

## A 0.4% increase in the number of visitors to the Basque Country in August 2011

### ***Overnight stays saw an increase of 3% on August 2010***

There were 267,145 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in August 2011, 1,076 up on the same month of 2010, which, in percentage terms, is 0.4 % higher than the previous year, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors rose by 1% in Araba/Álava and Bizkaia, and fell by 1% in Gipuzkoa.

The number of Spanish visitors fell by 3%, whilst, on the other hand, foreign visitors were up by 5%. There was a rise in visitors from within Spain in Bizkaia, where they increased by 2%, whilst in Araba/Álava there was no change (0%) and in Gipuzkoa they fell by 10%. Foreign visitors increased by 12% in Gipuzkoa, by 3% in Araba/Álava and remained unchanged in Bizkaia, at 0%.

There was a rise in Spanish visitors from Catalonia, the Canaries, Cantabria and Galicia, whereas there was a drop in visitors from Madrid and Castilla y León, amongst others. The greatest number of foreign visitors came from France, Italy, Latin America, Holland and USA-Canada, whilst there was a drop in visitor numbers from Portugal, Germany and the United Kingdom, amongst others.

Registered overnight stays in August 2011 totalled 579,332, which was 3% up on the same month of the previous year, that is, there were 18,961 more overnight stays. There was a positive year-on-year change in overnight stays in Araba/Álava where they rose by 5% and in Bizkaia where they increased by 6%, whilst in Gipuzkoa there was no change (0%) with respect to August 2010.

The average length of stay rose with respect to August 2010, going from 2.11 days in August 2010 to 2.17 days for the same month of 2011, for the Basque Country as a whole. By territory, in Álava/Araba it rose from 1.82 to 1.90, in Bizkaia it rose from 2.04 to 2.13 days and in Gipuzkoa it also rose from 2.31 to 2.33 days.

The bed occupancy rate saw a rise of 2%, standing at 68.19% for August 2011. This rise affected the provinces of Araba/Álava and Bizkaia, which both registered increases of 3%, whilst in Gipuzkoa there was no variation (0%). The bed occupancy rate in Álava/Araba rose from 56.58% in August 2010 to 58.55% in August 2011, in Bizkaia it went from 64.02% to 65.87% and in Gipuzkoa it rose from 75.70% in August 2010 to 75.82% in the same month of this year.

## RURAL TOURISM

### ***Visitor numbers rose by 12% and there was a fall in overnight stays (2%) in the Basque Country, compared to August 2010***

In August, 17,548 visitors to rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country were recorded, 12% up on the previous year, with positive results in Bizkaia, where there was a rise of 10%, and in Gipuzkoa, which saw an increase of 17%, whereas in Araba/Álava there was a drop of 2%. Spanish visitors were up 10% as a whole in the Basque Country. They rose by 2% in Araba/Álava, by 10% in Bizkaia and by 13% in Gipuzkoa. There was a 20% increase in the number of foreign visitors to the Basque Country as a whole, falling 25% in Álava/Araba but rising 11% in Bizkaia and 51% in Gipuzkoa.

In August, there were 75,145 overnight stays recorded in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, which is a drop of 2% with respect to the figures for the previous year, with negative year-on-year growth rates in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, where they dropped by 2% and 3% respectively, whilst in Álava/Araba they remained unchanged.

The average length of stay decreased by 12% in the Basque Country as a whole with respect to August 2010, going from 4.87 days one year ago to 4.28 days in August 2011. By province, there was a rise in Álava/Araba (2%), with the average visitor stay going from 3.96 days in August 2010 to 4.03 days in the same month of this year. In Bizkaia the average stay dropped by 11%, going from 4.58 days in August 2010 to 4.09 days in August 2011, with a drop of 17% also being recorded in Gipuzkoa, where the average stay went from 5.37 days to 4.47 days in August of this year.

The bed occupancy rate registered a decrease of 5% in the Basque Country as a whole, going from 61.89% to 58.58%, as a consequence of the drops experienced in the three provinces. In Araba/Álava it dropped by 9%, in Gipuzkoa there was a decrease of 6% and Bizkaia saw a fall of 2%.

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

	BASQUE COUNTRY				ARABA / ÁLAVA				BIZKAIA				GIPUZKOA							
	08 2011	(%)	08 2010	(%)	Δ %	08 2011	(%)	08 2010	(%)	Δ %	08 2011	(%)	08 2010	(%)	Δ %					
	HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																			
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	579.332	100	560.371	100	3	83.164	100	79.089	100	5	266.599	100	251.528	100	6	229.569	100	229.754	100	0
National	370.379	64	368.689	66	0	60.311	73	57.471	73	5	166.858	63	157.170	62	6	143.210	62	154.048	67	-7
Foreigners	208.953	36	191.682	34	9	22.853	27	21.618	27	6	99.741	37	94.358	38	6	86.359	38	75.706	33	14
Capital	351.263	61	329.590	59	7	61.797	74	54.586	69	13	166.148	62	151.284	60	10	123.318	54	123.720	54	0
Coast	74.201	13	72.506	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	27.779	10	29.865	12	-7	46.422	20	42.641	19	9
Inland	153.868	27	158.275	28	-3	21.367	26	24.503	31	-13	72.672	27	70.379	28	3	59.829	26	63.393	28	-6
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	267.145	100	266.069	100	0	43.865	100	43.521	100	1	124.908	100	123.084	100	1	98.372	100	99.464	100	-1
National	156.162	58	160.469	60	-3	28.278	64	28.411	65	0	72.768	58	71.087	58	2	55.116	56	60.971	61	-10
Foreigners	110.983	42	105.600	40	5	15.587	36	15.110	35	3	52.140	42	51.997	42	0	43.256	44	38.493	39	12
Capital	160.047	60	155.474	58	3	31.215	71	29.197	67	7	77.982	62	74.742	61	4	50.850	52	51.535	52	-1
Coast	27.140	10	27.505	10	-1	-	-	-	-	-	11.017	9	12.771	10	-14	16.123	16	14.734	15	9
Inland	79.958	30	83.090	31	-4	12.650	29	14.324	33	-12	35.909	29	35.571	29	1	31.399	32	33.195	33	-5
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	2,17		2,11		3	1,90		1,82		4	2,13		2,04		4	2,33		2,31		1
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	68,19		67,02		2	58,55		56,58		3	65,87		64,02		3	75,82		75,70		0
Capital	75,15		72,16		4	64,51		57,43		12	73,77		69,14		7	84,24		86,59		-3
Coast	76,52		77,09		-1	-		-		-	67,73		74,11		-9	82,96		79,33		5
Inland	53,95		55,46		-3	46,20		54,78		-16	52,47		52,60		0	59,57		59,33		0
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	72,18		69,71		4	61,47		58,54		5	71,02		67,18		6	79,03		78,24		1
Capital	79,42		75,69		5	68,50		60,72		13	79,04		73,36		8	87,63		90,46		-3
Coast	78,98		78,61		0	-		-		-	71,29		74,16		-4	84,14		81,63		3
Inland	58,18		56,86		2	46,64		52,92		-12	57,91		54,32		7	64,02		61,31		4
<b>AGRI-TOURISM</b>																				
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	75.145	100	76.670	100	-2	11.009	100	10.995	100	0	22.254	100	22.624	100	-2	41.882	100	43.051	100	-3
National	65.244	87	66.422	87	-2	9.438	86	9.843	90	-4	18.665	84	18.372	81	2	37.141	89	38.207	89	-3
Foreigners	9.901	13	10.248	13	-3	1.571	14	1.152	10	36	3.589	16	4.252	19	-16	4.741	11	4.844	11	-2
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	17.548	100	15.730	100	12	2.729	100	2.776	100	-2	5.446	100	4.943	100	10	9.373	100	8.011	100	17
National	14.939	85	13.564	86	10	2.454	90	2.409	87	2	4.388	81	3.991	81	10	8.097	86	7.164	89	13
Foreigners	2.609	15	2.166	14	20	275	10	367	13	-25	1.058	19	952	19	11	1.276	14	847	11	51
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	4,28		4,87		-12	4,03		3,96		2	4,09		4,58		-11	4,47		5,37		-17
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	58,58		61,89		-5	39,20		42,89		-9	54,59		55,71		-2	70,48		74,70		-6
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	61,18		63,05		-3	39,66		42,24		-6	57,87		57,19		1	74,43		76,96		-3

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

**For further information:**

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