------------|-----|-------|------------|-----|------------|---------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|
| | 03 2010 | (%) | 03 2009 | (%) | Δ % | 03 2010 | (%) | 03 2009 | (%) | Δ % | 03 2010 | (%) | 03 2009 | (%) | Δ % | 03 2010 | (%) |
| | HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OVERNIGHT STAYS | 289.054 | 100 | 263.829 | 100 | 10 | 43.848 | 100 | 36.266 | 100 | 21 | 135.011 | 100 | 132.828 | 100 | 2 | 110.195 | 100 |
| National | 212.303 | 73 | 189.732 | 72 | 12 | 34.438 | 79 | 29.181 | 80 | 18 | 94.688 | 70 | 90.145 | 68 | 5 | 83.177 | 75 |
| Foreigners | 76.751 | 27 | 74.097 | 28 | 4 | 9.410 | 21 | 7.085 | 20 | 33 | 40.323 | 30 | 42.683 | 32 | -6 | 27.018 | 25 |
| Capital | 184.230 | 64 | 170.414 | 65 | 8 | 30.660 | 70 | 27.196 | 75 | 13 | 91.259 | 68 | 91.170 | 69 | 0 | 62.311 | 57 |
| Coast | 29.862 | 10 | 24.888 | 9 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | 9.396 | 7 | 8.617 | 6 | 9 | 20.466 | 19 |
| Inland | 74.962 | 26 | 68.527 | 26 | 9 | 13.188 | 30 | 9.070 | 25 | 45 | 34.356 | 25 | 33.041 | 25 | 4 | 27.418 | 25 |
| ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS | 161.885 | 100 | 143.765 | 100 | 13 | 25.335 | 100 | 20.514 | 100 | 24 | 74.950 | 100 | 70.753 | 100 | 6 | 61.600 | 100 |
| National | 122.024 | 75 | 109.760 | 76 | 11 | 20.117 | 79 | 17.056 | 83 | 18 | 55.356 | 74 | 53.107 | 75 | 4 | 46.551 | 76 |
| Foreigners | 39.861 | 25 | 34.005 | 24 | 17 | 5.218 | 21 | 3.458 | 17 | 51 | 19.594 | 26 | 17.646 | 25 | 11 | 15.049 | 24 |
| Capital | 103.602 | 64 | 92.406 | 64 | 12 | 16.223 | 64 | 15.575 | 76 | 4 | 50.496 | 67 | 46.274 | 65 | 9 | 36.883 | 60 |
| Coast | 15.173 | 9 | 13.813 | 10 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - | 5.465 | 7 | 5.163 | 7 | 6 | 9.708 | 16 |
| Inland | 43.110 | 27 | 37.546 | 26 | 15 | 9.112 | 36 | 4.939 | 24 | 84 | 18.989 | 25 | 19.316 | 27 | -2 | 15.009 | 24 |
| AVERAGE STAY | 1,79 | | 1,84 | | -3 | 1,73 | | 1,77 | | -2 | 1,80 | | 1,88 | | -4 | 1,79 | |
| OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES | 35,47 | | 34,97 | | 1 | 32,13 | | 30,82 | | 4 | 35,16 | | 37,52 | | -6 | 37,43 | |
| Capital | 40,29 | | 40,74 | | -1 | 32,28 | | 34,48 | | -6 | 41,38 | | 43,97 | | -6 | 43,98 | |
| Coast | 33,59 | | 28,19 | | 19 | - | - | - | - | - | 25,15 | | 24,47 | | 3 | 39,70 | |
| Inland | 27,89 | | 27,65 | | 1 | 31,80 | | 23,37 | | 36 | 27,25 | | 29,64 | | -8 | 27,10 | |
| OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS | 44,57 | | 45,69 | | -2 | 40,19 | | 41,02 | | -2 | 46,22 | | 50,91 | | -9 | 44,44 | |
| Capital | 51,23 | | 54,15 | | -5 | 41,49 | | 47,05 | | -12 | 54,88 | | 60,26 | | -9 | 52,38 | |
| Coast | 39,20 | | 34,02 | | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | 31,46 | | 30,75 | | 2 | 44,42 | |
| Inland | 34,98 | | 35,35 | | -1 | 36,77 | | 28,25 | | 30 | 35,34 | | 39,27 | | -10 | 33,90 | |
| AGRO-TOURISM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OVERNIGHT STAYS | 21.721 | 100 | 20.592 | 100 | 5 | 4.677 | 100 | 4.562 | 100 | 3 | 5.851 | 100 | 5.104 | 100 | 15 | 11.193 | 100 |
| National | 20.448 | 94 | 18.532 | 90 | 10 | 4.478 | 96 | 3.982 | 87 | 12 | 5.296 | 91 | 4.568 | 89 | 16 | 10.674 | 95 |
| Foreigners | 1.273 | 6 | 2.060 | 10 | -38 | 199 | 4 | 580 | 13 | -66 | 555 | 9 | 536 | 11 | 4 | 519 | 5 |
| ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS | 9.827 | 100 | 8.535 | 100 | 15 | 1.976 | 100 | 1.904 | 100 | 4 | 2.675 | 100 | 2.217 | 100 | 21 | 5.176 | 100 |
| National | 9.430 | 96 | 8.015 | 94 | 18 | 1.905 | 96 | 1.802 | 95 | 6 | 2.525 | 94 | 2.047 | 92 | 23 | 5.000 | 97 |
| Foreigners | 397 | 4 | 520 | 6 | -24 | 71 | 4 | 102 | 5 | -30 | 150 | 6 | 170 | 8 | -12 | 176 | 3 |
| AVERAGE STAY | 2,21 | | 2,41 | | -8 | 2,37 | | 2,40 | | -1 | 2,19 | | 2,30 | | -5 | 2,16 | |
| OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES | 18,35 | | 18,32 | | 0 | 19,54 | | 20,55 | | -5 | 15,20 | | 13,47 | | 13 | 20,01 | |
| OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS | 20,09 | | 21,42 | | -6 | 22,05 | | 23,70 | | -7 | 16,51 | | 16,27 | | 1 | 21,79 | |

Source: EUSTAT. EETR - Survey on Tourist Establishments

For further information:

[Basque Statistics Office](#)

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