# Population Surge Strains Tenerife amid Tourism Boom



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The southern region of Tenerife in the Canary Islands has experienced a substantial population increase, driven by a steady influx of tourists and workers over the past two decades. According to Spain’s National Statistics Institute (INE), the combined population of Arona, Granadilla de Abona, Adeje, San Miguel de Abona, and Guia de Isora has surged from 94,735 in 2000 to 235,265 by 2023, a 148% increase.

This population growth, stimulated by tourism and the arrival of both local and international workers, has put a strain on infrastructure and essential services, including schools, hospitals, and housing. Although rental prices in tourist-heavy areas have soared, the region continues to attract young Europeans, particularly Italians.

In May, Majorca saw significant protests over mass tourism, with locals demanding measures to curb property purchases by tourists, regulate rental prices, and declare a housing emergency. Additionally, disruptions caused by tourists, such as an incident involving a naked cyclist in Lanzarote, have further fueled local frustrations.

The Canary and Balearic Islands have seen a rise in anti-tourism protests this year, marked by graffiti and demonstrations advocating for sustainable tourism policies and limitations on tourist numbers. The sentiment reflects growing concerns among residents over the impact of mass tourism on their way of life.