



STATISTIC

## Unemployment grew by 15.3% in October compared to September

Last month it closed with 346 unemployed people of which 26.3% are administrative employees

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY  
@PeriodicAND

The month of October closed with a total of 346 people without a job, 15.3% more than in September and 23.3% less than the same month of the previous year (451 people). As regards the number of claimants in improvement, the total was 269 people, with an increase of 1.5% and 10.3% less compared to the same month of the previous year. Regarding the total number of jobs offered, it is 2,574, 28.8% more than the previous month. Compared to the same month of the previous year, the variation in the number of jobs offered is 11.2%.

Regarding the profile of these people registered with the Employment Service, according to Statistics data, of the 346 unemployed, 26.3% are administrative employees; 18.2%, unskilled workers and 16.5%, service, catering, protection and sales workers.

As for the people who want a job improvement, 32.3% are administrative employees; 19.3%, technicians and support professionals and 13%, service, restoration, protection and sales workers. At the same time, the jobs offered were 33.3% for service, catering, protection and sales workers; 30.4% for unskilled workers and 20.1% for artisans and skilled workers in industries and construction.

The majority of applicants registered with the Employment Service who are looking for work (84.4%) have been unemployed for less than six months. 54.6% of those whose employment situation is improving have a temporary contract (discontinuous or seasonal contracts are included). By nationality and length of residence, the largest group are Spaniards with 10 years or more of



► The facade of the immigration service and a graphic about applicants looking for work.

**32.3%** of people who want a job improvement are administrative employees and 19.3% are technicians.

residence, who represent 25.1% of the total, followed by the Portuguese, who represent 11.3%.

In the last 12 months, 62 people, i.e. 17.9%, had no intermediation. The remaining 82.1% of those registered had mediation at least once. It is observed how the unemployed who have been registered longer have a higher probability of

intermediation. 79% of those who have never had one are registered for less than three months. On the contrary, of those who responded to at least one job offer, 39.1% were unemployed who had been registered with the Employment Service for between three and 12 months.

The breakdown by age group shows that applicants looking for

### 3% increase in September employees

► According to advanced data for the month of September, the number of employees stands at 41,810 people, which represents a variation of 2.7% compared to the advanced month of September of the previous year. The wage bill stands at 99.54 million euros, which represents a variation of 10.3% compared to the advanced month of September of the year 2022. As for the advanced average salary, it stands at 2,380.68 euros, while the median advanced salary is 1,947.27 euros. These figures mean variations of 7.4% and 6.8%, respectively, compared to a year ago. The sector with the most prominent decrease in the number of employees is the hotel industry with 3.7%. The average number of employees, according to the data accumulated from January to August, is 43,547 people, 4.9% more compared to the same previous period. The sector with the most prominent increase is transport and communications with 9.1%. On the other hand, the sector that shows a more prominent decrease is the financial system with 2.5%.

## The employment rate, the highest in the last 10 years

In the third quarter of the year, 84.2% of the population between 15 and 64 years old

EL PERIÒDIC  
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY

The estimated employment rate in the third quarter of the year stands at 84.2% of the population aged between 15 and 64, the highest figure in the last 10 years, according to da-

ta published the day before yesterday by the Department of Statistics. This ratio represents an increase of 2.1 points if compared with the previous year and 1.2 points if compared with the second quarter of the year. Thus, the number of employed is estimated at 51,687 people.

By gender, the employment rate for men increased by 1.1 points compared to last year and by 1.4 points quarterly. As for women, the employment rate increases by 3.2 points in annual terms and one po-

int in relation to the previous quarter. By age, the employment rate for adults aged 55 to 64 stands out annually, increasing by 4.7 points. In quarterly terms, the employment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 stands out, growing by 5.8 points.

The unemployment rate is 1.2% of the active population and counts 643 people between 15 and 74 years old. By gender, annually the unemployment rate decreases by 0.7 points for men and 1.5 points for women. ≡



► Some workers.

ARXIU ANA



## MOBILIZATION

# New call from the Andorran people in defense of decent housing

The most played song:  
«Espot listens, the  
people revolt»

ALEX MONTERO  
ANDORRA LA VELLA  
@PeriodicAND

Demonstrations in defense of decent housing continue and this is what the Andorran people have shown once again. After the mass rally that took place last October 31st, where a thousand citizens took to the streets of the capital to show their total and absolute disagreement against the policies promoted by Government in recent years, with Xavier Espot at the head of the vast majority of them, the Plaça del Consell received a new crowd last Thursday.

Called by the so-called Coordinator for Decent Housing, born of citizen movements expressed through social networks, almost 500 people met in front of the government institution around 7:00 p.m. last Thursday. In it, the parliamentary monographic debate was being held, in which housing was, precisely, the key issue from 09.30h when the session began. During the shutdown, most of the members of the opposition parliamentary groups, gathered in the lobby of the institution, witnessed the shouts and chants that could be heard outside the premises: «Espot listen, the people are revolting», «Resignation Espot» or «Conxita to la Seu» were some of the phrases that were most heard throughout the square throughout the afternoon, as well as different noises in which whistles and pans played a leading role to show their indignation towards the housing and socio-economic policies promoted by the Executive.

One of the Coordinator's spokespersons, Bruno Lopes, raised his voice to affirm that, although the three-year extension of rental contracts is good news for citizens, this will not stop future proposals: «We have won something, but it is cle-



► The demonstrators gathered in Plaça del Consell General.

ar that they have slowed down and re-read the proposals they had», adding that «the Andorran people are sovereign and must be heard». Lopes also made it clear the importance of being «closely aware» of the Economic and Social Council that will take place today, since, depending on the outcome of this, «the next actions will be more or less forceful». A clear allusion to the demonstration called for next December 8th, in the middle of the Puríssima long-weekend and from which a citizen mobilization is expected as never before seen in the country.

**THE USDA, MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER** // «It is unfortunate and pathetic that the Government has to find itself in a situation like this to act on a problem that we have been denouncing for years. If I were council-

or general, I will be very ashamed to see how they are leaving the country». With these words, the general secretary of the Unió Sindical d'Andorra, Gabriel Ubach, began his speech, who did not hesitate to blame at who, for him, is to guilty for the whole incident: Xavier Espot. «The head of government has always said that this is due to the law of supply and demand and that the issue of housing would self-regulate on its own. It has been seen that this is not the case and the inhabitants are suffering the consequences of a bad government policy», said Ubach, highlighting that, during his intervention in the monographic debate, Espot «did not assume the consequences and the responsibility. The blame is always on other factors like the war in Ukraine or the war in Israel, so if I had a

“

**Gabriel Ubach**  
USDA SECRETARY

«If Espot had shame, he would have gone out to apologize for all the hardships they are putting people through»

**Bruno Lopes**  
SPOKESPERSON FOR THE DECENT HOUSING COORDINATOR

«Depending on the result of today's Economic and Social Council, the next citizen actions will be more or less forceful»

bit of shame I would have come out here and talked to people and apologized for all the hardships they are going through to the people of Andorra».

A statement framed within the aforementioned debate, from which the USdA did not expect «much»: «Our proposals are the only real solution to put a stop to the high level of speculation that exists in the country», Ubach stating that all parliamentary groups «must work for the majority of the country's inhabitants and not for the speculator class they have created». However, the secretary made it clear that the problem «is not the increase in wages, but the loss of purchasing power of citizens due to the neoliberal policies of Democrats».

Ubach also called for the de-

monstration on December 8th, in which «we will go out into the streets again and it will be a decisive day for everyone. Either they start to find real solutions and listen to us, or they leave their chair because to do what they have done it is not worth keeping it.» A rally that will go from Plaça Coprínceps to Plaça Guillemó and which will once again make it clear that «those who want to speculate will have no future in Andorra. We are not against people who want to rent their flat at a reasonable price, but against those people who come from outside and take advantage of the country's inhabitants», said Ubach.

Shouts from the people/ As it could not be otherwise, Andorran citizens were the main protagonists of last Thursday's rally. Some of them approached to show more calmly the reasons that had led them to the square, with the aim of demonstrating against a situation categorized by all as «unsustainable»: «We are tired of the situation currently, rents cannot be above minimum wages. What will we feed our children?» This was the big question that resonated most among the dissident voices, emphasizing that «there is no law that protects us. In the end what they will achieve is that the middle class will leave the country and then let's see who will work at the gas stations or take orders at the restaurants».

Asked about the debate that was taking place behind the doors of the General Council, the answer was clear: «It won't do anything, but at least we will be heard outside, which we have been swallowing for a long time», they stated, emphasizing that «young people cannot become independent or access decent housing at 30 years old. And the answer to this is not co-living, as they say from the Government, because nobody wants to be forced to share a flat with someone». In relation to the three-year extension for the rental contracts, the attendees showed that this «is not a solution, but only a patch so that we keep quiet and be happy». ≡

Your leading real estate  
agency in Andorra.

Our experience  
guarantees results,  
realtors since 1988.



(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad