

el Periòdic News

PRICE VARIATIONS

Andorran smokers spend an average of 150 euros

Expenses can vary due to different factors such as the brand, the product or the establishment where it is purchased

ARXIU EL PERIÒDIC



The prices of almost all tobacco formats have increased over time, except for tobacco heating devices.

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Tobacco consumption represents a monthly expense of between 40 and 200 euros for smokers in the country, depending on the type of product and the format chosen. This difference in costs depends on several factors, such as the type of tobacco consumed and the establishment where it is purchased. “I spend approximately 40 euros a month on rolling tobacco, while I have spent up to 150 euros on industrial tobacco,” explained a

consumer to El Periòdic.

One of the elements that affects the variability of prices is the point of sale. Prices can vary between tobacconists, supermarkets, bars, conventional stores and vending machines. “I have noticed an increase in prices in the bar compared to other months, but I have not had this perception in the supermarket,” commented another consumer.

In addition, the brand of tobacco plays a key role in the final cost. There are brands considered cheaper, such as Aus-



MERCHANT

«This situation has led to more and more people opting for tobacco heating devices»

tin, with a price of 29.95 euros per carton, while brands such as Marlboro can reach 43.95 euros for the same type of product. Despite this difference of 14 euros, several establishments have stated that “Marlboro is probably the best-selling brand.” A saleswoman from an establishment specializing in the sale of tobacco has pointed out that, despite the 37% increase recently approved in Spain, “at the moment there has not been a significant increase in price here in the country.”

Regarding the type of product, it has been observed that the prices of almost all tobacco formats have increased over time, except for tobacco heating devices, such as IQOS. «This situation has led to more and more people opting for this type of product,» have highlighted sources in the sector.

Thus, it is observed how the tobacco market continues to experience changes, both in prices and in consumption preferences, in a context of regulations and tax increases that can influence consumer decisions. ●



TOBACCO CONSUMER

«In the bar I have noticed an increase in prices compared to other months, but, on the other hand, in the supermarket I have not noticed it»

FINANCIAL FRAUD BY A WORKER

The defense accuses CASS of managing the funds during the looting period

The Public Prosecutor's Office maintains the accusation of money laundering and requests an eight-year prison sentence

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The trial against the former head of inspection of the Andorra Social Security Fund (CASS) concluded this Friday amidst a tense atmosphere, especially on the part of the defense. The defendant's lawyer questioned the role of CASS in managing the funds and criticized the prosecution's argument, stating: «It's funny that they say that the defendant did it very badly, but no one asks how CASS did it during this time?».

In his speech, the defense stressed that it was not until 2015 that it was warned that there should not be so many cash in CASS. He also highlighted that between 2017 and 2018, it is strange that no one noticed that the defendant was allegedly withdrawing funds, although it is estimated that during this period, she could have stolen an average of 15,000 euros per month.

In his turn to speak, the defen-



The headquarters of Justice.



DEFENSE LAWYER

“It is the accused has done very badly, but no one is considering how the CASS has done it.»

se tried to dismantle the argument of the Prosecutor's Office, which maintains that the defendant cannot allege a gambling addiction as a mitigating factor.

According to the public prosecutor, the accused was fully aware of her actions. In this regard, the Public Prosecutor's Office has noted that «at no time has an expert report been provided that proves the disorder».

Faced with this accusation, the defense has maintained that the mitigating factor should be considered, given that the accused entered bingo more than 3,500 times. In addition, it has emphasized the fact that the ac-

cused lost control of her actions over a period of two years due to her addiction to gambling, also known as gambling addiction.

At the same time, the Public Prosecutor's Office has confirmed the accusation of money laundering, arguing that the accused and her alleged accomplice, her romantic partner, acquired a property in Portugal and financed several trips with the stolen funds. Considering these arguments, the defense has maintained that the property in Portugal is owned by the defendant's partner and that it was her who made the payments.

Once all the arguments were presented, the court has left the case pending for a ruling, which will be made public on April 2nd. The Public Prosecutor's Office has reaffirmed its request for a sentence for the defendant, requesting a sentence of eight years in prison, a fine of 700,000 euros and a 10-year disqualification from holding any position similar to the one she held. ●

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