The Formentera Department of Mobility reports that 31 August marked a milestone: the end of the second summer of restricted permits to bring and operate vehicles on the island. According to data collected by the Consell de Formentera, the months of July and August saw an overall average of 18,969 vehicles navigating local roads—an eight-per-cent drop compared to 2019, when 20,595 had obtained the necessary permit.

The average number of vehicles in circulation in July was 18,322 and in August it was 19,616. Broken down by vehicle type and drivers, the figures are as follows:

	July	August	Average
Compact cars (visitors)	1,891	2,073	1,982
Motor scooters (visitors)	195	203	199
Compact cars (Eivissa residents)	199	220	210
Motor scooters (Eivissa residents)	20	20	20
Compact cars (rental)	2,481	2,592	2,536
Motor scooters (rental)	6,720	6,720	6,720
Resident vehicles	5,723	6,440	6,081
Other vehicles	1,093	1,348	1,221
Total	18,322	19,616	18,969

Visiting vehicle permit requests near peak levels in August

In a first since the count-and-curb scheme was launched, motorists vying for accreditation to drive on the island outstripped the number of available permits. The situation arose four times in August: Thursday the 13th, Friday the 14th, Thursday the 20th and Friday the 21st. Plus, for twenty consecutive days in August —from the 5th to the 24th— permits were over 95% exhausted.

In 2020 the vehicle ceiling was set at 21,487—four per cent lower than the previous year's (22,382).

"The pandemic meant this was an atypical season for formentera.eco", said mobility chief Rafael González, who indicated that although "final data and conclusions [were] forthcoming, generally speaking the island saw fewer vehicles than in 2019". Still, demand hit particularly high levels in August, with permits even maxing out on four separate occasions—an indication, quipped González, "of just how necessary the regulatory scheme really is".

González trumpeted the scheme's accurate enforcement and the absence of significant "misalignments or incidents". He applauded the constant collaboration of ferry companies, who kept travellers informed for the duration of formentera.eco enforcement, as well as that of rent-a-car businesses for their overall compliance with the scheme.

"When complete data is available in October we will start sitting down with representatives of the local social and business sector in order to evaluate this second season and work on the season ahead", concluded González.

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