



BALANCE SHEET OF THE HOTEL UNION

Hotel occupancy is close to 80% in the first week of January

During the weekend of Three Kings, an average stay of 81.55% is recorded in the territory

Pas de la Casa and Andorra la Vella have the highest numbers of rooms booked

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Hotel occupancy during the first week of January reached an average of 79.56% and, specifically, on the weekend of Three Kings, 81.55% of the rooms in the country were occupied, as reported by the director of the Hotel Union of Andorra (UHA), Jordi Pujol.

The leading parishes were Pas de la Casa and Andorra la Vella, both with 88%. Behind is Escaldes-Engordany with 83.36%, followed by Encamp, Canillo and la Massana, all above 75%, while Ordino remained with 61%. As for Sant Julià de Lòria, the UHA declared that «we don't have enough data to assess it, but it seems to indicate that it would have had a fairly correct Three Kings week, above 70%».

Pujol made a very favorable assessment of the Christmas campaign, although there were not ideal weather conditions for ski-

Accommodation reservations for 2022 have reached very similar data to those recorded in 2018

ers who continued to occupy the accommodation. «Despite the lack of snow, we have had a lot of reservations, but we are always afraid that if the weather conditions or the state of the ski slopes are unfavorable, this may affect when the accommodations are canceled,» declared Pujol. He also wanted to focus on the current situation in which the country finds itself as a tourist destination, Pujol assuring that «Andorra during Christmas remains an accessible, attractive country and means that we can accompany it by offering good occupations».

Regarding the percentage of employment in 2022, a parallel has been seen with the figures recorded in 2018, since they were two very positive years. Pujol men-



► Archive image of tourists along Meritxell Avenue.

tioned that «we make a very positive assessment of these occupations if we compare them with those of previous years, we are at the 2018 figures, we have pre-pandemic data».

Hotel occupancy during the year 2022 was an average of 57.84%, according to UHA data. The months with the most employment were, first, February with 78.90%, figures very similar to those of August, with 78.67; the following months were January with 69.69%, July with 63.62% and December with 63.35%.

The months with the lowest employment were May, with 37.51%, June, with 46.87%, April with 48.50%, October with 49.11%, November with 49.46% and in September with 50.27%.



JORDI PUJOL
DIRECTOR OF ANDORRA HOTEL UNION

«Andorra during Christmas remains an accessible, attractive country and means that we can accompany it»

«Despite the lack of snow, we have had quite a few reservations, but there is always the fear that they will be canceled due to the weather»

In comparison, the average employment in 2018 was 56.61%. The months in which there was more influx were February with 84.53%, followed by January with 77.73%, August with 75.74% and closely followed by March with 70.83%. The months with the least employment were May with 36.19%, April with 40.22%, June with 40.84%, October with 44.31% and November with 44.71%

From the UHA they wanted to thank, through a statement, the work done by the various snow fields pointing out that «we want to make a special mention to all the workers of Andorra's ski companies. We feel proud and at the same time to congratulate the work they have done and continue to do.»

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The delay in unpaid invoices from the Government is 69 days on average

Marquina assures that the ministry has not received any formal claim, but that those affected will be compensated

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The Government assures that the invoices that currently remain to be paid to suppliers have an average age of 69 days. In his first appearance as Minister Spokesperson, the new head of Finance -replacing Eric Jover who resigned on Monday -, César Marquina, assured yesterday that even some of the bills that still need to be paid «are within the 60-day terms that the Government has to be able to satisfy the payments», so the will of the Executive is to liquidate everything as soon as possible, but prioritizing the suppliers who have been waiting longer.

Precisely, the new Minister Spokesperson recalled that today the answer to an oral question formulated by the PS on this matter in the General Council is scheduled. It will be at that moment, therefore, when «we will give all the details», although he advanced that since the month of May, the volume of invoices has been reduced to a third as has the overall amount in to pay. This fact «shows a positive evolutionary line».

The delay in payment to suppliers has occurred as a result of the lack of staff in the Accounting Department and following the in-



▶ Archive image of the Government's administrative building.

corporation of the new computer system. For this reason, Marquina highlighted that since the Government detected this situation of non-payments, «they have not stopped making decisions to increase the volume of people who work in the invoice center». At the same time, it has also been decided to train the budget managers of the various

ministries with the aim of «increasing the level of people's training».

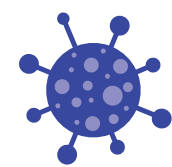
However, the head of Finance assured that, although the ministry has never received a formal claim for a similar circumstance, the affected companies will be compensated if they request it and «are within the eligibility criteria».

On the other hand, and in relation

to the delay in the return of the hydrocarbon tax to professional drivers, Marquina informed that, once closed in 2022, those interested will be able to present the form so that the return of up to 6,000 liters. In this sense, he pointed out that, «it is a matter of weeks before it is resolved», as reported by the ANA. ≡

Health opens the fourth dose of covid to the entire population

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The Government has decided to extend to the entire population the possibility of receiving the fourth

dose of the vaccine against covid-19, until now, reserved for people over 60 years of age. So far, 2,096 doses have been administered, which represents 11.7% of this age group. It should be remembered that for a few months now, for the recall vaccines - that is to say the third and fourth doses -, bivalent vaccines have been administered, manufactured from the initial strain and the micron variants that have subsequently circulated more often. Regarding the health data, an increase of 26 cases has been detected compared to the last balance and 40 active cases are counted - nine less than the last update - and there have been 47,608 discharges. The number of total cases since the beginning of the pandemic rises to 47,807 cases. ≡



SFGA/C.ESTEVE

MARQUINA SWEARS THE CHARGE AS NEW MINISTER

Andorra la Vella ◦ César Marquina was sworn in yesterday as the new Minister of Finance and Spokesperson after the resignation of Eric Jover. He will also

assume the functions of the Secretary of State for Digital Transformation and Strategic Projects which he has been in charge of until now.

The minimum wage will rise by 7.1%, according to the 2022 CPI

The increase will also apply to non-contributory benefits

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The Government has approved an increase in the interprofessional minimum wage of 7.1%, bearing in mind that the 2022 CPI has been set at this same percentage. So, for this year the minimum wage is 7.42 euros per hour from January 1st. Therefore, the monthly amount reaches 1,286.13 euros, a figure that has not been modified considering that the increase in the minimum wage in November already included a rounding of the amount upwards. In fact, the Minister Spokesperson, César Marquina, recalled that from December 2021, and taking into account the salary increase that took place in May, the Government has increased the minimum wage by 14%. ≡

The increase in the minimum wage (and, therefore, also in the Economic Threshold of Social Cohesion, the LECS), directly implies the increase in some non-contributory benefits such as benefits for involuntary unemployment; family benefits for dependent child; solidarity pensions for people with disabilities; solidarity pensions for the elderly; non-contributory supplements for old age, invalidity and widowhood; temporary widowhood pensions, and orphanhood pensions. The decree will enter into force the day after it is published in BOPA.

The decision to increase the interprofessional minimum wage, as pointed out by the Government, responds to the will to continue taking steps to achieve the objective of gradually equating the minimum wage to the real cost of living and with the will to advance in the recommendation of the Council of Europe to set the minimum wage at 60% of the average wage. ≡

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