



COST OF LIVING

The CPI changes trend and goes down in July for the first time in 2022

Last month's annual variation was +7.3%, one tenth less than in June

Esport trusts in social agreement to apply the salary increase next year

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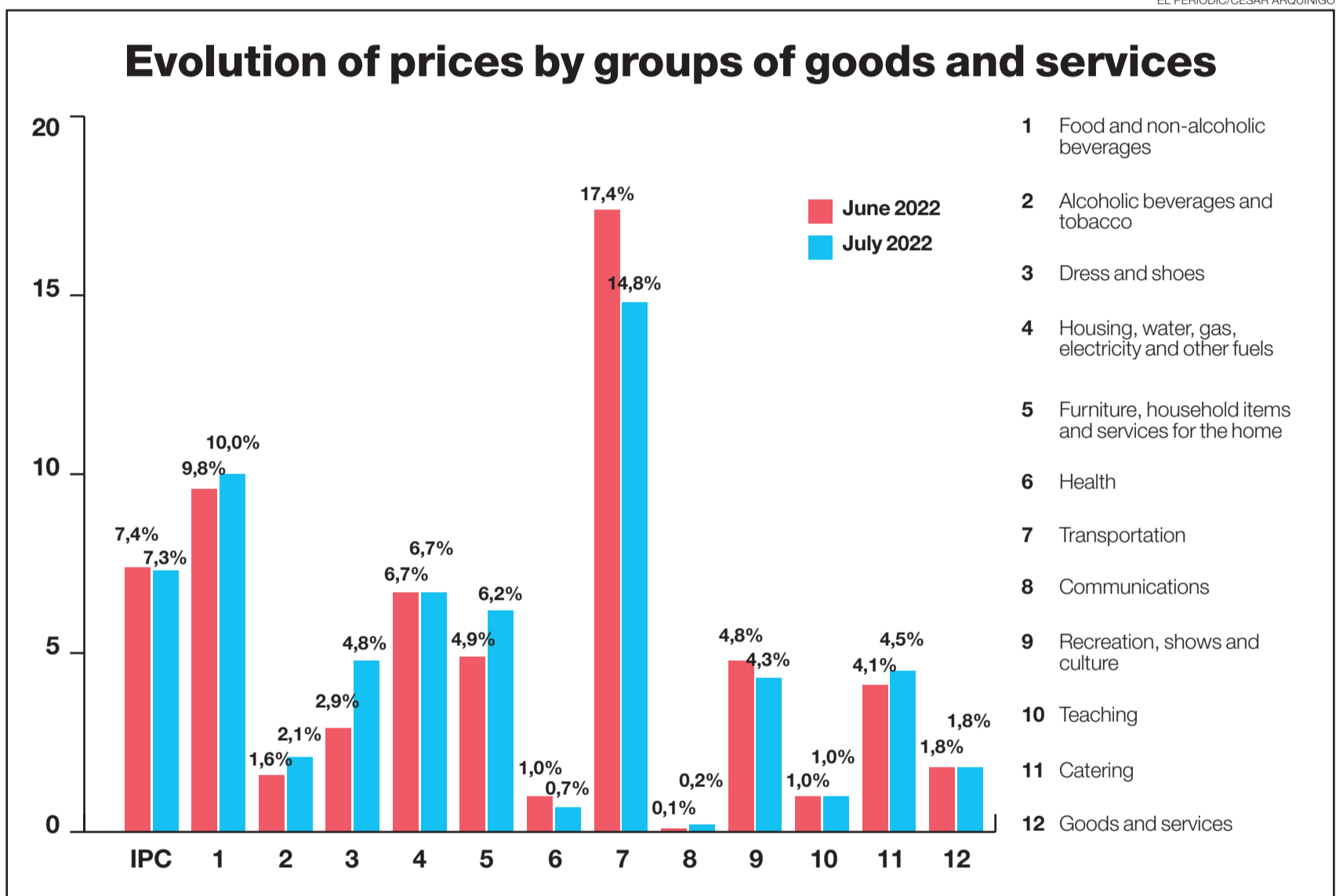
Trend change. For the first time since the year 2022 began, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has fallen. If at the beginning of the year it started with 3.6% (in 2021 it was 3.3%), during the first half of the year it was increasing month by month, until reaching 7.4% in June. Thus, the annual variation corresponding to the month of July has been set at 7.3% (July 2021: +1.9%), one tenth less than last month and three tenths less than the advanced indicator (7.6%).

With these data, the monthly variation was -0.2%, while in June of this year it varied by +0.8%. This decrease in the monthly variation is mainly a consequence of a decrease in the prices of urban transport (with a monthly variation of -34.3%) and the performance of the prices of petroleum products (June 2022: +6.4% towards July 2022: -0.4%). On the other hand, clothing and footwear and food and alcoholic beverages have continued to rise.

As for the underlying inflation -variation in the CPI without taking energy products and fresh products into consideration -, it stands at +3.5% in relation to the same month of the previous year and the cumulative CPI of 2022 is set at 5.4%.

Compared to neighboring countries, Spain has a higher index than Andorra and France, which is lower. Specifically, Spain's CPI for the month of July stands at +10.8%, increasing by six tenths compared to the month of June, with housing as the main inflationary group. In turn, France's CPI for the month of July stands at +6.1%, increasing by three tenths compared to the previous month, with the services sector at the forefront of the price increase.

With this context, the Head of Government, Xavier Espot, trusts «to reach consensual solutions» between unions and employers to address the increase in the CPI on salaries for next year. In this way, «whatever the measure that needs to be applied, what is necessary is for the social partners to agree with each other», he said yesterday in Encamp, as reported by the ANA. In fact, the head of government



XAVIER ESPOT
HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
«If wages are not finally increased by the full CPI, the full percentage cannot be applied to rents»

expressed the desire that consensus can be obtained between the two parties without it being necessary for the government to impose the measures, although he advanced that «if this consensual solution does not arrive», the Executive will have to take «responsibility» and promote the measures that «think appropriate». «More than ever, it's about building trust in social coordination», he assured.

The Government is willing to «encourage» that there is an agreement between workers and employers and that a «unilateral measure» should not be taken. Espot considers that the negotiations will have to be tackled in the autumn, when it is already more defined what the CPI can finally be. What will be needed, he stressed, is that the «purchasing capacity» of families is preserved and that at the same

time «the business fabric is not put in danger», since «if inflation is rampant, it will be difficult for them to be able to assume the full percentage».

However, he warned that «if wages are not finally increased by the full CPI, what cannot be done is to apply the full percentage to rents», because «in this way it would be affecting in a very substantial way the purchasing power of the most vulnerable layers» of society.

The head of the Executive trusts that within the framework of the Economic and Social Council there can be a consensus and that it could even go beyond wages and be an income pact. In this sense, he believes that it would still be «better» because it would take into account «the rest of the expenses» that families have to deal with. ≡

Annual variation

+7,3%

Monthly variation

-0,2%

Cumulative CPI 2022

+5,4%

Underlying inflation (Annual variation)

+3,5%

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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Mountain resorts will be sustainable in 30 years

Vallnord-Pal Arinsal believes that efficient water management in facilities is one of the main objectives

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The mountain resorts will be self-sufficient and will operate in an energetically sustainable way, at least, until the year 2050. This was emphasized in an interview with andorrabiosfera.ad by the general director of Vallnord-Pal Arinsal, Josep Marticella, after assuring that the will of Setap365 is «the deseasonalization of the sector to avoid concentrating the ecological footprint of the stations' activity in a short period of time». In fact, Marticella indicated that, currently, no project is given the green light that does not previously have an environmental impact report and the energy consequences. However, one of the most important items to achieve the sustainability of the domains is the efficient management of water resources.

As he stated in the interview, the creation of the business holding «has sustainability as its backbone». So much so that he gave as an example the enabling of free public transport for everyone during the celebration of the MTB World Cup in order to reduce the carbon emissions caused by the accumulation of private vehicles and, at the same time, avoid a collapse in the Principality's road network by ensuring smooth mobility. In addition, «we carried out a solidarity rounding process to dedicate resources to social organizations».

Following the same direction, Marticella assured that the carbon footprint of the skiers within the domain of the resort is 5% of the total «from the time they leave their home until they return there». In this sense, Setap365 is working on the development of hydrogen for the operation of snow machines. In addition, he also assured that the Principality is one of the pioneers when it comes to optimizing water resources in mountain resorts, especially in winter, through studies with research centers and collaborations with the University of Lleida



► An archive image of part of the Vallnord-Pal Arinsal ski area.

«We can collect water near the stations to materialize the cultivated snow, which does not affect the ecosystem because we simply move it from one space to another without distorting the quality».

In relation to energy saving and the generation of renewables, the director of the company stated that 40% of the energy used in the ski areas of Pal Arinsal comes from the Pic del Cubil solar park. Going into the details of the photovoltaic generation of these facilities, as the director of Nord

40% of the electricity consumed in the Massana domains comes from the Pic del Cubil park

Andorrà, David Forné, previously stated to this rotary, there were occasional days in the last winter season in which the station consumed the 100% of the electricity coming from the solar park, exceeding the forecasts of the same company.

With regard to the existence of ski slopes in an area qualified as a Biosphere Reserve, Marticella indicated that this does not pose any obstacle to the development of the socio-economic activity of the territory. In fact, he sta-



Josep Marticella

DIRECTOR VALLNORD-PAL ARINSAL

«The sustainability process goes through the balance between biodiversity, the socio-economic axis and the people of a territory»

«Andorra will become the first Biosphere Reserve country because it is a common goal and it will be a very good recognition»

ted that «whether it costs more or less, Andorra will become the first Biosphere Reserve country because it is a common goal and it will be a recognition that will position us very well». In addition, he added that the sustainability process of a territory goes through «the balance between the biodiversity factor, the socio-economic axis and the people».

Finally, referring to the international collaboration between snow tourism countries, Marticella indicated that «due to the fact that we all work together in extreme weather conditions, we are very united». In this way, he assured that there are networks in the world of skiing that promote cooperation, such as Domains Skiables de France (DSF), which «give you access to visit the facilities, explain their operation and share the techniques they use when managing the stations, far from thinking that this is a market prospecting to make them compete». ≡

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