



WELCOME TO 2023

## Tourist accommodations expect 95% occupancy by New Year's Eve

Ruiz points out that the owners who have increased the price have not done so by more than 15%

From the AEAT they assure that the 'overbooking' situation of 2021 will not be repeated this year



MARICEL BLANCH

►► Various tourist apartments in the Tarter area.

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According to statements by the president of the Association of Tourist Accommodation Companies (AEAT), Alex Ruiz, the sector of this type of stay is expected to have an occupancy of between 85 and 95% by New Year's Eve, perhaps even reaching 97%. It is, therefore, «similar figures to last year», pointed out Ruiz. In the same way that it already happened with Christmas, this year the beginning of the year falls on a weekend, very good dates for the group. Regarding the employment figu-

res for the Christmas holiday, the president of the AEAT pointed out that «we have closed around 75 and 85% of reservations almost every day». Data also similar to those of 2021 which, as Ruiz recalled, «we were very good and have continued to be so this year». He also celebrated that people «have responded well» even though inflation and the price of petrol might have caused «a bit of fear» initially.

On the other hand, the president assured that from Sant Esteve more people are starting to come to the Principality. Thus, in general terms, «we are between 86 and 90% occupied until January 5th». From then



**ALEX RUIZ**  
PRESIDENT OF THE AEAT

«We have closed around 75 and 85% of the bookings [for the Christmas holiday] almost every day»

on, however, the number will start to drop especially in Pas de la Casa, «where we are having a lot of cancellations because French schools start earlier». In relation to this, the high occupation in Tarter and Canillo lasts until the 5th of the first month of the year because «people

prefer to celebrate the Three Kings Day at home».

Regarding the prices, Ruiz pointed out that just as there are accommodations that have not raised them, others have done so «given the current situation». In this sense, the cost of the stay «has increa-

sed between 5 and 15%», without reaching this last percentage in any case. On the other hand, the president emphasized that from the AEAT they have realized that this year many people have stopped going to restaurants and going out, and that, instead, they choose to bring «a lot of things from their country» and eat on the floor.

In relation to reservations in advance, Ruiz emphasized that this year «they are doing a little better than in 2021». In this sense, prompted by the recent tendency to make reservations at the last minute, he pointed out that «this year we see that people have scheduled more time». And he added that «there is always someone, but we do not notice this trend in tourist accommodation as we could have done in other

**Spanish tourists** again represent the vast majority of customers, followed by the French and the English

years». Likewise, he stated that cancellations «have increased a little more» compared to other years. It should be remembered that last Christmas many apartments reached their full occupancy and others even had an overbooking of reservations. Thus, Ruiz explained that surely «some accommodations will put up the full poster», but that, in principle, «overbooking will not be repeated».

Finally, in terms of customer nationalities, the Spanish once again represent approximately 80% of users, the same figure as in 2021. In addition, «the French and English represent a high percentage of tourists» and also, in a minority, «those from northern Europe». ≡

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ENERGY

# Fewer blackouts and more time without supply in 2022

According to FEDA, the average amount of electricity in the European Union is 77% more expensive for domestic customers

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**40** % less blackouts, but a slight increase in the time when there was no supply. This is FEDA's balance sheet compared to last year. Thus, over the course of this year, customers have had an electricity supply interruption time of 16.84 minutes, which represents a slight increase compared to last year, when the average per customer it was 16.38. In total, as reported by the company, during this year there have been 22 cuts due to scheduled interventions, which represents 68.75% of the total. And, in addition, there have been a total of ten cuts due to incidents.

As mentioned, and compared to last year, there have been 40% fewer blackouts, despite the increase in outage time. According to the data collected in FEDA's annual report, it was in 2018 that the record for cut-off times of the last twelve years was broken. Specifically, the supply was interrupted for a total of 32.41 minutes. In contrast, the year

**The annual survey** detects a decrease in customer satisfaction, mainly due to a worse perception of the price

in which there was less impact was 2015, when on average customers only experienced blackouts for 2.94 minutes.

Thus, and except for 2018, since 2012 (when the average time was 22.98 minutes) the highest times have occurred in these last two years, in 2021 and 2022, since until now, if exclude 2018, the highest time without light had been 2017 with 13.08.

FEDA's report also collects data on customer satisfaction with the service provided by the company. It should be noted that the increase in prices has had a negative impact on the grade they have given. Thus, it goes from 8.3 in 2021 to 7.8 this year. Customers rated the price 6.6. On the other hand, the previous year the price had been valued at 7.4, the highest figure since 2011. In fact, the average over the last eleven years has been around 7.

From FEDA they note that during the first half of the year the price of electricity in Andorra has been among the most competitive in Europe. Thus, for domestic customers,



►► FEDA headquarters.

the average price of electricity in the European Union (EU) has been 77% more expensive. It should be noted that the tariff in Spain has been 115% more expensive and in France

46%. FEDA points out that with the increase made this December «they continue to be very competitive rates compared to the surroundings». Electricity consumption during

the year 2022 has been marked by the recovery of demand after the covid crisis, but it has also been affected, due to the energy crisis, by the need to promote energy savings.

the figures

**115%** more expensive the price of electricity in Spain and 46% in France.

**13,556** kilometers of average electric vehicle load trips.

**1.85%** have increased the number of FEDA customers during 2022.

Thus, until December 18th, the consumption has reached 540,000 MWh, a figure that is 6.9% higher than the consumption of the year 2021 on the same date.

On the other hand, the number of FEDA clients continues to grow at a rate similar to that of recent years. The number of customers has increased in 2022 by 1.85% and contracted power has increased by 1.7%. The number of customers with photovoltaic installations, on the other hand, is growing exponentially and this year has increased by almost 50%.

On the other hand, according to the parapublic's report from last year, FEDA Ecoterm has grown greatly, with the deployment of the Andorra la Vella heat network, the increase in energy supplied by the network of Soldeu El Tarter and the commissioning of the Escaldes-Engordany heating and cooling network. The reception from customers has been «much higher» than expected and there are already enough for the deployment of the networks and requests for new affiliates that will be studied as part of possible extensions.

Regarding the charging of electric vehicles, FEDA Solutions has continued to facilitate this service. On public roads, a total of 236,807 kwh were recharged, the equivalent of an average of 13,556 kilometers of travel. Also, the charging speed has increased and goes from 6 to 10 kwh.

Finally, among this year's projects that will continue during 2023, FEDA highlights the high-voltage line between Encamp and Grau Roig, which will triple the electricity transport capacity. This infrastructure will help absorb the production of new renewable energy sources and help limit the effect of energy price peaks in neighboring countries. ≡