



LABOR MARKET

Less than 400 unemployed

Those registered in search of work fell in July by 7.3% compared to June and by 46.6% in a year

The figures are the best since 2018 and, if Ukrainian refugees are subtracted, since 2008

FONT: DEPARTAMENT D'ESTADÍSTICA

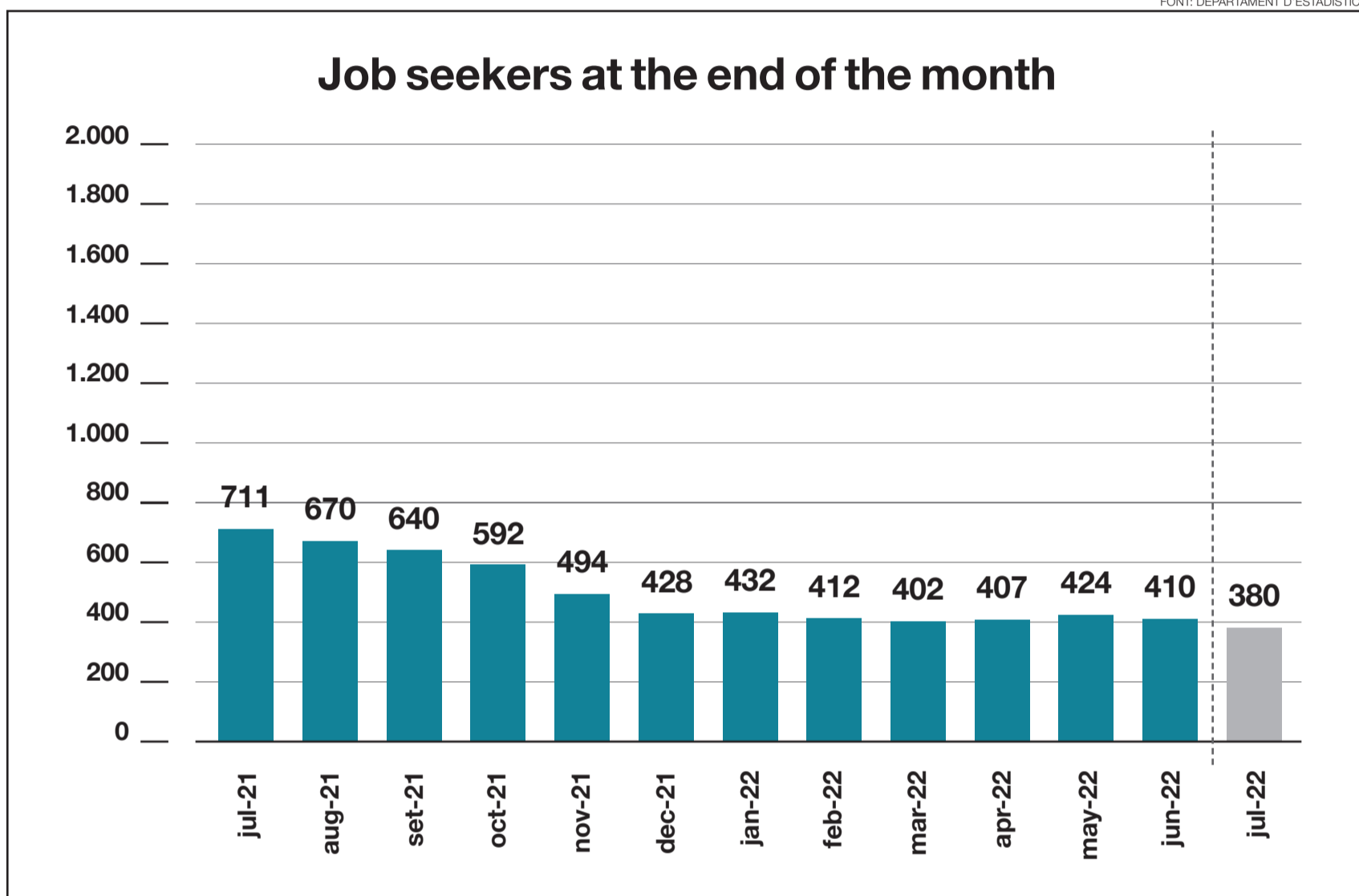
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The numbers of people registered in the Employment Service looking for work continue to fall. In fact, as revealed yesterday by the Department of Statistics, this July they have dropped from 400 to 380, 7.3% lower than the previous month (June, 410) and 46.6% less which is now a year ago (July 2021, 711). «They are very good indicators, since we have to go back to 2018 to have similar data, and if we read more carefully, excluding the Ukrainian refugees, we have to go back to 2007-2008», recalled the Minister of Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo. «This indicates - he added - that there is a good post-covid recovery and it becomes clear that the crisis was more due to conjunctural factors than structural ones».

Gallardo considers that the summer quota campaign «is working» and that «we look with optimism» at the winter season. «The pilot test has been positive on the part of all the sectors that asked for labor, and now, as they wanted, they will have continuity after the summer», said the Minister of Economy. In addition, «certainly when we close the summer figure, we will be below the 380 registered looking for work, which means 0.9% of the wage bill, at a time when the population has increased». At the same time, he acknowledged that at the beginning of autumn there could be a rise in the unemployed.

One of the important sectors for the country's economy, construction, will suffer a slowdown in Andorra and the rest of Europe, according to Gallardo, citing expert sources. «We are relatively concerned, because the decline can cause a transfer of workers to other sectors and, moreover, we are now at a time when we need to reflect on the country we want, the constructive model or the population burdens that can be assumed, and that it will help us to reposition the sector and its impact on our GDP», predicted Gallardo.

THE MAXIMUM PEAK // The numbers of unemployed people have fallen steadily since February 2021 - at that time, there were 1,323 people registered -. The peak with the maximum number of registered people was



Jordi Gallardo
MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND BUSINESS

«The data tells us that there is a good post-covid recovery and that the crisis was more due to conjunctural and not structural factors»

«We are relatively concerned about construction, because we need a reflection that will help us to resituate the sector and its impact on GDP»

just after the outbreak of the pandemic, in May 2020, when there were 1,761 people registered with the Employment Service.

As for job improvement applicants at the end of last month, there were 324 (352 the previous month), which represents a monthly variation of -8.0% and a variation of -47.7% compared to July in 2021 (619 people).

On the other hand, the total number of jobs offered by the Employment Service at the end of July was 1,381 (1,371 the previous month), equivalent to a monthly variation of +0.7% and a variation of +36.9% compared to July 2021 (1,009 job offers). In terms of recruitment, during the month of July 24 people found work thanks to this service, and five through the temporary work programs. Through the program to improve employability in the public sector, two people have been hired, and three through the private sector.

Another significant piece of data released yesterday by the Department of Statistics refers to aid for involuntary unemployment. Thus, only 19 were granted in July, -17.4% compared to the previous month (23 people) and -89.1% compared to July of the previous year (175).

During the appearance before the media, the head of the Presidency, Economy and Business referred to the training courses promoted by the Employment Service. In this sense, he explained that a catalog of all the training is being drawn up with the Economic and Social Council, with the aim of offering some more training in the autumn.

Regarding the conferences held in neighboring territories to publicize Andorra's job offer, the minister indicated that «apart from the ones we hold in La Seu d'Urgell and L'Arieja, we are thinking of and some others a little further away, in areas with high demand in the summer and not so much in the winter.»

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HEALTH

Assandca charges the SAAS for its «total disorganization»

The organization claims that leaving cancer patients without psychological care for six months is very «harmful»

MARICEL BLANCH



►► File image of patients at Hospital Nostra Senyora de Meritxell.

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«We do not understand how the SAAS has allowed the luxury of leaving patients without access to a service as important as psycho-oncology for six months». This is how the president of the Andorran Association against Cancer (Assandca), Josep Saravia, complained about the management of psychological support for cancer patients. Not only was the health service the object of criticism from the association, but Saravia also influen-

ced the action of the Government, which «has been indifferent to the fight against cancer throughout the legislature». Despite this, he emphasized that the actions that were taken forward, such as for example the enabling of taxis to move to Barcelona, «are actions facing the gallery and, although they make things easier, we still do not have a health infrastructure that allows the disease to be combated in the country».

Following the same line, Assandca states that the absence of the psychological figure specialized in oncology is very «harmful» to face the treatments. Saravia emphasized

that many people were left without guidance and «if this is not found in the initial phase of detection, subsequent referral becomes much more difficult, both for the patients and their relatives». At the same time, the SAAS referred the patients to «conventional psychologists, who are not exclusively focused on oncology and cannot provide the degree of specialized care that these cases require». After the announcement of the incorporation of a new psycho-oncologist, Saravia pointed out that «professionals must always come from outside, despite the fact that there are very well-prepared people in the Principality».

Font will meet with the association to assess the establishment of screenings and the casuistry of the disease

In this way, the president of Assandca said that he is waiting to meet with the new psycho-oncologist to study the new dynamics that he wants to adopt and to «see if we reach new agreements that will allow us to organize more group sessions with people affected by cancer». In this regard, Saravia assured that «if meetings are held with different people who have the same pathology, this helps them a lot to unload emotionally and cope better with the treatments». At this point, Saravia indicated that the group sessions are not only beneficial for those affected by the disease, but also for relatives and close people in order to facilitate the emotional management of this situation.

On the other hand, Assandca plans to meet this week with the Minister of Health, Albert Font, for the second time with the aim of «solving the issue of the health data of those affected by cancer in the country on an annual basis». As Saravia emphasized, «it is our main demand focused on the ministry; it is not possible that we still do not have reliable figures on the number of cases, the age groups affected and the typology».

In addition, he also highlighted some of the aspects that were discussed with Font's predecessor. Thus, the association aims to revive some of the promises that «Benazet made us about the detection of retinoblastoma (eye cancer) in children». However, Saravia highlighted the case of a girl who lost an eye a few years ago, noting that «after three years behind the ministry's promise, the head of Health told us that it is still in the drawer». However, he stated that the coronavirus pandemic brought all other disease initiatives to a standstill.

Finally, Assandca reiterated that it is still waiting for the Government to give the green light to the training of pediatricians so that they can influence the early detection of retinoblastoma in children. He also made clear the «need to continue developing prostate cancer detection systems and the screenings that the population needs, since scientists assure that in a few years, more than a third of the population will suffer from some type of this disease». ≡

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