

Majorca Daily Bulletin

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Balearics with a 7-day incidence below the national average



The Balearics is one of the regions of Spain with a seven-day cumulative incidence of new cases of coronavirus that is below the national average. On Wednesday, the rate - according to figures from the national ministry of health - was 1,337.3. The national figure was 1,359.70. The lowest rate is Andalusia - 444.47 cases - followed by the Canaries with 683.82 and Madrid with 797.07. Different regulations apply in these regions. *Inside*

Airline sees summer take-off



London.—Britain's easyJet said the easing of travel restrictions had spurred demand for summer beach destinations such as Greece, Turkey and Spain, giving the airline cause for optimism after the shadow of Omicron lifts.

Its chief executive Johan Lundgren said bookings jumped in Britain when restrictions were reduced earlier this month and were boosted

again when the government said testing requirements would end in February. He said easyJet had seen similar trends across Europe, notably in France and Switzerland.

“We see a strong summer ahead, with pent-up demand that will see easyJet returning to near 2019 levels of capacity with UK beach and leisure routes performing particularly well,” he said.

The airline flew 64% of pre-pandemic capacity in its first quarter to end-December, but its 77% load factor missed its forecast of over 80% after the new variant of COVID-19 dented demand in December.

Omicron would continue to have a short-term impact, it said, although it will ramp up capacity from around 50% of pre-pandemic levels in January to 67% for the second quarter.

In November, before the impact of Omicron was clear, easyJet had forecast capacity of around 70% for the quarter. Shares in easyJet, which have risen 6% in the last 12 months, were up 1% in early trading. Lundgren, who bolstered easyJet's balance sheet with a 1.2 billion pound rights issue in September, said unlike other airlines that were retrenching, easyJet was adding capacity.

Russia faces “big economic sanctions”

Madrid.— Russia would face massive economic consequences if it launched any kind of military intervention in Ukraine, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Wednesday.

Russia has massed tens of thousands of troops near Ukraine but denies planning to attack its neighbour. It is seeking sweeping security guarantees from NATO including a pledge that Ukraine will never be allowed to join the alliance.

The European Union and the United States have threatened further crippling economic sanctions against Russia.