



STATE BUDGET

## Housing and mobility dominate the new infrastructures with 18 million euros

The 2023 accounts foresee a 12% increase in income and 13% in expenditure

Economy and Business leads the increase among ministries for free public transport

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The first ordinary budget after the pandemic foresees a 12% increase in income and a 13% increase in expenses, with 18.3 million euros of real investment in new housing and mobility infrastructures, and inflation of 4.5% at the end of the year, as revealed yesterday by the Minister of Finance, Eric Jover, during the presentation of the State accounts for 2023, which have already begun the parliamentary process in the General Council.

In conclusion, Jover pointed out that it is a budget that returns to normalcy, strengthens the pillars of the welfare state, tackles the problem of housing and purchasing power, bets on digitization and other productive investments and increases the resilience of the State. Returning to inflation, although it is currently at 6.8% (advance from September, latest data available),

### Budget result

	Budget 2023	Budget 2022	Variation 23 vs 22	% Variation 23 vs 22
Current income	522,302,807	465,002,857	57,299,949	12%
Operating expenses	(453,515,293)	(402,148,918)	51,366,375	13%
Capital income	4,184	5,441	(1,257)	(23)%
Capital expenditure	(82,698,257)	(73,058,449)	9,639,808	13%
Management surplus or deficit	<b>(13,906,559)</b>	<b>(10,199,069)</b>	<b>3,707,490</b>	<b>36%</b>
Financial expenses	(17,543,441)	(16,296,514)	1,246,927	8%
<b>Cash surplus or deficit</b>	<b>(31,450,000)</b>	<b>(26,495,582)</b>	<b>4,954,418</b>	<b>19%</b>

**The inflation forecast** remains at 4.5%, although Finance recognizes that it will be higher, between 4.5 and 6.8

Finance has placed the forecast for 2022 at 4.5% in the accounts. «I think it will be higher, between this 4.5 and the current 6.8, but we can manage the difference without the need to resort to extraordinary credits», assured Jover.

Regarding the income subject, the figure reaches 522 million euros (12% increase), with direct taxes (+20%), indirect taxes (+10%) and fees (+28 %) among the main increases. «The execution figures for 2022 are well above the initial estimates, so the forecast we make is conservative», revealed the head of Finance.

As for expenses, the figure reaches 553 million euros, 471 in current expenditure (personnel and transfers) and 83 in capital expenditure, with real investments of 44 million euros. If we look precisely at

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Infrastructures National	National heliport (3 M€)
Borda Nova (6.6 M€)	La Massana diversion (2.7 M€)
Purchase of housing at an affordable price (5 M€)	Ampliació de la Universitat d'Andorra (1 M€)
Homes protected by the CREI (1 M€)	Digitalization (13 M€)

these investments, the items in new housing and mobility infrastructure stand out. In the first section, there is the Borda Nova (6.6 million euros), the purchase of homes at an affordable price (5 million euros) and homes protected by the CREI (1 million euros), where it is planned to use two disused floors of the

new building to carry out an independent project, with entrance to the side included. In terms of mobility, it includes the national heliport (3 million euros) and the Masana bypass (2.7 million euros). In addition, it is necessary to add the expansion of the University of Andorra (1 million euros) and the digi-



**ERIC JOVER**  
FINANCE MINISTER

«I think the CPI will be higher than 4.5%, but we can manage the difference without resorting to extraordinary credits»

tization process, with a total of 13 million euros.

By ministries, they all increase the game for 2023, but some more than others. At the head of the increases are the Presidency, Economy and Business, with an increase of 40%, mainly due to the aforementioned heliport and free public transport (4.7 million euros). Territory and Housing presents an increase of 27%, with the CREI and Borda Nova as star projects, and Tourism and Telecommunications, with a 20% increase, with the aim of investing the collection of the tourist tax in the infrastructure of the sector, as well as 3.3 million direct injection to Andorra Tourism.

On the other hand, the projected deficit, of 31.45 million euros, is less than 1% of the estimated Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the public debt of the general administration, which the Executive places at the end of 2022 in 1,190 million euros, nor does it exceed the mark of 40% of GDP. In this sense, Jover indicated that it will stand at 39.4%, a figure that, if the international reserves of the State that have been created in recent years are not taken into account, would drop to 36.1%. In addition, the forecast is that public debt will continue to decline next year, falling to 38.5% of GDP -35.4% without taking reserves into account.

On the other hand, Finance has again indexed the entire budget based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with the purpose of checking where the Government's budgetary efforts are focused. The data shows that more than half of next year's items, 54% of the total, are directly related to the ODS traditionally linked to the Welfare State: health and well-being; education and quality; gender equality; reduction of inequalities and peace, justice and strong institutions. ≡

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LABOR RELATIONS

# Difficulty covering the guards in the medical transport due to lack of cash

The workers sign the letter of subrogation that will maintain the rights they had with the previous licensee company

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The new licensee company in charge of non-medicalized medical transport in the country, the Andorran UTE of Health Transport, has a personnel problem. This was explained by the representative of the Union of Andorra (USdA), Joan Torra, to EL PERIÒDIC, who also expressed that, in a meeting held last Friday, the head of operations and of the promoters of Valira Ambulances, David Montero, acknowledged that the guards who can be located cannot be covered due to this lack of cash. At the same time, the representative of the USdA expressed that in order to carry out the position, the technicians who until now served in Ambulances del Pirineu «are asked to take a lot of responsibility and a two-year training that many people do

**Time planning has been stabilized**, as well as compliance with payroll and employee rights

not have, but the salary is very low». Therefore, he assessed that no one wants to go to work in «these conditions» and that, now, the responsibility to solve the problem lies with the company and the Andorran Health Care Service (SAAS), «which I think has already taken any action regarding this breach of the license contract», said Torra, who also observed that «the lack of workers obviously cannot be covered, but I suppose that the SAAS will do the most relevant, because as well as they have to put the ambulances, they also have to put the staff, and if they can't find them, it's a problem.» This medium has contacted the SAAS to find out its version of the events, but has not received a response at the time of writing.

Regarding the irregularities reported by the group of workers, the representative of the USdA remarked that «things have calmed down



► One of the ambulances of the new contractor.

a little», since the lawyers of the union and the SAAS have drawn up a letter of subrogation that the employees have already signing and which replaces the previous one, which «was not clear, had errors and was poorly drafted», he pointed out. Now, the workforce will be able to keep the labor rights provided for by the old license company. At the same time, the planning, which the workers assured was «indefinite and not equitable» has also been stabilized, also respecting what was foreseen in the previous contract. Regarding the compliance of the payrolls, Torra explained that this month there will be no problem, because the em-

ployees will not receive the supplements, that is to say, they will only receive the ordinary salary. However, from October «it will be a little more complicated» because they will work at night and the license

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**JOAN TORRA**  
USDA UNION REPRESENTATIVE

«It requires a lot of responsibility and a two-year training that many people don't have, but the salary is very low»

company will have to pay the supplements and overtime, a situation that can give way to problems, among others, because initially the workers they also explained that the company had imposed voluntary guards. Even so, the representative of the USdA indicated that «we don't know how the new company will manage it, but we hope well». Finally, regarding the affiliation of the workers to the Andorran Social Security Fund (CASS), which had been identified as not being made in the name of the successful bidder, Torra explained that it is a problem in which the UTE «cannot act due to Andorran legislation», but the letter of subrogation

foresees that the company will be in solidarity when solving any problem such as that of affiliation to the CASS.

Ultimately, workers are calmer because there have been improvements in the working climate. Even so, the union representative pointed out that now, what is needed is to create different agreements to improve the conditions of the surrogates, since the general malaise causes, consequently, even more difficulties in finding new staff. However, Torra assessed that if more workers are not hired or cannot be found, it will be very difficult to be able to fulfill the service normally. ≡

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