



ECONOMY

Food 14% more expensive

The CPI rose by 7.4% in January and the forecast is that it will continue to rise

Housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels rise to 7.8%

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The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of January has been set at 7.4%, a figure higher than the 3.6% recorded during the same period in 2022. The figure is also higher than in the past December when it stood at 7.1%. As published yesterday by the Department of Statistics of the Government of the Principality, the main groups that have increased inflation have been that of food and non-alcoholic beverages, which have grown by six tenths and stand at 14.1% and that of housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels which rises to 7.8%, thus presenting a growth of three tenths.

Still, there have been other groups that have helped moderate inflation. Recreation, entertainment and culture has decreased by one point and six tenths and is at negative 7.5%, and communications has decreased by one point and two tenths and is at negative 1.2.

If we talk about underlying inflation, this has been set at 5.4%, two points below the registered CPI. In the rest of the special groups, the decrease in the annual variation of the CPI for petroleum products stands out, going from 24.5% last month to 19%.

Food and drinks are the products that have suffered the biggest increase in prices, being 14%



►► Shop at a supermarket

more expensive than a year ago.

But the good news is the drop in prices for clothing and footwear, due to the general decrease in pri-

ces due to the winter sales.

If we compare it with neighboring countries, the CPI in Spain this year has stood at 5.9%, incre-

asing by two tenths compared to the month of December. And as far as France is concerned, the January CPI is one tenth above the variation recorded in December, standing at 6%, although the final figure is published today. But if confirmed, this slight increase in inflation would be due to the acceleration of food and energy prices.

The consumer price index measures the evolution of the price level of consumer goods and services purchased by household's resident in Andorra. Through this market price analysis, the government provides the CPI figure. ≡

the figures

14.1% food and non-alcoholic beverages

-7.5% recreation, shows and culture

7.8 housing, water, electricity, gas or other fuels

-1.2 communications

The hiring of temporary workers increases by 64.8%

Season quotas were 128.6%, with more than 6,000 authorizations

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According to data published this Thursday by the Department of Statistics, this year the number of temporary hires has increased by 64.8% compared to the same period last year, 1,122 temporary work permits have been granted for Community staff and 5,190 authorizations have

been agreed for non-Community people, which is equivalent to 117.4% of the initially planned quota. We remember that the initial quota agreed by the decree is 4,910 in total, of which a minimum of 190 authorizations are reserved for border EU citizens and a maximum of 2,452 for non-EU citizens. It should be taken into account that the initial authorizations have increased by 16.9% compared to last year and that the Government agreed on a decree for the expansion of the winter season quotas by adding 644 new authori-

zations, last January 25th.

The Department of Statistics has also provided data on temporary workers who have returned to the country for the season after having done so in other years. The ski slopes sector is where there are more people who repeat, with 40.7% of non-EU residents, 88.5% of cross-border residents and 41.1% of EU residents. Regarding the occupations of seasonal workers, it should be noted that 45.5% are part of the service sector, such as waiters and clerks. ≡



►► Skis in the snow

The unemployed increase to 409

January closed with 409 people registered with the Employment Service looking for work, which represented a positive variation of 10.5% compared to the previous year, when 434 people registered. The total number of job offers was 1,238, a negative variation of 37.5% from last year, when 1,982 job offers were registered. In January, 18 recruitments were made through the Employment Service and of the total number of people registered with the service, there are 62 who found work through their own means.

The average salary rose by 1,969.80 euros

According to the semi-final data for the month of December 2022, the total number of employees was 45,721 people with an average salary of 1,969.80€. This represented a growth of 4.6% compared to the previous one. The sector with the most notable positive change is real estate activities and business services, with an increase of 24.6%. On the other hand, no sector shows negative variations compared to last year.

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WORK SITUATION

Treball opens eight cases against four construction companies

Half of the reports are from the labor field and the rest are within the health and safety sector

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Currently, the Department of Labor has eight cases open against four companies in the construction sector for labor abuses and occupational health and safety deficiencies. This was specified by the Acting Minister of the Presidency, Economy and Business, Jordi Gallardo, to the media after the meeting they had yesterday morning with the Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell and the Minister of Territory and Housing, Víctor Filloy and the representatives of the Association of Construction Contractors of Andorra (ACODA) to comment on the situation that has been discussed over the last few days.

Four of the files are from the labor field and are related to an excess of working hours. Gallardo commented that of the four companies, some are part of ACODA, although he made it clear that «it is not about seeking controversy, but about collaborating to be able to deal with the situation».

The key points of this assembly are the following. First of all, «there is a total commitment on the part of ACODA to collaborate with a common goal», explained Gallardo. This purpose, both on the part of the association and the Government, is that «the people who move, do so with the maximum guarantees that their labor rights and personal conditions will be respected», specified the Minister of the Presidency. The other key point is to work together to forecast needs that may exist in the construction sector. There are more than 4,000 workers in this sector and around 250 are working in the field of construction in the provision and service modality.

«There is a will both on the part of ACODA and on the part of the Government with the ministries involved to focus on those situations that need to be improved», detailed the Minister of the Presidency.

Gallardo detailed that there are



► Ministers Jordi Gallardo and Josep Maria Rossell waiting to make statements to the press.

three areas of action. Firstly, the casuistry that occurs when workers come to Andorra to work for six months under a service provision regime and are not covered by the Andorran labor framework if the contract is signed in the country of origin. An issue in which «regulatory changes have been made so that all the contracts that came from origin could be assimilated to the law here in Andorra», specified Rossell.

The second area involves those companies that, being constructi-

on companies, are not executing as such and are providing or assigning workers, «as if they were a kind of temporary work company». Regarding this, Gallardo pointed out that «perhaps it will require some kind of specific modification or regulation to bring order to the situation».

And as a final aspect, the Government and ACODA have contemplated possible actions around the Immigration department and have put on the table «all the work that has been done to solve the pro-

blem». The Acting Minister of Justice and Interior, Josep Maria Rossell remarked that «out of these 683 controls, only six irregularities of an administrative nature have been found, in residence and work permits». Rossell also emphasized that from the Government, in a very forceful way «we want to say that it is not true that nothing has been done. It has been done forcefully and together with the Labor Inspection department, we have worked with the Police to verify the situation of



Josep M. Rossell
JUSTICE MINISTER

«Of these 683 controls, only six irregularities of an administrative nature have been found»

Jordi Gallardo
MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY

«There is a desire on the part of both ACODA and the Government to focus on those situations that need to be improved»

the expelled workers, to see if they complied with the law or not».

In relation to the desire to modify the legislation to prevent bad practices, Gallardo commented that «a deep reform of the law will be necessary to apply the field of labor relations in Andorra, but he defended that to prevent both companies and people legal entities can continue to take advantage of loopholes, they want to make it more difficult to avoid this practice. «We are all looking to solve this loophole and provide legal certainty, but thorough work is needed», specified Gallardo.

Finally, Rossell sent a message to the public: «The Government has taken care of this, it has been very proactive with these conditions and is also very sensitive to the workers who are displaced in the Principality of Andorra». ≡

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