

YOUR FULL FIVE-DAY WEATHER FORECAST: SEE INSIDE

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Jobless rate down in Spain up in the Balearics

Palma.—Spain's jobless rate unexpectedly edged lower in the fourth quarter, data showed yesterday, giving more credibility to the government's forecast that the economy kept recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the quarter.

The National Statistics Institute (INE) said the rate stood at 16.13% in October-December, down from 16.26% three months earlier, but still much higher than 13.78% a year ago as the country's economic activity remained hindered by restrictions. For all of last year, unemployment jumped to an average of

15.53% from 14.1% in 2019. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast quarterly unemployment at 16.6%. Employment increased in all sectors in the quarter, led by services, the INE said. The number of those without a job fell by 3,100 to around 3.72 million, while those employed rose 0.87% to 19.34 million. In regional terms, underscoring the importance of tourism in the world's second-most-visited country, the Balearic and Canary islands, tourist spots popular with holidaymakers, registered some of the steepest job losses last year. *See Inside.*

MAJORCA'S SPRING WEATHER IN WINTER

Récord

Temperatura máxima de enero

Lluc 23.0°C (provisional 28/01/2021)

Récord anterior 22.2°C (2001) Serie desde 1993

Palma.—Parts of Majorca were yesterday enjoying their hottest January day on record as temperatures reached 23.8 degrees. Lluc enjoyed its hottest day on record with 23 degrees Centigrade.

The previous record was 22.2 degrees registered in 2001.

A temperature of 23.8 degrees was registered in Pollensa. The summer-like weather comes after a

weekend of gale force winds and freezing temperatures. But it is not all good news on the weather; gale force winds are being forecast again for this weekend.

Spain blames EU for dwindling COVID-19 vaccine supplies

Palma.—Spain's health ministry is blaming the European Union for delays to COVID-19 vaccine deliveries that forced Madrid to halt new inoculations and threatened supplies across Spain, newspaper *El Mundo* quoted a leaked official document as saying. With stocks dwindling and new infections near record levels, regional authorities in Madrid have stopped vaccinating new people and are using their remaining supplies to administer second shots to those

who have already received a first jab. Facing criticism from some regions, the central government pointed the finger at Brussels for the supply problems in a draft agenda for a summit of regional health chiefs due to be held later yesterday.

"It is the European Union that negotiates and signs the contracts, that is in charge of tracking them and making sure they are correctly fulfilled," the document read. The EU's vaccination programme, already lag-

ging behind Britain, Israel and the United States, has hit further snags in the past week as pharmaceutical companies Pfizer and AstraZeneca announced planned deliveries would be severely delayed.

Meanwhile, the number of Spaniards willing to receive a shot as soon as it becomes available has risen to nearly 73% from around 40% a month ago, according to an official poll by the Centre for Sociological Studies (CIS).