

Costa del Sol car hire sector faces challenge of the lack of new vehicles

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MALAGA. Customers wishing to hire a rental car on the Costa del Sol this summer are being urged to book well in advance as Malaga deals with a shortage of new vehicles in the market.

Out-of-stock vehicles at the manufacturers, long delivery times, the lack of components and the rise in prices are behind the problem that is affecting many car buyers in Spain.

The latest data shows a rental car fleet of about 40,000 vehicles in Malaga province. In 2022, some 50.7% fewer rental vehicles were registered than in the year before, according to information provided by Feneval, the national business federation for vehicle rental.

President of Feneval, Juan Luis Barahona, said: "The market and fleet availability is gradually recovering, but users must reserve their hire car as soon as possible." He recently asked the Ministry of Industry that 20% of all new stock available in Spain be reserved for the rental sector.

Ana María García, president of the association of car hire service businesses (Aesva), said the sector had not recovered from the pandemic. "They have been very hard years, as we had to sell all the stock due to the paralysis of the business and, when we returned, there were no cars to buy," she said.