

The number of visitors to the Basque Country was up 4.6% in August 2012

There was also a rise of 2.1% in overnight stays

There were 279,407 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in August 2012, 12,262 up on the same month of the previous year, which is an increase of 4.6%, according to Eustat data. The number of visitors increased by 1.9% in Álava, 6.9% in Bizkaia and 2.8% in Gipuzkoa.

Numbers of visitors from Spain were up by 2.2% in the Basque Country as a whole. Spanish visitors increased their presence in the three provinces: in Bizkaia they were up by 4.1% and in Gipuzkoa by 2.0% in Alava they were down by 2.7%. The number of foreign visitors to the Basque Country was up by 8.0%. In Álava they increased by 10.3%, in Bizkaia they rose by 10.9% and in Gipuzkoa they were up by 3.8%.

Amongst travellers from within Spain there was a greater percentage increase in those coming from Murcia, Andalusia, Madrid and Castilla-La Mancha, whilst there was a drop in those coming from Catalonia, Galicia, Aragón and Asturias, on the whole. There was a rise amongst foreign visitors above all from France, Holland, the United Kingdom and those from European countries outside the community. The drop in visitors from Italy, Greece and Latin America was particularly noticeable.

Registered overnight stays in August 2012 totalled 591,412, which was 2.1% up on the same month of the previous year, that is, there were 12,080 more overnight stays. There was a positive year-on-year change in overnight stays in Álava, where they rose by 2.9%, and in Bizkaia, where they grew by 3.7%, but in Gipuzkoa there was hardly any change -0.1%.

The average length of stay increased by 2.3% with respect to August 2011 for the Basque Country as a whole, going from 2.17 days in August 2011 to 2.12 days in August 2012. In Álava the average stay was 1.91 days compared to the 1.90 days recorded in August 2011; in Bizkaia it went from 2.13 days to 2.07 this August and in Gipuzkoa the average stay was 2.27 days, compared to the 2.33 days in August 2011.

The bed occupancy rate experienced a rise of 2.1%, and stood at 69.64% in August 2012 for the Basque Country overall. This rise affected the three provinces. In Bizkaia there was an increase of 4.3%, going from 65.87% in August 2011 to 68.67% this August. In Gipuzkoa there was a positive change of 0.7%, where it went from 75.82% in August 2011 to 76.34% in August 2012, and in Álava there was a rise of 0.0%, with occupancy going from 58.55% in August 2011 to 58.54% in August 2012.

RURAL TOURISM

Visitor numbers rose by 5.2% and overnight stays were up 3.8%, compared to August 2011

In August this year there were 18,458 registered visitors to rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country, which was a rise of 5.2% with respect to the visitors to rural tourism establishments in August 2011. By provinces, it was observed that in Álava there was a drop of 23.4%, whilst in Bizkaia there was a rise of 13.9% and in Gipuzkoa there was an increase of 8.4%. There was a 3.0% overall rise in visitors from within Spain to the Basque Country: they were up 10.8% in Bizkaia and 6.5% in Gipuzkoa, but they were down 22.3% in Álava. Foreign visitor numbers were up by 17.7% in the Basque Country as a whole, rising significantly in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, but dropping in Álava, all in percentage terms.

Overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country stood at 77.964 in August, which was an increase of 3.8% on the previous year, with positive year-on-year figures for Bizkaia (8.7%) and Gipuzkoa (7.4%), whereas they were down in Álava (-20.3%)

The average length of stay decreased by -1.4% in the Basque Country as a whole with respect to August 2011, going from 4.28 days one year ago to 4.22 days in August 2012. In Álava there was a rise of 4.2%, with the average stay going from 4.03 days in August 2011 to 4.20 days in August 2012; in Bizkaia there was a drop of 4.6%, with the average stay going from 4.09 days in August 2011 to 3.90 days in August 2012, and in Gipuzkoa there was a slight improvement, where it went from 4.47 days in August 2011 to 4.43 days in the same month of this year.

The bed occupancy rate registered an increase of 0.5%, going from 58.58% occupancy to 58.87% as a result of the rises experienced in the provinces of Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, which were up 6.0% and 0.5%, respectively. Álava, however, experienced a drop of 17.5%.

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

	BASQUE COUNTRY						ARABA / ÁLAVA						BIZKAIA						GIPUZKOA					
	08 2012	(%)	08 2011	(%)	Δ %		08 2012	(%)	08 2011	(%)	Δ %		08 2012	(%)	08 2011	(%)	Δ %		08 2012	(%)	08 2011	(%)	Δ %	
	HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																							
OVERNIGHT STAYS	591.412	100	579.332	100	2,1		85.546	100	83.164	100	2,9		276.542	100	266.599	100	3,7		229.324	100	229.569	100	-0,1	
National	365.227	62	370.379	64	-1,4		59.973	70	60.311	73	-0,6		168.068	61	166.858	63	0,7		137.186	60	143.210	62	-4,2	
Foreigners	226.185	38	208.953	36	8,2		25.573	30	22.853	27	11,9		108.474	39	99.741	37	8,8		92.138	40	86.359	38	6,7	
Capital	363.544	61	351.263	61	3,5		64.558	75	61.797	74	4,5		172.900	63	166.148	62	4,1		126.086	55	123.318	54	2,2	
Coast	73.727	12	74.201	13	-0,6		-	-	-	-	-		27.916	10	27.779	10	0,5		45.811	20	46.422	20	-1,3	
Inland	154.141	26	153.868	27	0,2		20.988	25	21.367	26	-1,8		75.726	27	72.672	27	4,2		57.427	25	59.829	26	-4,0	
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	279.407	100	267.145	100	4,6		44.717	100	43.865	100	1,9		133.583	100	124.908	100	6,9		101.107	100	98.372	100	2,8	
National	159.521	57	156.162	58	2,2		27.518	62	28.278	64	-2,7		75.776	57	72.768	58	4,1		56.227	56	55.116	56	2,0	
Foreigners	119.886	43	110.983	42	8,0		17.199	38	15.587	36	10,3		57.807	43	52.140	42	10,9		44.880	44	43.256	44	3,8	
Capital	167.403	60	160.047	60	4,6		32.478	73	31.215	71	4,0		82.143	61	77.982	62	5,3		52.782	52	50.850	52	3,8	
Coast	29.777	11	27.140	10	9,7		-	-	-	-	-		12.666	9	11.017	9	15,0		17.111	17	16.123	16	6,1	
Inland	82.227	29	79.958	30	2,8		12.239	27	12.650	29	-3,2		38.774	29	35.909	29	8,0		31.214	31	31.399	32	-0,6	
AVERAGE STAY	2,12		2,17		-2,3		1,91		1,90		0,5		2,07		2,13		-2,8		2,27		2,33		-2,6	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	69,64		68,19		2,1		58,54		58,55		0,0		68,67		65,87		4,3		76,34		75,82		0,7	
Capital	75,28		75,15		0,2		62,39		64,51		-3,3		74,83		73,77		1,4		84,97		84,24		0,9	
Coast	76,64		76,52		0,2		-		-		-		66,75		67,73		-1,4		84,25		82,96		1,6	
Inland	57,07		53,95		5,8		49,20		46,20		6,5		58,33		52,47		11,2		58,83		59,57		-1,2	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	73,07		72,18		1,2		61,19		61,47		-0,5		72,71		71,02		2,4		79,34		79,03		0,4	
Capital	79,30		79,42		-0,2		66,15		68,50		-3,4		79,44		79,04		0,5		88,32		87,63		0,8	
Coast	79,91		78,98		1,2		-		-		-		70,42		71,29		-1,2		86,35		84,14		2,6	
Inland	59,40		58,18		2,1		48,27		46,64		3,5		61,06		57,91		5,4		61,75		64,02		-3,5	
AGRI-TOURISM																								
OVERNIGHT STAYS	77.964	100	75.145	100	3,8		8.775	100	11.009	100	-20,3		24.193	100	22.254	100	8,7		44.996	100	41.882	100	7,4	
National	64.914	83	65.244	87	-0,5		7.447	85	9.438	86	-21,1		19.058	79	18.665	84	2,1		38.409	85	37.141	89	3,4	
Foreigners	13.050	17	9.901	13	31,8		1.328	15	1.571	14	-15,5		5.135	21	3.589	16	43,1		6.587	15	4.741	11	38,9	
ENTRY OF TRAVELLERS	18.458	100	17.548	100	5,2		2.091	100	2.729	100	-23,4		6.204	100	5.446	100	13,9		10.163	100	9.373	100	8,4	
National	15.388	83	14.939	85	3,0		1.906	91	2.454	90	-22,3		4.862	78	4.388	81	10,8		8.620	85	8.097	86	6,5	
Foreigners	3.070	17	2.609	15	17,7		185	9	275	10	-32,7		1.342	22	1.058	19	26,8		1.543	15	1.276	14	20,9	
AVERAGE STAY	4,22		4,28		-1,4		4,20		4,03		4,2		3,90		4,09		-4,6		4,43		4,47		-0,9	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY PLACES	58,87		58,58		0,5		32,35		39,20		-17,5		57,89		54,59		6,0		70,84		70,48		0,5	
OCCUPANCY LEVEL BY ROOMS	60,94		61,18		-0,4		32,84		39,66		-17,2		59,52		57,87		2,9		74,73		74,43		0,4	

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

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