



FOUR ISLANDS REPORT



system of joint sustainability indicators
executive summary
2019

obsam Observatori
Socioambiental
de Menorca



IIE
Institut
Menorquí
d'Estudis



147,914
inhabitants

571.8 km²


5
municipalities

IBIZA



93,397
inhabitants

694.8 km²


8
municipalities

MENORCA



Balearic
islands

the
islands

Canary
islands



LANZAROTE

152,289
inhabitants

845.9 km²


7
municipalities



FUERTE-
VENTURA

116,886
inhabitants

1659.7 km²


6
municipalities

broadening perspective

The main objective of this project was to carry out a dynamic comparison of the islands of Fuerteventura, Ibiza, Lanzarote and Menorca through the analysis of their evolution in a series of sustainability indicators, framed within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations' Agenda 2030.

To this end, a system of 98 indicators has been created using historical data from the four islands up until 2019, and it is distributed in 7 thematic blocks.

Most of the data was provided by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) and its regional delegations, the Institute of Statistics of Balearic Islands (IBESTAT) and Institute of Statistics of Canary Islands (ISTAC), combined with existing indicators of the collaborating entities. The databases are available for anyone interested to explore the results in further depth.

(obsam.cat, datosdelanzarote.com)

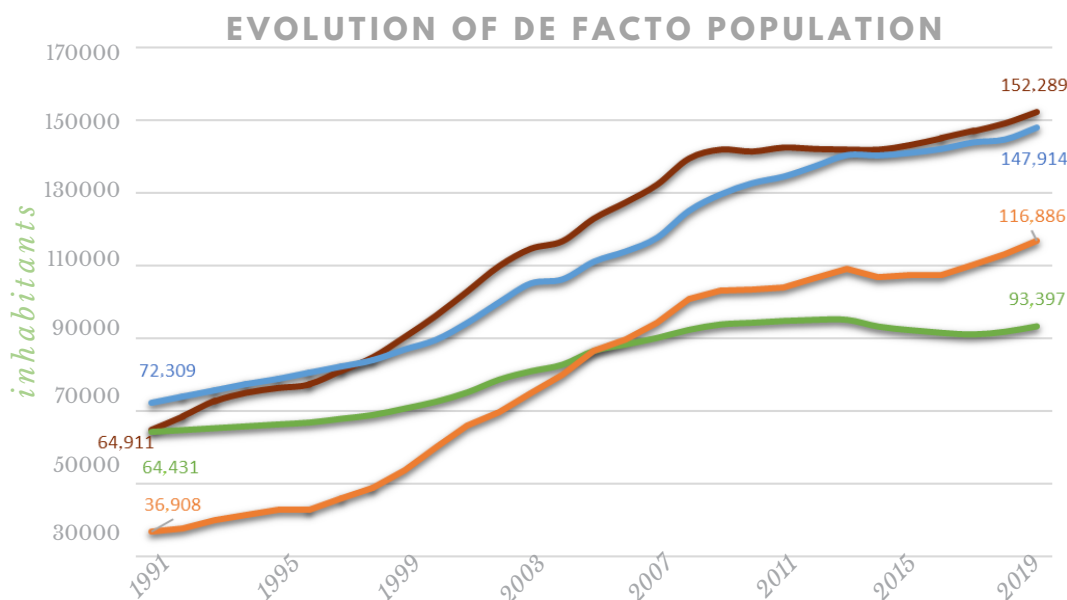


- 01 population**
- 02 economy & employment**
- 03 society**
- 04 tourism**
- 05 territory & biodiversity**
- 06 mobility & transport**
- 07 environmental vectors**

01 population

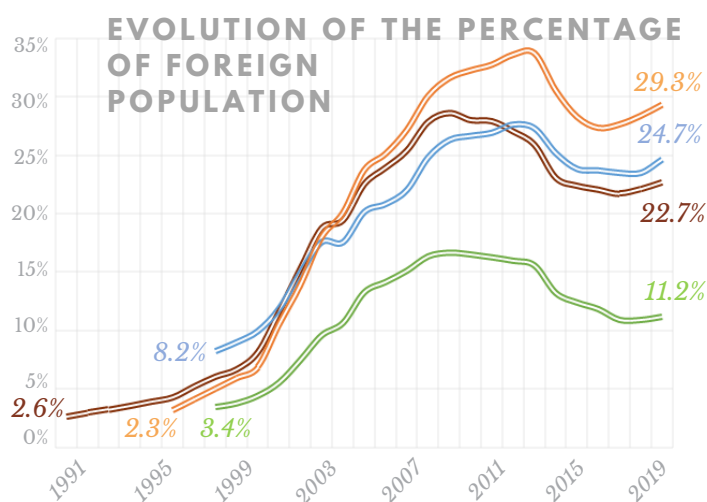
the islands have changed

From the demographic point of view there has been a **relevant population growth in all islands**. Fuerteventura has tripled its population while Menorca has shown a slower growth.



constant population renewal

The population has been constantly renewed as a result of **migration** and the evolution of economic activity, generating a profound change due to the **incorporation of residents from abroad**.



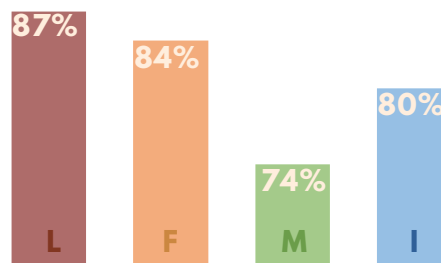
Since 1998, this segment of the foreign population has at least tripled in all the islands, adding to the complexity of the population composition.



highly service-oriented economies

All four islands have economies that are **mostly dedicated to the service sector**, especially tourism, which is a particularly seasonal phenomenon in the Balearics.

% SERVICE SECTOR BUSINESSES (2019)



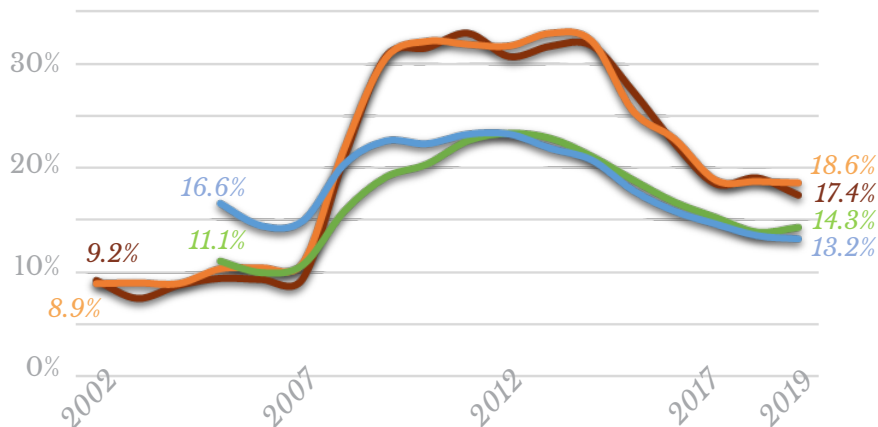
it goes in cycles

The economical evolution of all four islands has followed the cycles of surrounding economies.

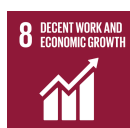
employment

Parallel to the economic cycle, the **evolution of employment** experienced a peak after the 2008-2011 crisis, and a stabilisation in the last two years.

EVOLUTION OF UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Quality of employment is better in the Balearic Islands than in the Canary Islands. In the Canary islands there are higher rates of temporary employment and temporary contracts are of shorter duration.

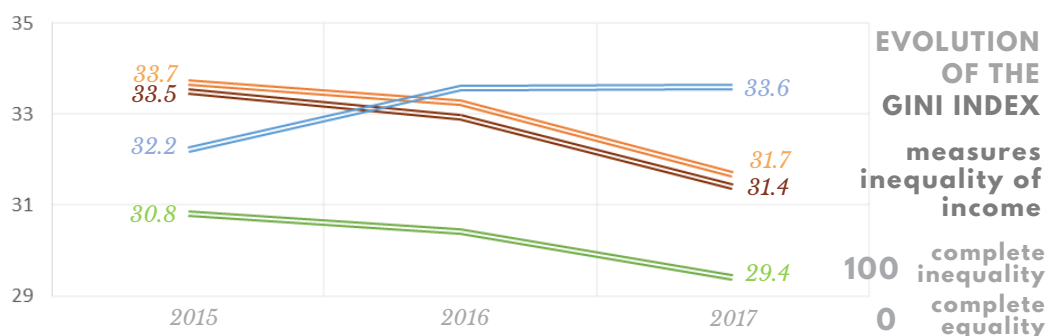


socio-economic inequalities reduced

Inequalities softened except in Ibiza 2015-2017. There are higher rates of people with low incomes in the Canary Islands than in the Balearics.

All islands' **society is progressively aging**, indexes being clearly high in Ibiza and especially so in Menorca, the island with the highest rate of dependence.

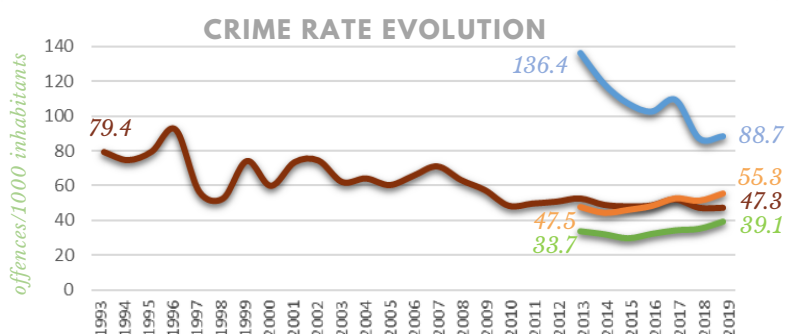
aging population



public safety

Crime rates have responded differently. In Ibiza and Lanzarote they have decreased while in Menorca and Fuerteventura they have increased. Even so, the highest crime rates are in Ibiza.

There is a decreasing trend of people in treatment for addiction, except in Ibiza



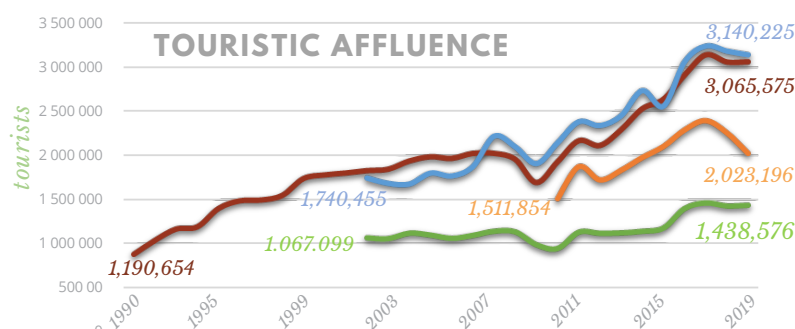
Gender-based violence has increased in all four islands since 2010, with Ibiza presenting the highest numbers.



beach tourism

Tourism dependency on all four islands.

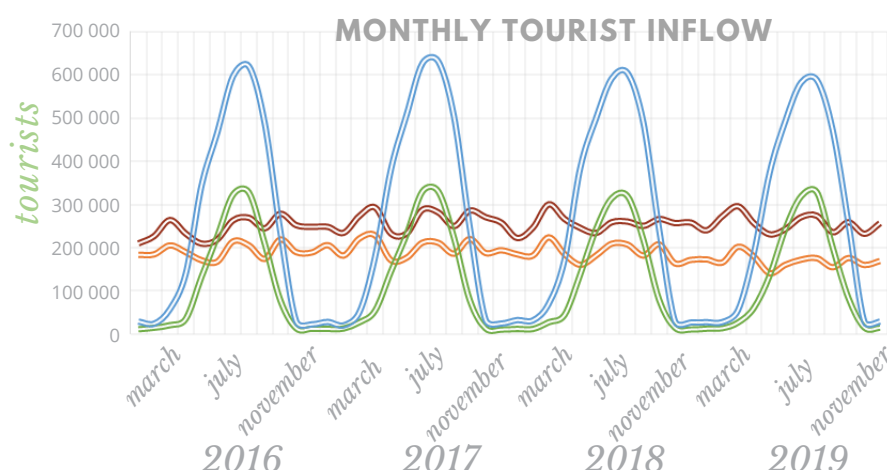
There has been a continuous increase in visitant's affluence except during the economic crisis (2008-11).



touristic seasonality

Balearics have greater pressure during summer season while in Canaries the pressure is spread along all year.

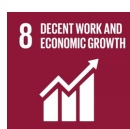
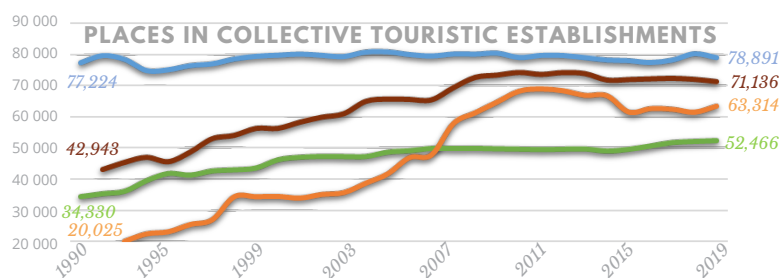
The seasonal fashion of visits has serious repercussions in touristic, economic and social development.



development

Touristic development happened earlier in the Balearic islands than in the Canaries.

One of the indicators that illustrates this is the unequal pace of growth of the accommodation offer.



artificial land

Percentage of urban developed surface area for all islands exceeds the average of Spain, common in coastal municipalities.

Fuerteventura has a lower proportion of artificial surface but more potential for urban growth.

6.1%

6.2%

6.8%

3.9%

PROPORTION OF ARTIFICIAL SURFACE IN RELATION TO THE TOTAL LAND AREA (2017)

agriculture and forests

Considering climatic conditioning factors, Menorca and Ibiza have a higher percentage of agricultural and forested areas.

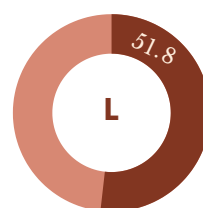
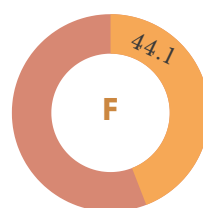
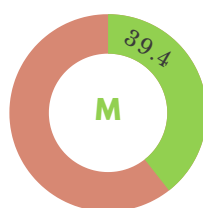
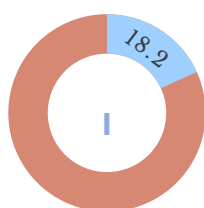
Mineral cover with sparse vegetation predominates on the two Canary Islands.

terrestrial protected areas

Ibiza has a low proportion of protected surface area and Menorca falls behind on the effective management of protected surface area.

In terms of area and management of protected natural areas on land, the two Canary Islands are much more advanced than the two Balearic Islands.

PERCENTAGE PROTECTED / NOT PROTECTED SURFACE IN EACH ISLAND 2020 (EUROPEAN AND NATIONAL PROTECTION FIGURES)



marine protected areas

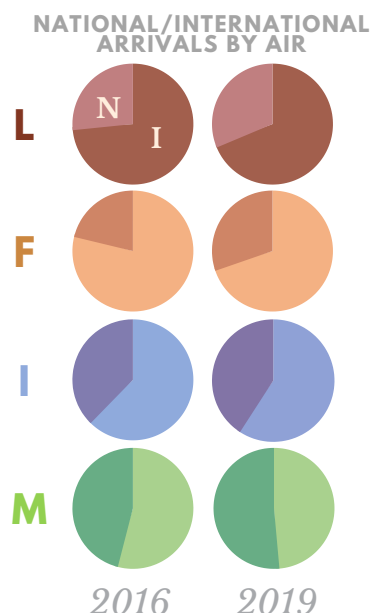
The protection of marine areas is lagging behind that of terrestrial areas on all islands.

Ibiza is the island with the smallest protected area, but it is also the one with the most approved management plans for marine protected areas.



passenger arrivals

The increase in **passenger arrivals** to all the islands over the last few decades has been mainly by air, while the relative increase by sea has been smaller.



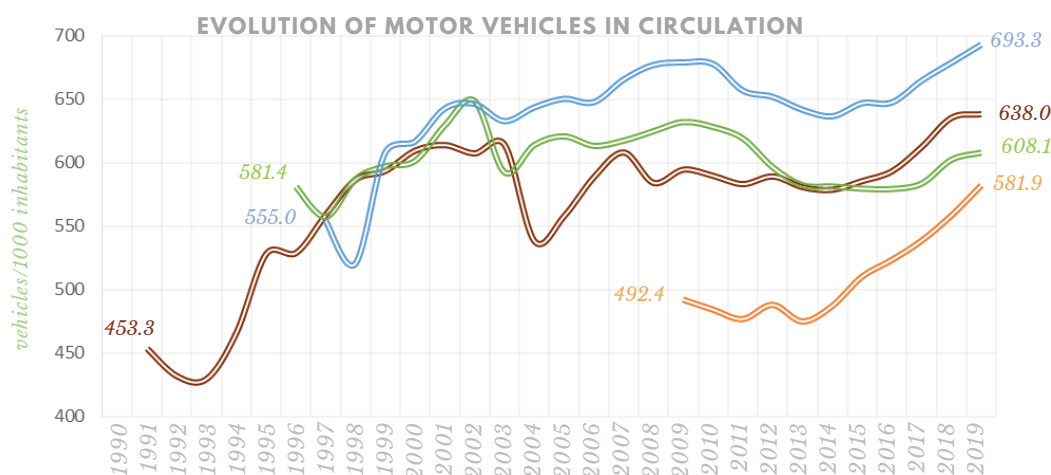
national/ international visits

The relative weight of **international traffic** is higher in the two Canary Islands, while the two Balearic Islands stand out in national traffic.

In the last three years, national traffic has increased on all islands, while international traffic has decreased, especially on the Canary Islands.

In terms of land mobility, all indicators show a high dependence on **private vehicles** and a low rate of public transport use.

private vehicle



It is crucial to work on the development of more sustainable, accessible and beneficial transport systems for the population.

It becomes a priority pathway for action to meet local, national and regional climate change and sustainable development objectives

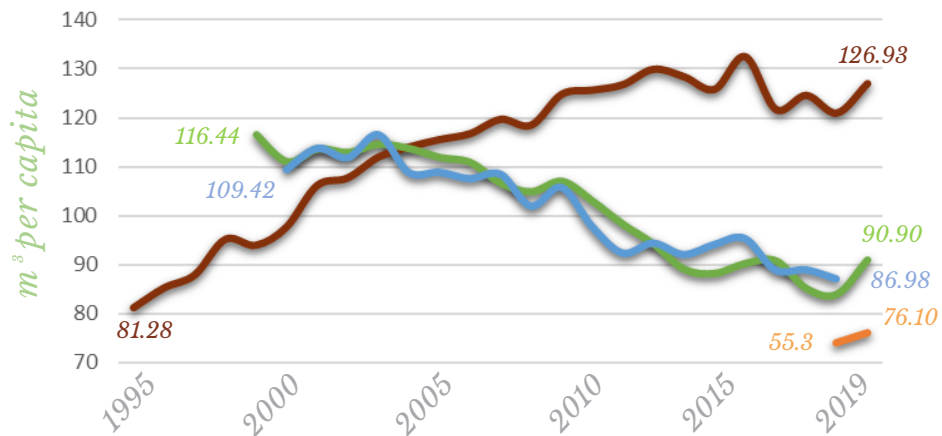


water production & harvesting

Water production and harvesting for human consumption increased in the Canary Islands, and remained stable in the Balearics, even reducing consumption per capita.

Key to this is the **diminishing of losses in distribution.**

HARVESTING/PRODUCTION OF WATER PER CAPITA

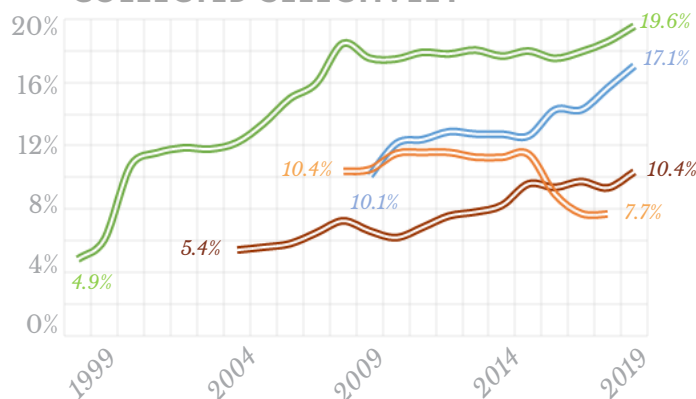


waste generation & processing

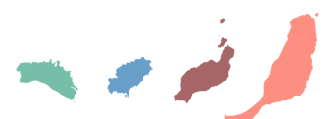
Waste generation and processing stabilised, even diminished in Lanzarote and Menorca, while there is continued increase in Ibiza and Fuerteventura.

All islands fall far short of the obligations set out in the European directives.

TOTAL PROPORTION OF WASTE COLLECTED SELECTIVELY

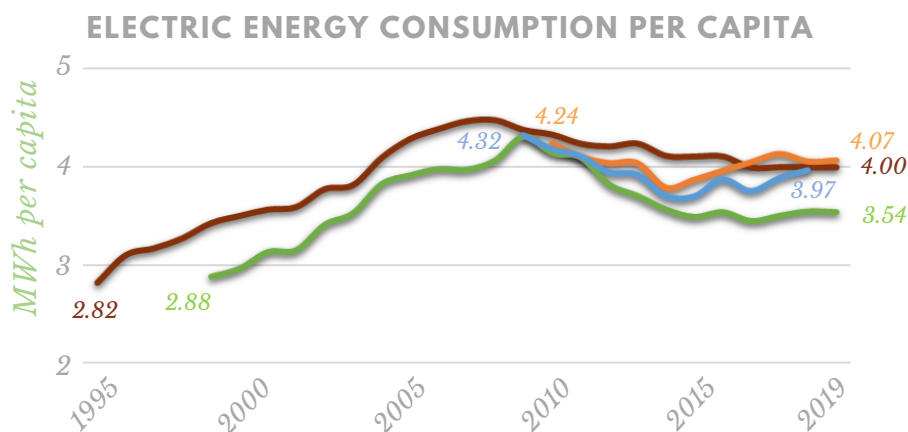


Even so, it seems that there is a greater awareness of selective collection in the Balearic Islands than in the Canary Islands.



electrical energy

Electric energy consumption very similar in all islands. Somewhat higher values in Canary Islands due to water desalination.



atmospheric pollution

Atmospheric pollution is not a concerning aspect at the moment.

The only occasional episodes are of excessive ozone concentration in the Balearics, and high particle concentration in the Canary Islands due to arrival of air masses with Saharian dust.

CO₂ emissions

CO₂ emissions per capita are considerable in all islands.

Only slightly reduced by:

- increasing use of renewables in the Canary islands,
- conversion to natural gas of the thermic central in Ibiza
- electric energy consumption decrease in Menorca

