

[SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS \(EETR\) MARCH 2011](#)

## Number of visitors to the Basque Country rose by 8% in March 2011

### ***Overnight stays were up by 9%***

There were 175,399 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in March 2011, 13,514 up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, an 8% increase, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors rose by 5% in Álava and 16% in Bizkaia, but there was no noticeable fluctuation in Gipuzkoa (0%).

The number of visitors from within Spain was up 7% and the number of overseas visitors rose by 12%. The number of visitors from within Spain increased in Álava, up by 10%, and in Bizkaia, where there was a 18% rise, while it fell in Bizkaia by 7%. The number of foreign visitors rose in Bizkaia, with an increase of 13% and was up by 22% in Gipuzkoa, but fell by 18% in Álava.

With regard to visitors from other Autonomous Communities, the greatest percentage increase was among those from Catalonia, Castilla-La Mancha, Cantabria and Aragón, while there was a drop in number in the visitors from Madrid, Castilla y León, La Rioja and Extremadura. As far as visitors from abroad were concerned, there was a rise in those from France, Italy, Portugal and Central and South America. However, the greatest percentage fall was among those from Germany, the United Kingdom and Denmark.

Registered overnight stays in March 2011 totalled 314,789, which was 9% up on the same month of the previous year, in other words, there were 25,735 more overnight stays. The year-on-year performance of overnight stays was positive in Álava and Bizkaia, up by 10% and 17%, respectively, but fell by 1% in Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay remained practically unchanged compared to March 2010, with the average stay being 1.79 days both in March 2010 and in the same month of this year, for the Basque Country overall. By provinces, it increased from 1.73 to 1.82 days in Álava, from 1.80 to 1.81 days in Bizkaia, while it fell in Gipuzkoa from the 1.79 days registered in March 2010 to the 1.77 days in the same month of 2011.

The bed occupancy rate was up 9% to 38.82% for the Basque Country overall in March 2011. This rise in number affected all three territories: in Álava, the occupancy rate rose by 11%, up from 32.13% in March 2010 to 35.70% in the same month of this year. In Bizkaia, there was a 16% rise, from 35.16% in March 2010 to 40.77% in March 2011, while in Gipuzkoa, the increase was 1%, up from an occupancy rate of 37.43% in March 2010 to 37.66% in the same month of this year.

## RURAL TOURISM

***The number of visitors fell by 13% and overnight stays increased by 16%, compared to March 2010***

There were 6,352 visitors in rural tourism establishments of the Basque Country in March, down 13% on the number of visitors in rural tourism establishments in March 2010. By provinces, the number was down by 10% in Álava, 15% in Bizkaia, but it fell by 13% in Gipuzkoa. The number of visitors from within Spain fell by 14% in the Basque Country: it fell by 10% in Álava, by 16% in Bizkaia and by 14% in Gipuzkoa. The number of foreign visitors rose by 2% for the Basque Country overall. The percentage rise was significant in Gipuzkoa, but there was a notable drop in Álava and Bizkaia, in percentage terms.

Overnight stays in rural tourism establishments of the Basque Country totalled 18,227 in March, which was down by 16% with respect to the same month of the previous year. The number fell in the three provinces: it was down by 22% in Álava, by 10% in Bizkaia and by 17% in Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay by visitor was down by 4% in the Basque Country in March 2010, falling from 2.21 days a year ago to 2.13 days in March this year. In Álava, the average stay fell by 13% from 2.37 in March 2010 to 2.06 in March 2011. In Bizkaia, the figure increased by 6% and the average stay was up from 2.19 days in March 2010 to 2.33 days in March 2011. The average stay in Gipuzkoa fell by 5% from 2.16 days in March 2010 to 2.06 in the same month of this year.

The bed occupancy rate was down by 16%, as it fell from 18.35% to 15.34%, due to the decrease registered in the three provinces: It was down by 28% in Álava, 10% in Bizkaia and there was a 14% drop in Gipuzkoa.

**Table 1: Hotel and Rural Tourism Establishments in the Basque Country. Monthly results**

	BASQUE COUNTRY				ÁLAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	03 2011	(%)	03 2010	(%)	Δ %	03 2011	(%)	03 2010	(%)	Δ %	03 2011	(%)	03 2010	(%)	Δ %					
	HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																			
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	314.789	100	289.054	100	9	48.300	100	43.848	100	10	157.434	100	135.011	100	17	109.055	100	110.195	100	-1
National	228.777	73	212.303	73	8	39.223	81	34.438	79	14	110.690	70	94.688	70	17	78.864	72	83.177	75	-5
Foreigners	86.012	27	76.751	27	12	9.077	19	9.410	21	-4	46.744	30	40.323	30	16	30.191	28	27.018	25	12
Capital	202.157	64	184.230	64	10	37.430	77	30.660	70	22	107.027	68	91.259	68	17	57.700	53	62.311	57	-7
Coast	31.418	10	29.862	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	8.132	5	9.396	7	-13	23.286	21	20.466	19	14
Inland	81.214	26	74.962	26	8	10.870	23	13.188	30	-18	42.275	27	34.356	25	23	28.069	26	27.418	25	2
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	175.399	100	161.885	100	8	26.478	100	25.335	100	5	87.181	100	74.950	100	16	61.740	100	61.600	100	0
National	130.671	74	122.024	75	7	22.203	84	20.117	79	10	65.096	75	55.356	74	18	43.372	70	46.551	76	-7
Foreigners	44.728	26	39.861	25	12	4.275	16	5.218	21	-18	22.085	25	19.594	26	13	18.368	30	15.049	24	22
Capital	111.787	64	103.602	64	8	18.893	71	16.223	64	16	58.747	67	50.496	67	16	34.147	55	36.883	60	-7
Coast	16.681	10	15.173	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	4.721	5	5.465	7	-14	11.960	19	9.708	16	23
Inland	46.931	27	43.110	27	9	7.585	29	9.112	36	-17	23.713	27	18.989	25	25	15.633	25	15.009	24	4
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,79		1,79		0	1,82		1,73		5	1,81		1,80		1	1,77		1,79		-1
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	38,82		35,47		9	35,70		32,13		11	40,77		35,16		16	37,66		37,43		1
Capital	44,87		40,29		11	40,53		32,28		26	48,94		41,38		18	41,35		43,98		-6
Coast	36,50		33,59		9	-		-		-	24,52		25,15		-3	44,00		39,70		11
Inland	29,61		27,89		6	25,32		31,80		-20	31,49		27,25		16	28,90		27,10		7
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	49,21		44,57		10	46,10		40,19		15	53,58		46,22		16	44,88		44,44		1
Capital	57,69		51,23		13	53,08		41,49		28	64,50		54,88		18	50,21		52,38		-4
Coast	42,15		39,20		8	-		-		-	31,23		31,46		-1	48,76		44,42		10
Inland	37,73		34,98		8	29,12		36,77		-21	41,65		35,34		18	35,77		33,90		6
<b>AGRI-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	18.227	100	21.721	100	-16	3.645	100	4.677	100	-22	5.270	100	5.851	100	-10	9.312	100	11.193	100	-17
National	16.413	90	20.448	94	-20	3.507	96	4.478	96	-22	4.261	81	5.296	91	-20	8.645	93	10.674	95	-19
Foreigners	1.814	10	1.273	6	42	138	4	199	4	-31	1.009	19	555	9	82	667	7	519	5	29
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	8.555	100	9.827	100	-13	1.772	100	1.976	100	-10	2.266	100	2.675	100	-15	4.517	100	5.176	100	-13
National	8.151	95	9.430	96	-14	1.724	97	1.905	96	-10	2.129	94	2.525	94	-16	4.298	95	5.000	97	-14
Foreigners	404	5	397	4	2	48	3	71	4	-32	137	6	150	6	-9	219	5	176	3	24
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	2,13		2,21		-4	2,06		2,37		-13	2,33		2,19		6	2,06		2,16		-5
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	15,34		18,35		-16	14,01		19,54		-28	13,69		15,20		-10	17,15		20,01		-14
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	17,63		20,09		-12	15,99		22,05		-27	16,73		16,51		1	19,11		21,79		-12

Source: EUSTAT. Survey on Tourist Establishments of the Basque Country (EETR)

**For further information:**
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