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Nº 30 Oct. – Dec. 2020



Newsletter

for Business and Investment in Malaga, Spain

Malaga at a Glance

7 out of 10 foreign companies consulted during the annual survey for the 3rd edition of the Malaga Business Climate Barometer said their investment expectations and export forecasts remain positive despite the pandemic. In addition, 50% estimate that their employment requirements will remain the same. Skilled people, the technological capacity of the city, the quality of life and solid infrastructure continue to be the main attractions for these companies. Per the Barometer, published in December, Malaga represented a total of 17.67% of regional gross foreign investment flows in 2019 and 0.6% of the national foreign investment flows. The Barometer analyzes foreign investment in the city and the province and is produced by the Investor Office with support from

Company News



AirArabia
العربية للطيران



Liberbank



easyJet

Unicaja & Liberbank complete merger talks which began in 2018 and will operate as the 5th largest bank in Spain starting in June. The group will have 9,900 professionals & 1,600 branches. Unicaja Banco, headquartered in Malaga, has 6,200 employees and 1,000 offices and will contribute some 63,000 million in assets to the new bank, while Liberbank will add just over 45,800 million. Liberbank, created by Cajastur-Banco CCM and the Caja de Cantabria and Extremadura, has 3,700 workers and 579 branches.

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read in Spanish all the results [here](#).



77.9 % of the workers affected by COVID-19 furloughs in the province of Malaga have returned to work. Only 26,921 workers from 7,465 companies remain in furloughs. The peak reached 122,012 workers per information provided by the sub-delegate of the Government in Malaga.

The Andalusian regional government announced in November a 660 million euro rescue plan for SMEs. A total of 215 million euros will be granted as direct aid to the self-employed and the rest through guaranteed loans and tax rebates.

Málaga Tech Park - Almost 28 years after its inauguration as the Andalusian Technology Park (PTA), the business complex that employs more than 20,000 people was renamed Málaga Tech Park in October to strengthen its relationship with the City.

Malaga, its third in Spain. This base will be equipped with 3 A320 aircrafts and create 100 direct jobs for pilots & crew. Since landing in Malaga in 1999, EasyJet has carried more than 36 million passengers to and from the City. EasyJet currently services 18 European airports from Malaga. EasyJet's managing director for southern Europe, Javier Gandara, stated that "Malaga was until now the most popular destination in our network that did not yet have a base, so we are very proud to announce it today."



5 startups will develop innovative solutions for the connected vehicles in Malaga in the 12-month program "Lab V2X (Vehicle-to-everything) 5G" sponsored by the Ministry of Economic Transformation, Industry, Knowledge and Universities, the City of Malaga, the Malaga Tech Park, Telefonica, and DEKRA and operated by La Farola Andalusia Open Future. These startups will be able to validate their solutions in DEKRA / Telefonica's outdoor test track and R&D laboratory located in the Malaga Tech Park.

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Malaga province exports increase by 1.25 % in the first 10 months of 2020 to 1.9 billion euros. This was a new record for this period and the 3rd highest growth of all Andalusian provinces, which contrasts with the fall of -13.6 % experienced by Andalusian exports and national exports with an -11.9 % decrease. Fresh fruits, olive oil, and meats are the main exports. 9 of the top 10 export markets grew with notable increases in China (+55 %) and Japan (+6.8 %) while the top destinations for Malaga exports continue to be France, Italy and the United States.



Plans for the luxury hotel & convention center tower proposed for the Malaga Levante pier have been modified following suggestions from the Malaga Port Special Plan. Architect Jose Segui and his firm recently revealed the new design.

Hapag-Lloyd will boost the international subtropical food trade from Malaga. Called the Mediterranean Gulf Express (MGX), it will connect the province of Malaga with the Gulf of Mexico on a weekly basis with stops at the ports of Caucedo (Dominican Republic), New Orleans and Houston (United States), Altamira and Veracruz (Mexico), Kingston (Jamaica), Cartagena (Columbia) and in several European ports: Valencia, Barcelona, Genoa and Livorno.

Helity Copter Airlines began in October a regular route in helicopter from Malaga to Gibraltar on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week. Hélyty currently operates helicopter flights from Malaga to Ceuta and Ceuta to Algeciras. The company also offers private charters, air "tours" and "offshore" operations.

The Spanish subsidiary of Iceland Seafood International (headquartered in Reykjavík) agreed to sell its Malaga based production and distribution company Elaboracion de Congelados Malaga SAU (Ecomsa) to Aquamar Gold SL, an Andalusian seafood distribution company based in Malaga.

Air Arabia Maroc is opening new flights from Casablanca to Malaga, Guelmim and Rennes. The first flights

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number of floors from 35 to 27, but the floors will have high 4.2 meters ceilings as requested by luxury hotel operators interested in the project.

Hybrid Events

On Nov. 25, Malaga virtually hosted the first Global Startup Cities Summit, organized by 11 cities and the European Commission. The summit brought together city leaders, entrepreneurs & ecosystem experts to demonstrate best practices and to share innovative solutions. Malaga Mayor Francisco de la Torre led a roundtable discussion with mayors and initiatives were proposed by the European Commissioner, Mariya Gabriel and the Minister of Science, Innovation and Universities, Pedro Duque. It also served as the formal launch of the European Innovation Area #EiA. The event will take place again next year in Malaga on Nov. 24, 2021.



Malaga is leading the way in the tourism industry by offering rapid antigen tests for visitors and the hospitality sector. The City

Investment Opportunities



The City prepared 5 real estate investment catalogs for office buildings, logistics centers, public facilities, residential homes, and hotels. These catalogs provide technical and urban zoning information for specific plots of lands or buildings that are available for development. Click to see the [office buildings](#), [logistics centers](#), [public facilities](#), [residential homes](#), and [hotels](#) catalogs.

Interesting Reads

[How Malaga is using 'smart tourism' to rebound from Covid](#)

[Sustainable, accessible and tech-savvy: discover the European Capitals of Smart Tourism](#)

[Cybersecurity may be the engine that the Spanish technology sector needs: why the industry has so much](#)

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GreenCities, Global Startup City, SIMED, the 59th International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA), Jazz Festival and Talent Woman Spain; thus proving that with new measures we can create safe destinations for tourists and citizens. [Watch](#) how we did it.

Recognitions

Malaga is on [Forbes' list](#) of 20 Best Places for Americans to Live, to Work and to Invest in Europe.

The City of Malaga was awarded 3rd in the category of "Economic Development and Citizen Engagement" at IDC's 2020 Smart Cities and Communities Europe and Central Asia Awards for its municipal open data projects designed to improve the quality of life for citizens. According to the City's IT department, Malaga has a total of 912 [open data sets](#). These data sets have allowed the development of applications such as the [Geoportal](#), [Malaga Funciona](#), [Victoria La Malaguena chatbot](#) and the [Personal Citizen Dashboard](#). In addition, they have made it possible for companies and individuals to develop other applications through the free use of this public data.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 17-18	Transfiere - 10th European Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation
Feb. 23	Andalucia Management
March 15-17	H&T - Hotel, Gastronomy, Services and Oenology Fair
June 21-22	CM Malaga - Cities & Museums International Trade Fair
July 23-25	Gamepolis eSports Festival
Sept. 29-30	GreenCities - 12th Forum of Urban Intelligence and Sustainability
Sept. 29-30	S-Moving - Smart, Autonomous and Unmanned Vehicles Forum
Oct. 7-8	Smart Agrifood Summit
Oct. 22-23	EducAcción - 1st International Congress on Education
Nov. 4-11	SIMED - 17th Mediterranean Real Estate Fair

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Foreign Business Groups in the Area

[American International Club](#)

[International Club Estepona](#)

[Asociacion Comercio Chino Andalucia](#)

[Internations Malaga Chapter](#)

[New & Foreign Residents of Malaga \(ANREM\)](#)

[Irish Association of Spain](#)

[British Association Marbella](#)

[Malaga Business & Networking](#)

[British Chamber of Commerce](#)

[Malaga Business Minds](#)

[Business Breakfast Club \(Velez-Malaga\)](#)

[Malaga International Group](#)

[Business First Group](#)

[Malaga Makers Startup Community](#)

[Costa Woman](#)

[Marbella Dutch Business Club](#)

[Ellas Spanje Dutch Women Club](#)

[Marbella Open City](#)

[English Speaking Club Málaga](#)

[The Business Group Spain \(Mijas\)](#)

[Guiri Business](#)

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