

The number of visitors to the Basque Country was up 2.0% in May 2013

There was also a rise of 0.3% in overnight stays

There were 210,250 visitors registered in the hotel establishments of the Basque Country in May 2013, 4,125 up on the same month of the previous year, which is an increase of 2.0%, according to data prepared by Eustat. The number of visitors fell by 4.9% in Álava, but increased by 1.4% in Bizkaia and by 5.6% in Gipuzkoa, compared to the same month in 2012.

The number of visitors from within Spain fell by 1.8% compared to May 2012, whereas the number of visitors from abroad increased by 8.2%. Visitors from within Spain reduced their presence in the three provinces: in Álava they were down by 8.8%, in Bizkaia they were down by 0.4% and in Gipuzkoa they decreased by 0.3%. The number of foreigners, however, increased in the three provinces: in Gipuzkoa they were up by 12.7%, in Álava they rose by 5.9% and in Bizkaia there was an increase of 4.5%.

Amongst travellers from other Autonomous Regions there was a greater percentage increase in those coming from the Balearics, the Canary Islands, Murcia and La Rioja, whereas there was a decrease in those coming from Comunidad Valenciana, Aragón, Catalonia and Extremadura, on the whole. Amongst foreign visitors there were rises, above all, in those coming from Austria, Ireland, Sweden and France. Amongst the visitor numbers that experienced a downturn, those from Greece, Holland, Italy and Latin America particularly stood out.

Registered overnight stays in May 2013 totalled 390,427, which was 0.3% up on May of the previous year, that is, there were 1,345 more overnight stays. There was a year-on-year negative evolution for overnight stays in Álava and Bizkaia, where they were down by 9.3% and 3.5%, respectively, but in Gipuzkoa there was an increase of 9.6%, compared to May 2012.

The average length of stay decreased compared to May 2012, going from 1.89 days to 1.86 this May for the Basque Country. In Álava it dropped from 1.91 to 1.82 days; in Bizkaia it was also down, going from 1.89 days in May 2012 to 1.80 days this May, but in Gipuzkoa it increased, going from 1.87 to 1.94 days.

The bed occupancy rate was down by 3% for the Basque Country overall, going from an occupancy rate of 47.66% in May 2012 to 46.23% in the same month of this year. The greatest decrease was in Álava (-6.5%), where it went from 40.23% to 37.61%; in Bizkaia there was a fall of 5.9%, going from 49.11% in May 2012 to 46.21% this May, whilst Gipuzkoa registered an occupancy rate of 50.05% for this May against 49.27% obtained the previous year, with a rise of 1.6%.

Rural tourism: Visitors were down by 1.3% and overnight stays rose by 8.6%

The number of visitors to rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country totalled 9,957 in May, which was 1.3% down on the same month of the previous year, dropping by 8.0% in Bizkaia, 7.4% in Álava and rising 5.3% in Gipuzkoa. There was a 10.7% overall drop in visitors from within Spain to the Basque Country: they were down 23.2% in Bizkaia, 6.1% in Gipuzkoa and 4.7% in Álava. Foreign visitors increased their numbers by 52.2% in the Basque Country as a whole, with high percentage increases in Bizkaia and Gipuzkoa, and a sharp drop in Álava.

Overnight stays in rural tourism establishments in the Basque Country stood at 21,581 in May, meaning an increase of 8.6% compared to the same month of the previous year, with negative year-on-year rates in Álava, where they were down by 4.5%, and in Bizkaia, where they dropped by 2.7%, but in Gipuzkoa there was an increase of 20.7%.

The average length of stay per visitor increased with respect to May 2012, rising from 1.97 days a year ago to 2.17 days this May.

The bed occupancy rate rose from 15.75% to 17.38% as a result, above all, of the increase experienced in Gipuzkoa (21.5%) which reached an occupancy rate of 20.16% this May. In Bizkaia, with 15.09%, there was also a slight increase (2.4%), whilst in Álava the occupancy rate stood at 14.46%, following a drop of 5.8%.

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

	BASQUE COUNTRY					ARABA / ÁLAVA					BIZKAIA					GIPUZKOA				
	05 2013	(%)	05 2012	(%)	Δ %	05 2013	(%)	05 2012	(%)	Δ %	05 2013	(%)	05 2012	(%)	Δ %	05 2013	(%)	05 2012	(%)	Δ %
HOTEL ESTABLISHMENTS																				
Overnight stays	390.427	100	389.082	100	0,3	50.757	100	55.973	100	-9,3	186.877	100	193.713	100	-3,5	152.793	100	139.396	100	9,6
National	226.444	58	240.262	62	-5,8	33.187	65	40.182	72	-17,4	114.832	61	122.349	63	-6,1	78.425	51	77.731	56	0,9
Foreigners	163.983	42	148.820	38	10,2	17.570	35	15.791	28	11,3	72.045	39	71.364	37	1,0	74.368	49	61.665	44	20,6
Capital	254.478	65	251.970	65	1,0	38.564	76	44.147	79	-12,6	126.284	68	129.007	67	-2,1	89.630	59	78.816	57	13,7
Coast	41.497	11	43.239	11	-4,0	-	-	-	-	-	11.992	6	12.779	7	-6,2	29.505	19	30.460	22	-3,1
Inland	94.452	24	93.873	24	0,6	12.193	24	11.826	21	3,1	48.601	26	51.927	27	-6,4	33.658	22	30.120	22	11,7
Entry of travellers	210.250	100	206.125	100	2,0	27.858	100	29.285	100	-4,9	103.749	100	102.344	100	1,4	78.643	100	74.496	100	5,6
National	124.914	59	127.224	62	-1,8	19.571	70	21.463	73	-8,8	64.802	62	65.087	64	-0,4	40.541	52	40.674	55	-0,3
Foreigners	85.336	41	78.901	38	8,2	8.287	30	7.822	27	5,9	38.947	38	37.257	36	4,5	38.102	48	33.822	45	12,7
Capital	134.306	64	130.469	63	2,9	19.564	70	21.473	73	-8,9	68.646	66	66.362	65	3,4	46.096	59	42.634	57	8,1
Coast	20.643	10	21.008	10	-1,7	-	-	-	-	-	6.725	6	7.116	7	-5,5	13.918	18	13.892	19	0,2
Inland	55.301	26	54.648	27	1,2	8.294	30	7.812	27	6,2	28.378	27	28.866	28	-1,7	18.629	24	17.970	24	3,7
Average stay	1,86		1,89		-1,6	1,82		1,91		-4,7	1,80		1,89		-4,8	1,94		1,87		3,7
Occupancy level by places	46,23		47,66		-3,0	37,61		40,23		-6,5	46,21		49,11		-5,9	50,05		49,27		1,6
Capital	54,07		54,87		-1,5	41,44		44,77		-7,4	54,12		57,19		-5,4	62,14		58,38		6,4
Coast	44,86		47,72		-6,0	-		-		-	30,95		32,93		-6,0	54,89		58,80		-6,6
Inland	33,56		35,21		-4,7	29,11		29,19		-0,3	36,73		39,94		-8,0	31,38		31,34		0,1
Occupancy level by rooms	56,28		58,98		-4,6	48,25		49,83		-3,2	57,34		62,90		-8,8	58,26		58,11		0,3
Capital	67,19		68,46		-1,9	55,55		57,24		-3,0	67,95		73,11		-7,1	73,18		68,85		6,3
Coast	50,78		53,86		-5,7	-		-		-	38,10		38,53		-1,1	59,69		64,01		-6,7
Inland	40,36		44,24		-8,8	32,55		32,32		0,7	44,14		51,52		-14,3	38,73		39,71		-2,5
AGRI-TOURISM																				
Overnight stays	21.581	100	19.868	100	8,6	4.040	100	4.230	100	-4,5	5.523	100	5.679	100	-2,7	12.018	100	9.959	100	20,7
National	16.074	74	16.578	83	-3,0	3.535	88	3.823	90	-7,5	3.773	68	4.681	82	-19,4	8.766	73	8.074	81	8,6
Foreigners	5.507	26	3.290	17	67,4	505	13	407	10	24,1	1.750	32	998	18	75,4	3.252	27	1.885	19	72,5
Entry of travellers	9.957	100	10.085	100	-1,3	2.064	100	2.228	100	-7,4	2.620	100	2.849	100	-8,0	5.273	100	5.008	100	5,3
National	7.658	77	8.574	85	-10,7	1.882	91	1.975	89	-4,7	1.882	72	2.451	86	-23,2	3.894	74	4.148	83	-6,1
Foreigners	2.299	23	1.511	15	52,2	182	9	253	11	-28,1	738	28	398	14	85,4	1.379	26	860	17	60,3
Average stay	2,17		1,97		10,2	1,96		1,90		3,2	2,11		1,99		6,0	2,28		1,99		14,6
Occupancy level by places	17,38		15,75		10,3	14,46		15,35		-5,8	15,09		14,74		2,4	20,16		16,59		21,5
Occupancy level by rooms	19,20		17,46		10,0	15,83		16,36		-3,2	16,92		17,10		-1,1	22,35		18,22		22,7

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

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