

## **The number of visitors to the Basque Country was down 3% in March 2012**

### ***There was also a drop of 3% in overnight stays***

There were 170,166 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in March 2012, 5233 down on the same month of the previous year, which is a decrease of 3%, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 5% in Álava, but dropped 5% in Bizkaia and 3% in Gipuzkoa.

Numbers of visitors from Spain fell by 2%, in the Basque Country as a whole. There was a rise in visitors from within Spain in Álava, where they increased by 6%, however in Bizkaia there was a drop of 6% and in Gipuzkoa there was no change (0%). The number of foreign visitors was down by 5% in the Basque Country. There was no change in Álava (0%), they were down 2% in Bizkaia and in Gipuzkoa they dropped by 10%.

Amongst travellers from other Autonomous Communities there was a greater percentage increase in those coming from Madrid, Andalusia, the Balearics and Murcia, whilst there was a decrease in those from Catalonia, Cantabria, Aragón and Galicia, on the whole. There was a rise amongst foreign visitors, above all, from the United Kingdom, Germany, USA-Canada and those from European countries outside the community. The drop in visitors from France, Portugal and Italy was particularly noteworthy.

Registered overnight stays in March 2012 totalled 306,023, 3% down on the same month of the previous year, that is, there were 8766 less overnight stays. There was a positive year-on-year change in Overnight stays in Álava, where they rose by 4%, but in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa they were down 5% and 3%, respectively.

The average stay remained practically unchanged compared to March 2011 both for the Basque Country as a whole and for each one of its provinces. The average stay in Álava stood at 1.82 days, in Bizkaia it was 1.81 days and in Gipuzkoa, 1.77 days. In the Basque Country as a whole it stood at 1.80 days in March 2012.

The bed occupancy rate was down 3%, and stood at 37.68% in March 2012 for the Basque Country as a whole. This drop only affected Bizkaia, which saw a decrease of 7%, going from 40.77% in March 2011 to 38.11% in March 2012. In Álava there was a slight positive change, where it went from 35.70% in March 2011 to 35.85% in March 2012 and in Gipuzkoa there was a rise of 1%, with occupancy going from 37.66% in March 2011 to 38.01% in March 2012.

## RURAL TOURISM

### ***Visitor numbers rose by 9% and overnight stays were down 2%, compared to March 2011***

In March this year there were 9349 registered visitors to rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, which was a rise of 9% with respect to the visitors to rural tourism establishments in March 2011. By provinces, it was observed that in Álava and Bizkaia there were drops of 10% and 9%, respectively, whilst Gipuzkoa experienced a 26% rise in visitor numbers. Spanish visitors to the Basque Country were up 9%: They were down by 8% in Álava and 7% in Bizkaia, but rose by 24% in Gipuzkoa. Foreign visitor numbers were up by 18% in the Basque Country as a whole, rising significantly in Gipuzkoa, but dropping considerably in Álava and Bizkaia, all in percentage terms.

Overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country stood at 17,790 in March, which was a reduction of 2% on the previous year, whilst the year-on-year figures for Gipuzkoa were positive, increasing by 9%, whereas in Álava they were down 8% and in Bizkaia they were down by 19%.

The average length of stay decreased in the Basque Country as a whole with respect to March 2011, going from 2.13 days one year ago to 1.90 days in March 2012. In Araba/Álava there was a rise of 3%, with the average stay going from 2.06 days in March 2011 to 2.12 days in March 2012; in Bizkaia there was a drop of 11%, with the average stay going from 2.33 days in March 2011 to 2.07 days in March 2012, and in Gipuzkoa there was a 14% reduction in the average stay, where it went from 2.06 days in March 2011 to 1.78 days in the same month of this year.

The bed occupancy rate registered a fall of 6%, going from 15.34% occupancy to 14.38% as a result of the drops experienced in the provinces of Álava and Bizkaia which were down 14% and 17%, respectively. In Gipuzkoa, however, there was a rise of 2% in the bed occupancy rate, where it stood at 17.45% in March 2012.

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

	BASQUE COUNTRY						ARABA / ÁLAVA						BIZKAIA						GIPUZKOA					
	03 2012	(%)	03 2011	(%)	Δ %		03 2012	(%)	03 2011	(%)	Δ %		03 2012	(%)	03 2011	(%)	Δ %		03 2012	(%)	03 2011	(%)	Δ %	
	HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																							
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	306.023	100	314.789	100	-3		50.462	100	48.300	100	4		149.410	100	157.434	100	-5		106.151	100	109.055	100	-3	
National	223.057	73	228.777	73	-3		41.097	81	39.223	81	5		105.351	71	110.690	70	-5		76.609	72	78.864	72	-3	
Foreigners	82.966	27	86.012	27	-4		9.365	19	9.077	19	3		44.059	29	46.744	30	-6		29.542	28	30.191	28	-2	
Capital	199.332	65	202.157	64	-1		40.350	80	37.430	77	8		101.941	68	107.027	68	-5		57.041	54	57.700	53	-1	
Coast	30.689	10	31.418	10	-2		-	-	-	-	-		7.765	5	8.132	5	-5		22.924	22	23.286	21	-2	
Inland	76.002	25	81.214	26	-6		10.112	20	10.870	23	-7		39.704	27	42.275	27	-6		26.186	25	28.069	26	-7	
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	170.166	100	175.399	100	-3		27.721	100	26.478	100	5		82.530	100	87.181	100	-5		59.915	100	61.740	100	-3	
National	127.753	75	130.671	74	-2		23.461	85	22.203	84	6		60.971	74	65.096	75	-6		43.321	72	43.372	70	0	
Foreigners	42.413	25	44.728	26	-5		4.260	15	4.275	16	0		21.559	26	22.085	25	-2		16.594	28	18.368	30	-10	
Capital	108.262	64	111.787	64	-3		20.576	74	18.893	71	9		54.760	66	58.747	67	-7		32.926	55	34.147	55	-4	
Coast	16.420	10	16.681	10	-2		-	-	-	-	-		4.679	6	4.721	5	-1		11.741	20	11.960	19	-2	
Inland	45.484	27	46.931	27	-3		7.145	26	7.585	29	-6		23.091	28	23.713	27	-3		15.248	25	15.633	25	-2	
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,80		1,79		1		1,82		1,82		0		1,81		1,81		0		1,77		1,77		0	
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	37,68		38,82		-3		35,85		35,70		0		38,11		40,77		-7		38,01		37,66		1	
Capital	43,71		44,87		-3		40,27		40,53		-1		45,52		48,94		-7		43,24		41,35		5	
Coast	35,66		36,50		-2		-		-		-		23,37		24,52		-5		43,40		44,00		-1	
Inland	28,15		29,61		-5		24,92		25,32		-2		29,44		31,49		-7		27,70		28,90		-4	
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	47,39		49,21		-4		44,98		46,10		-2		48,86		53,58		-9		46,49		44,88		4	
Capital	55,63		57,69		-4		51,74		53,08		-3		58,17		64,50		-10		54,10		50,21		8	
Coast	40,22		42,15		-5		-		-		-		27,84		31,23		-11		47,48		48,76		-3	
Inland	35,41		37,73		-6		27,34		29,12		-6		37,61		41,65		-10		35,59		35,77		-1	
<b>AGRI-TOURISM</b>																								
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>	17.790	100	18.227	100	-2		3.361	100	3.645	100	-8		4.259	100	5.270	100	-19		10.170	100	9.312	100	9	
National	16.391	92	16.413	90	0		3.361	100	3.507	96	-4		3.722	87	4.261	81	-13		9.308	92	8.645	93	8	
Foreigners	1.399	8	1.814	10	-23		0	0	138	4	-100		537	13	1.009	19	-47		862	8	667	7	29	
<b>ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS</b>	9.349	100	8.555	100	9		1.588	100	1.772	100	-10		2.061	100	2.266	100	-9		5.700	100	4.517	100	26	
National	8.874	95	8.151	95	9		1.588	100	1.724	97	-8		1.976	96	2.129	94	-7		5.310	93	4.298	95	24	
Foreigners	475	5	404	5	18		0	0	48	3	-100		85	4	137	6	-38		390	7	219	5	78	
<b>AVERAGE STAY</b>	1,90		2,13		-11		2,12		2,06		3		2,07		2,33		-11		1,78		2,06		-14	
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES</b>	14,38		15,34		-6		12,11		14,01		-14		11,30		13,69		-17		17,45		17,15		2	
<b>OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS</b>	16,08		17,63		-9		13,34		15,99		-17		13,31		16,73		-20		19,25		19,11		1	

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

**For further information:**

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