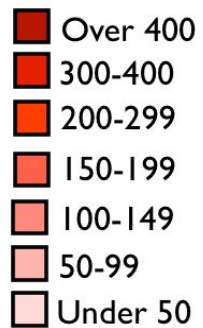


# Population Distribution

Case Study: Mezzogiorno, Italy

# Italy Population Density

Person Per Square Kilometer 2014



*GeoCurrents Map*

Data Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions\\_of\\_Italy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regions_of_Italy)

# Mezzogiorno, Italy





- The Mezzogiorno region of Southern Italy has a population of almost 21 million
- Average population density is 140 per square kilometre
- The population is very unevenly distributed
- Coastal areas are densely populated and experience population increase
- The interior is sparsely populated and experiences population decline
- Coastal areas are more economically developed than the interior

# Regions of the Mezzogiorno

Mezzogiorno,  
Italy



# Mezzogiorno, Italy

- The population distribution patterns in this region are affected by both physical and human factors



- As stated before the majority of the population of the Mezzogiorno are located in coastal regions.
- This is because the interior of the Mezzogiorno is dominated by the rugged and steep sided Appenine mountains.



- **Agriculture in such areas is confined mainly to sheep farming. This activity can only maintain a sparse population**
- **The Mezzogiornos best agricultural land is in coastal areas. Such areas include places of rich volcanic soil close to Mount Vesuvius and small but fertile alluvial coastal plains in paces such as Metapontino in the instep of Italy.**
- **The Cassa per il Mezzogiorno and the EU's CAP set up irrigation schemes and other initiatives that allowed small but intensive farms to prosper in such coastal areas**





E road network

- The steep gradient also makes it very difficult for construction. This has led to poor roads and the absence of vibrant urban areas prevent the development of large scale industry throughout most of the interior
- The Mezzogiorno's largest cities are all on or near the coast. They include Naples, Palermo, Bari, Brindisi and Taranto.



■ Naples

Palmero

Taranto




The Cassa per il Mezzogiorno choose such urban areas as growth poles of manufacturing industry and helped to develop in them heavy industries such as steel mills, oil refineries and petroleum plants. Light, footloose industries such as computer manufacturing were also attracted to coastal cities because of the relatively low-wage labour force that was available there.



- Tertiary economic activities are also poorly developed in the interior. Tourism is severely hampered by poor access to many upland areas and by a general shortage of hotels and other amenities
- Coastal areas of the Mezzogiorno where tourism has provided valuable employment in coastal resorts such as Sorrento and in historic sites such as Pompeii.
- Job opportunities in coastal cities have attracted in-migration from economically depressed interior areas. Such migration has further boosted the populations of coastal areas.



■ Aliano

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- A large red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, pointing downwards towards the text. It is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the text area.
- Such boosts have had a negative impact on interior areas. With few employment opportunities outside farming, many young people are forced to leave remote interior villages in search of work. The mountain village of Aliano in Basilicata provides a typical example of this. Since the 1960's the population has fallen by more than 25% as a result of out-migration. Most migrants are young adults and this has contributed to steadily falling birth rates leading to a population decline in that area.