

25% increase on pleasure boat registrations pushes Malaga into fourth position nationally

Malaga overtakes Cadiz in the number of boats registered in the province, with more than 7% of the market share.

:: MÓNICA PÉREZ

MARBELLA. The pleasure boat sector is beginning to lift its head out of the water (pun intended). After three years of falling sales, 2014 saw the start of an upturn for the industry and the first five months of 2015 witnessed a further increase.

25% more boats were registered in the province between January and May 2015, compared with the same period in 2014.

The opinion of business leaders working in the sector along the Costa del Sol is that things aren't back to pre-financial crisis levels, but the signs are 'so far, so good'.

Marbella has seen the biggest rise in boats being registered, which, by the end of May, put the town in fourth place in Spain, behind the Balearic Islands, Barcelona and Girona. Sales are up by almost 14% in the town, compared with the same period (January to May) in 2014.



The boat sector is beginning to show signs of recovery. :: SUR

The rental market is also buoyant, with particular success in the hire of motorboats and medium-sized vessels as clients look at the smaller end of the market with low energy consumption an important factor.

Europeans and people from the Middle East make up the majority of clients, though the Spanish are

beginning to take more interest once again as the economic situation shows signs of improvement.

Despite the fact that things have been picking up slowly since October 2013, General Secretary of Anen (Asociación Nacional de Empresas Náuticas), Carlos Sanlorenzo, remains cautious, saying that data analysed by the sector

shows that "this increase reflects certain sub sectors, such as rental and smaller boats, which historically have lower costs. Boats of up to 8 metres in length and those intended for rental only are exempt from registration tax."

Another positive sign is that owners who have been keeping their vessels on land, unable to meet the costs of keeping a boat on the water, are beginning to take them back to the ports. Like with the rental and sales market, regression is slow, but the ports are beginning to notice their return.

Sanlorenzo adds: "The sector has left behind a collapse in the market which started in 2008. This is letting us look to the future with hope."

José Carlos Martín, President of Marinas de Andalucía, Asociación de Puertos Deportivos y Turísticos de Andalucía, welcomes the news and points out that boat sales help the whole sector, including shipyards.

He says: "Any indicator that shows favourable data is welcome."

It remains to be seen whether the rest of 2015 will continue to see this upwards trend, especially along the Costa del Sol, and that the sector is able to remain afloat.

HERE AND THERE

False boat licence operation leads to six arrests in Mijas

MIJAS

:: A. FRÍAS/ M. C. JAIME. Guardia Civil officers have been investigating the illegal issue of boat licences which were issued with false documents and without the completion of essential parts of the test.

At the end of June, six people were interviewed by police in Mijas. Those interrogated included both recipients of the false permits and people responsible for issuing them.

Thousands of people are believed to be involved across Spain.

Lottery seller sells ten lucky tickets in one day

MARBELLA

:: I.A. A lottery seller sold ten tickets, each with a value of 35,000 euros on the same day. Inmaculada Caurcel, who has been selling lottery tickets for 26 years, said: "When my boss phoned me to tell me, I couldn't believe it."

Caurcel said that she didn't know who the lucky winners were but trusts that they are "regular customers, to whom I thank for all the support they have given me since I arrived in the neighbourhood." She added that she has noticed an increase in sales since the winners were announced.



Inmaculada Caurcel. :: SUR

Mayor threatens hunger strike over water supply

VALLE DE ABDALAJÍS

:: M.G. The mayor of Valle de Abdalajís, Víctor Castillo, has announced that he will go on hunger strike in the town hall, along with 40 families who have been waiting for their houses to be connected to mains water for six months.

The planned strike will happen if public company Aguas de los Verdiales, doesn't establish the supply by 15 July. The company is currently in receivership. However, neighbours have stated that they still want the company to supply their water.

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