



FOOD AND HEALTH

# Celiac people denounce the lack of regulation in restaurants

ACEA alleges that many «gluten-free» premises are not suitable due to a lack of protocols

The group feels marginalized by health services, where specific resources are lacking

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY  
@PeriodicAND

The association ACEA (Andorra Celiac Association) denounces the lack of regulations in the offer of diets, menus and food in premises and restaurants that offer gluten-free products. The member of the ACEA Board of Directors, Núria Pablos, alleges that, although there are restaurants that claim to have gluten-free options available, they are not suitable for celiac people. The current law does not contain any regulation that can control the offering of gluten-free menus and does not have the capacity to supervise whether the gastronomy meets all the guarantees to reach the moment of consumption without exceeding 20 PPM's (Parts per Million Gluten), the European maximum that a meal has to respect to be considered suitable for celiac people. Restaurants are not required to pass a gluten contamination audit, which requires special food care, as a single bread crumb could contaminate an entire dish and exceed 20 PPM, causing the inability to this to be consumed by celiac people.

This is a problem that affects the entire Andorran territory from multiple areas, such as tourism, where it is highlighted that people with celiac disease are very careful when choosing their holiday destination according to whether the gastronomic offer has great consideration for this group, leading to the success of tourism models based on people with celiac disease such as the Asturian town of Cangas de Narcea. The lack of a solid gastronomic regulation regarding celiac disease could end up having consequences for the local Andorran tourist industry.



▶ ACEA talk with dietician Berta Jiménez.

**A single crumb** of bread could contaminate a meal and make it unfit for gluten-free consumption

This is one of the many problems already faced by a group that, historically, has always had disadvantages that make their day-to-day life constantly more difficult. The increase in prices due to inflation has particularly affected the collective, which has caused a special increase in the price of gluten-free products, which were al-

ready more expensive before the current inflation because of the complexity required by their elaboration, increasing the production prices of these and the final selling price of the product.

There is also a lack of specialized healthcare in efficient resources for a good diagnosis and optimal patient follow-up, with the

lack of a solid detection protocol and the absence of specialists. An example can be found in pediatrics, where you can only have the services of a pediatrician, with consultation in Barcelona, once a week to serve the entire population of Andorra. According to Pablos, these shortcomings highlight major problems such as the inability to make a quick diagnosis, with cases that have taken too many years to be detected and where follow-up has also been insufficient and taken with little rigor by the sanitary services. From the board of ACEA, an increase in the inclusion of the collective in multiple areas is claimed so that celiac disease does not fall into the trivialization of a condition that affects a growing minority of the Andorran population, approximated to 1% of the population. As Pablos pointed out, celiac disease patients have been growing in recent years in countries such as Spain and Italy, and probably Andorra, although there are no statistical data on patients. ≡

## 3 Concepts

### Food

Protocols and supervision are necessary to ensure zero gluten content in the menus.

### Inflation

The increase in prices has made access to traditionally more expensive products more difficult.

### Healthcare

The lack of specialists and resources makes it more difficult to diagnose, treat and monitor a disease that has more and more patients.

Your leading real estate agency in Andorra.

Our experience guarantees results, realtors since 1988.



(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad

STATISTIC

# The CPI will decrease over the next four years to 0.9% in 2027

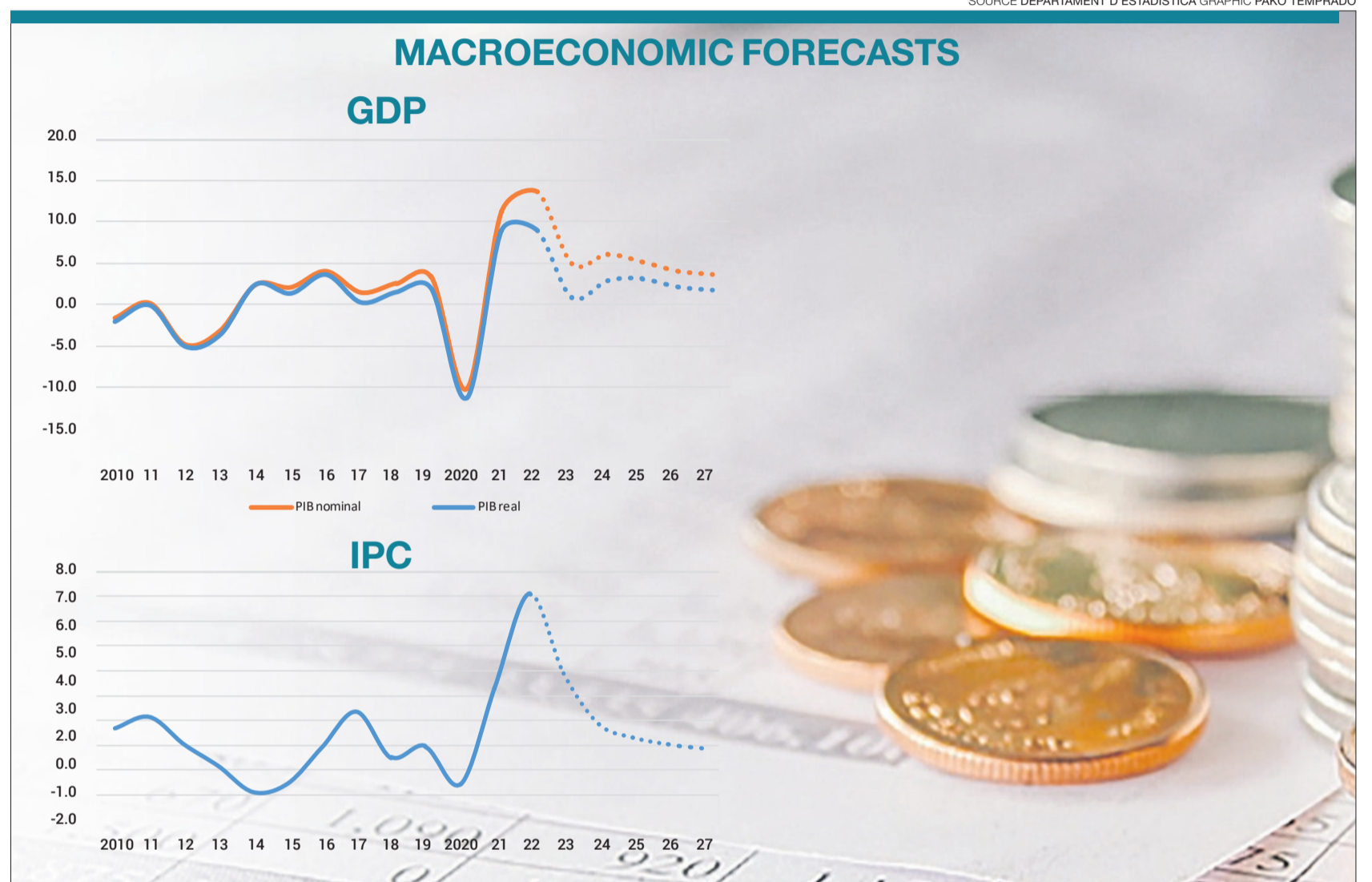
The nominal GDP would fall to 3.6 and the real to 1.8, which means a drop in growth of around nine points

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY  
@PeriodicAND

The Department of Statistics estimates that from this year and until 2027 the growth of the Andorran economy will suffer a considerable slowdown. This is clear from the note published yesterday, in which it is reported that the forecast is carried out taking into account the main variables that mark the country's economic rhythm, such as the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Gross Value Added (VAB) and inflation measured with the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which will fall in four years to 0.9%, in addition to the wage bill, the number of employees and international trade in goods.

As for inflation, after the strong increases that have occurred in recent years, the situation will change radically. Thus, the year 2022 closed with 7.1%. From here, Statics predicts that this year the rate of interannual variation will drop to 3.9%, but the drop will not end here, since in 2024 it will be 1.9%, in 2025 of 1.3%, in 2026 from 1% and, finally, after four years, in 2027, it will reach 0.9%.

Regarding the GDP, the forecasts will also go down, both in the case of the nominal and the real. In this way, while in 2022 it has increased by 9% (real) and 13.7% (nominal), in the next four years the Department of Statistics predicts that, just as in the case of the CPI, it will go down, until reaching 3.6% (nominal) and 1.8% (real) in 2027. The process of estimating and forecasting the evolution of Andorra's GDP for the co-



SOURCE DEPARTAMENT D'ESTADÍSTICA GRAPHIC PAKO TEMPRADO

**Labor growth** will stagnate with a decrease in the number of workers and the wage bill

ming years has required different modeling processes, both for the forecast of variations in real terms and their subsequent deflation in nominal terms.

The wage bill is identified as one of the main components of the GDP estimate on the income side. For the period 2022-2027, it has been

decided to incorporate the GDP estimate for the same period, due to the correlation between the two variables, thus being able to capture the trend for the period in question. Thus, the wage bill will also suffer a decrease, which will go from 14.9% rate of interannual variation in 2022 to 3.9% in 2027. In the

central years it will move in increments that will oscillate between 4 and 5%. Finally, the macroeconomic forecasts of Statistics are set with the number of wage earners, which will also go down. In this sense, although the increase in 2022 was 10.5%, in four years - in 2027 - it will drop to 3.2%. ≡

## Imports grow by nearly 25% during the first month of the year

Regarding fuels, the percentage change has been negative (-4.3%)

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

Imports during the month of January totaled a value of 145.86 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 24.6% compared to January of the previous year. As published yesterday by the Department of Statistics, this circumstance is due to the percentage and absolute positive variation of almost all groups, among which

stands out the transport (60%), the food (29.2%), electronics (43.9%), or pharmacy-perfume (43.5%). Conversely, the drinks and tobacco group show a negative variation of 8.4%.

With regard to the accumulation of the last twelve months, imports have had a value of 1,801.89 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 31.5% with respect to the accumulation of the last twelve months of the previous period, in which the value of imports was 1,370.13 million euros.

On the other hand, exports during the month of January totaled 13.43 million euros, with a positive

percentage change of 34.9% compared to the previous period. The exported items that stand out with a positive percentage variation and a greater absolute variation are those of jewelry (530.7%), electronics (39.7%) and industrial (87.8%). Transport items (32.8%), clothing and footwear (24.2%) and miscellaneous items (21.1%) have a more prominent negative variation.

In relation to the accumulation of the last twelve months, exports have a value of 371.01 million euros, which represents a positive percentage change of 161.6% with respect to the accumulation of the last



►► The border of the Runer river.

twelve months of the previous year. In another order of things, the import of fuels during the month of January was 14.86 million liters. This represents a negative percent-

age change compared to the same month of the previous year of 4.3%. The only fuel that shows a positive variation is unleaded petrol, with 2.2%. ≡

Don't miss any special editions of **El Periòdic!**