

SURVEY ON TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS. Except hotels. May 2021

Visitor numbers were down 26.7% in rural accommodation in the Basque Country in May 2021 in relation to April and dropped 1.9% in tourist apartments

19.5% of rural accommodation and 15.9% of tourist apartments remained closed throughout the whole May

In May 2021, there were a total of 4,604 visitors and 11,227 overnight stays in **rural accommodation** in the Basque Country, representing increases in respect of April 2021 of 26.7% and 43.9%, respectively, according to Eustat data. When interpreting these variations it should be taken into account that data for April includes the whole Easter week.

Movement restrictions have been variable after the state of emergency was decreed on 14 March 2020 to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. As accommodation activity was reduced to healthcare and other essential staff in May 2020, most series were not published due to statistical secrecy safeguards and statistical quality criteria, meaning that no year-on-year comparisons can be drawn with May 2020. As a result, comparisons are made with April 2021.

Visitors, overnight stays, average stay and occupancy rates in rural accommodation in the Basque

	Visitors		Overnight stays		Average stay		Occupancy rates(%)			
	05/2021	m/m-1 (%)	05/2021	m/m-1 (%)	05/2021	04/2021	05/2021	p.p.*	by rooms	
									by places	by rooms
BASQUE COUNTRY	4.604	-26,7	11.227	-43,9	2,44	3,19	8,9	-7,2	12,5	-6,9
State origin	4.311	-30,0	10.353	-46,9	2,40	3,17	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	293	144,2	874	66,5	2,98	4,38	-	-	-	-
ARABA/ÁLAVA	885	-44,7	1.862	-59,7	2,10	2,88	6,3	-9,9	8,8	-10,0
State origin	841	-47,5	1.716	-62,7	2,04	2,87	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	44	:	146	:	3,32	-	-	-	-	-
BIZKAIA	1.309	-33,6	3.095	-47,1	2,36	2,97	8,7	-8,1	12,5	-7,4
State origin	1.234	-36,0	2.764	-51,4	2,24	2,95	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	75	78,6	331	106,9	4,41	3,81	-	-	-	-
GIPUZKOA	2.410	-10,9	6.270	-34,4	2,60	3,53	10,3	-5,4	14,3	-5,1
State origin	2.236	-14,9	5.873	-36,2	2,63	3,50	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	174	123,1	397	13,1	2,28	4,50	-	-	-	-

Source: Eustat. Survey on tourist establishments

p.p.*= difference in percentage points on the previous month

(:) Information unavailable, either due to the low quality of the data, secrecy (confidentiality) or any other reason of a statistical nature

The vast majority of people staying in rural accommodation in the Basque Country were from the rest of Spain: 4,311 visitors from the rest of Spain compared to 293 from abroad. In relation to the previous month April 2021, these figures represent a decrease of 30% in the number of visitors from the rest of Spain and an increase of 144.2% in the number of visitors from abroad. It should be taken into account that the state of emergency restricting international travel was lifted on 10 May 2021. In the case of overnight stays, the number fell in month-on-month terms for people from the rest of Spain (down 46.9%), but increased considerably for those from abroad (up 66.5%).

Álava saw the largest decrease in visitors, down 44.7% on the previous month, followed by Bizkaia with a month-on-month decrease of 33.6%. In Gipuzkoa, visitor numbers fell by 10.9%.

Furthermore, the number of overnight stays experienced a downward trend in month-on-month terms in all three provinces: down 59.7% in Álava, 47.1% in Bizkaia and 34.4% in Gipuzkoa.

The average length of stay observed in May 2021 reached 2.44 days, as compared to 3.19 days in the previous month. The average length of stay went from 2.88 days in April to 2.10 in May in Álava; from 2.97 to 2.36 days in Bizkaia; and, lastly, from 3.53 days to 2.60 in Gipuzkoa.

The room occupancy rate stood at 12.3% in May, following a decrease in respect of the previous month of 6.9 percentage points. By province, the occupancy rates were: 8.8% Álava, 12.5% in Bizkaia and 14.3% in Gipuzkoa. Likewise, following a month-on-month decrease of 7.2 percentage points, the bed occupancy rate in rural accommodation in the Basque Country in May stood at 8.9%. It was 6.3% in Álava, 8.7% in Bizkaia and 10.3% in Gipuzkoa.

Rural accommodations that have been closed (%)

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ARABA/ÁLAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
	January	31,4	26,5	25,5	34,0	20,6	21,8	37,4	31,8	25,8	26,0	26,2
February	31,1	23,7	24,3	33,0	13,7	15,8	35,9	30,2	28,1	27,0	24,6	26,3
March	22,8	23,1	17,5	19,8	15,2	10,9	29,8	27,1	18,1	19,9	24,7	20,5
April	18,0	92,7	11,6	16,8	97,1	6,8	19,5	91,4	12,5	17,6	91,2	13,6
May	19,5	60,9	12,1	15,7	71,4	6,8	22,3	57,8	14,1	19,6	57,2	13,6
June		33,4	11,4		35,2	6,9		32,6	12,6		33,0	13,1
July		18,6	8,3		16,2	5,9		21,4	8,7		17,9	9,4
August		16,1	8,1		11,4	5,9		18,6	9,4		17,0	8,4
September		15,4	8,1		11,4	6,9		17,7	9,4		16,0	7,9
October		18,0	10,0		16,0	4,9		19,2	12,4		18,2	11,0
November		28,6	13,5		25,5	6,9		35,9	20,2		25,5	12,6
December		30,7	15,6		27,4	11,8		37,4	20,9		28,0	14,1

Source: Eustat. Survey on tourist establishments

In May 2021, 19.5% of rural accommodation remained closed every day of the month, slightly above the 18.0% registered in April. By province, 15.7% of rural establishments were closed for the whole month of May in Álava, 19.6% in Gipuzkoa and, lastly, 22.3% in Bizkaia.

TOURIST APARTMENTS

As regards **tourist apartments**, during May 2021 the number of visitors and overnight stays totalled 4,036 and 21,050, respectively. Compared to the previous month, there was a 1.9% decrease in visitor numbers and overnight stays were down 6.7%.

The number of visitors from within Spain was down 11.9% in month-on-month terms, while foreign visitor numbers increased by 190.8%. In the case of overnight stays, visitors from within Spain decreased by 12.4% and foreign visitors were up by 26.4%. In May the average length of stay stood at 5.22 days, slightly above the 5.48 days observed in the previous month.

By province, performance in relation April 2021 was uneven. Thus, while Gipuzkoa saw a decrease in visitor numbers of 0.3%, in Álava the drop stood at 26.5%. In Bizkaia, however, numbers rose by 4.8%. The total number of overnight stays recorded in May 2021 was less than the number in April, down 9.9% in Álava and 8.8% in Gipuzkoa, while in Bizkaia there was an increase of 0.9%.

These figures show an uneven trend in the average length of stay at tourist apartments in the Basque Country: in Álava it rose from 8.96 days in April to 10.97 days in May; in Bizkaia it was down slightly (2.73 days in April and 2.63 days in May), and in Gipuzkoa, the difference went from 7.90 days in April to 7.23 days in May.

Visitors, overnight stays, average stay and occupancy rates in tourist apartments in the Basque Country. May 2021

	Visitors		Overnight stays		Average stay		Occupancy rates (%)			
	05/2021	m/m-1 (%)	05/2021	m/m-1 (%)	05/2021	04/2021	by places		by apartments	
							05/2021	p.p.*	05/2021	p.p.*
BASQUE COUNTRY	4.036	-1,9	21.050	-6,7	5,22	5,48	19,7	-1,8	42,3	-2,3
State origin	3.444	-11,9	16.867	-12,4	4,90	4,92	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	592	190,8	4.183	26,4	7,07	16,25	-	-	-	-
ARABA/ÁLAVA	481	-26,5	5.280	-9,9	10,97	8,96	18,6	-2,9	50,5	-3,5
State origin	453	-28,2	4.576	-11,0	10,11	8,16	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	29	18,3	705	-2,3	24,63	29,83	-	-	-	-
BIZKAIA	2.157	4,8	5.662	0,9	2,63	2,73	16,0	0,4	35,4	2,4
State origin	1.889	-4,0	4.760	-6,5	2,52	2,59	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	268	198,8	902	73,2	3,37	5,81	-	-	-	-
GIPUZKOA	1.398	-0,3	10.107	-8,8	7,23	7,90	23,5	-3,2	42,5	-4,5
State origin	1.102	-16,0	7.531	-16,4	6,84	6,87	-	-	-	-
Foreign origin	296	229,2	2.576	24,7	8,71	23,00	-	-	-	-

Source: Eustat. Survey on tourist establishments

p.p.*= difference in percentage points on the previous month

In May 2021, the apartment occupancy rate in the Basque Country stood at 42.3%. By province, it was up 50.5% in Álava, 42.5% in Gipuzkoa and in Bizkaia it was only 35.4%. The bed occupancy rate was lower, at 19.7% for the Basque Country as a whole. By province, in Gipuzkoa the bed occupancy rate was 23.5%, in Álava it was 18.6% and, lastly, in Bizkaia it was 16.0%.

In the Basque Country as a whole, 15.9% of apartments remained closed every day in May 2021, 2.4 percentage points more than in the previous month. The proportion of apartments closed every day of the month stood at 16.7% in Álava (the same as in April), 16.1% in Gipuzkoa (0.3 percentage points lower than in April) and, lastly, 15.2% in Bizkaia (8.9 percentage points more than the proportion observed in April).

Establishments of tourism apartments that have remained closed (%)

	BASQUE COUNTRY			ARABA/ÁLAVA			BIZKAIA			GIPUZKOA		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
January	24,1	21,3	12,5	21,7	13,6	10,0	15,2	21,4	12,0	30,8	25,0	14,3
February	25,0	21,3	12,2	21,7	13,6	10,0	18,2	21,4	12,0	30,8	25,0	13,5
March	18,5	18,0	8,5	17,4	13,0	5,0	15,2	22,6	4,0	21,2	17,4	13,5
April	13,5	78,0	6,1	16,7	73,9	5,0	6,3	74,2	4,0	16,4	82,6	8,1
May	15,9	55,0	6,0	16,7	43,5	5,0	15,2	54,8	3,8	16,1	60,9	8,1
June		27,7	4,7		30,4	4,8		16,1	0,0		34,0	7,9
July		14,6	4,7		21,7	4,8		6,3	0,0		16,7	7,9
August		11,8	5,9		13,0	4,8		6,3	0,0		14,9	10,5
September		11,8	5,9		13,0	4,8		6,3	3,8		14,9	7,9
October		14,2	5,5		13,0	4,8		12,5	3,7		15,7	9,3
November		29,6	8,5		26,1	4,5		81,8	7,1		32,7	11,4
December		25,0	14,1		17,4	4,5		18,2	14,3		32,7	9,1

Source: Eustat. Survey on tourist establishments

Informative note

The response rate of the Survey on Tourist Establishments was **97.7%** for Rural Accommodation and **92.9%** for Tourist Apartments. Eustat would like to thank all establishments that participated in this survey for their effort.

For further information:

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