

Automobile imports to Russia have fallen by 50% in January-April

25.05.2015 / Autostat

According to Autostat data, 112,700 automobiles have been imported to Russia during the first four months of the year (-50.8%). 51.3% of the aforementioned imports belong to Toyota (30,000, -13.5%), Hyundai (13,900, -36.7%) and Mercedes (13,900, -14.2%). While Toyota RAV4 has become the most imported model with 13,700 vehicles, Hyundai ix35 came second with 7500.

The brands which achieved to increase their import figures in comparison with the previous year, during the first four months are as follows: Lexus (+%52,3), Porsche (+%21,7), Faw (+%149,6), Dongfeng (+%179,7), Acura (+%19,9), Haima (+%308), Smart (+%103,4), Bentley (+%63), Rolls-Royce (+%89,4) and Lamborghini (+%266,7). The imports of other brands have declined.

Car production has shrunk by 21.9% in Russia in April

22.05.2015 / Rosstat

According to data published by the Russian Federal Institute of Statistics: Rosstat data, 125,000 automobiles have been manufactured in the country in April (-21.9%). Thereby, the number of automobiles manufactured within the first months of the year has reached 480,000 (-20.5%).

AVTOVAZ has transferred the Lada 4x4 line from VIS-Avto to its own factory in April, in order to increase the production volume. Another significant development of the month was the start of the production of the new generation Mondeo, by Ford Sollers.

According to Rosstat data, 12,500 trucks were manufactured in April (-26.7%). The January-April production figure is 35,500 (-24.6%). Ford Sollers' shift to CKD method in Transit production and the discontinuation of Mitsubishi Fuso production by Fuso KAMAZ Trucks, due to falling demand, can be mentioned as the other important events in the sphere of truck and LCV production.

Finally, the April bus production figure has been announced as 3100 (-16.3%). The total figure for the four-months period has reached 9700 (-16.4%).

Volkswagen will open its Kaluga engine factory during the second half of 2015

19.05.2015 / Zr.ru

VW will start the serial production of petrol engines in Kaluga, during the second half of 2015. The 1.6 l petrol engines manufactured at the factory will be used in VW and Skoda automobiles, produced by the company in Russia. According to Zr.ru portal, the first party of engines manufactured in the factory in February are on test at the moment.

Opel Mokka production starts in Belarus

21.05.2015 / Zr.ru

Yunison has announced that the assembly production of Opel Mokka will start in the Belarussian capital Minsk. The components to be used in production will be brought from the South Korea factory of GM. The automobiles manufactured in Minsk will be sold in Belarus and Russia. The company officials have not disclosed the production volume.

As is known, Belarus is a member of the Customs Union, alongside Russia, Kazakhstan and Armenia. The models manufactured in Minsk will enter the Russian market customs-free. The GM representative, who spoke to Zr.ru news agency, has confirmed that Mokka will be sold via the dealers network in Russia. Mokka, which is the most popular Opel model in Russia, will be on the market before the end of the year, according to expectations.

Yunison, the manufacturer of brands such as: Geely, Samand and Zotye in Belarus, started the assembly production of several Peugeot models in 2015. As one may remember, GM had closed its Russia factory and announced complete withdrawal from the Russian market, with the exception of few premium models.

KAMAZ has introduced two new electric buses

19.05.2015 / Autostat

KAMAZ has launched two new electric buses at the ElectroTrans exhibition in Moscow. KAMAZ press office has stated that the buses have been developed in cooperation with Rus Drive Electro company. The semi-low ceiling KAMAZ-2257E model buses have the capacity to carry 22 passengers. The second model launched by the company: NEFAZ-52994E belongs to large class and carries 85 passengers. As well as electric filling stations, the buses can be charged from trolleybus lines, which are widespread in Russia. NEFAZ-52994E will be tested by the Moscow transport company Mosgortrans in October. The decision on the serial production of the bus will depend on its performance in winter conditions.

Russia has postponed the customs-free FIAT imports from Serbia

13.05.2015 / AutoSreda

The negotiations on the customs-free imports of FIAT automobiles manufactured in Serbia to Russia have been postponed. According to Serbian news broadcaster Beta, a delegation led by the Russian minister of energy Alexander Novak was being expected in Serbia. The customs-free import of FIAT was being planned to be discussed, within the frame of the visit. However, the Russian side has postponed the visit to an uncertain date.

Nissan St. Petersburg plant will start Qashqai production at the end of the year

15.05.2015 / AvtoSreda

St. Petersburg Nissan factory has announced that the production of Qashqai will start during the fourth quarter of the year. Qashqai, the price tag of which starts from 1.076 million rubles in Russia, is currently being imported from England.

The press office of the factory has stated that no decision has been taken on the production of the new generation Murano in St. Petersburg yet.

The models manufactured by Nissan in Russia are as follows: Teana, the previous generation Murano, X-Trail and Pathfinder (St. Petersburg), Terrano (Moscow), Almera sedan (Togliatti), Nissan Sentra and Tiida (Izhevsk).

Russian new car and LCV market has shrunk by 41.5% in April

14.05.2015 / OIB Russia

According to Association of European Businesses data, 132,456 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in April. This is equivalent to a 41.5% year-on-year decline. The sales figure for the first four months of 2015 is 516,135 (-37.7%).

Joerg Schreiber, Chairman of the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee commented: “With 132 thousand new vehicle registrations, total market sales in April mark a new low point in the AEB sales history over the past 10 years. Only in 2009 did we record a similarly weak but slightly better result for this month (136 thousand units). The similarity to 2009, the year of the Lehman crisis, demonstrates the severity of the present situation. The dynamics of the current crisis however are different, last not least this time the government responded much earlier with selective countermeasures meant to avoid an even deeper fall. Therefore, we do not expect YOY market performance to deteriorate much further, rather we foresee a gradual flattening of the negative trend in the coming months”.

GAZ Group will start manufacturing new bus models in 2015

12.05.2015 / Zr.ru

GAZ Group has launched its new models: Vector-3 and the medium class LiAZ-4292, during the Bus World Fair 2015 (Mir Avtobusov). Both vehicles have been designed for routes with less volume of passengers. As announced by the company press office, the serial production of the vehicles will start this year.

Russians spent 10.64 trillion rubles on vehicles in 2014

08.05.2015 / Autostat

According to Autostat's survey, there are 40.8 million cars, 3.9 million light commercial vehicles, 3.7 million trucks, 2.5 million motorcycles and 400,000 buses registered in Russia, as of 01.01.2015.

Russian consumers have spent 2.4 trillion rubles on new automobile purchases, 3.3 trillion on second hand vehicles, 540 billion on auto-services, 220 billion on insurance, 150 billion on the compulsory insurance: OSAGO, 2.7 trillion on fuel, 930 billion on car components and 400 billion on truck components in 2014, as stated by the same survey (total 10.64 trillion rubles).

Toyota St. Petersburg plant will lay off staff

07.05.2015 / Zr.ru

Toyota Motor St. Petersburg plant is getting ready to terminate the contracts of its temporary staff, as from 1 June. As emphasised by the company, the decision has been taken due to the falling new automobile demand.

According to Zr.ru portal, 250 of the 1850 workers will be laid off by the factory. The company officials deny a possible reflection of layoffs on Camry production or RAV4 production preparations. As is known, Toyota is planning to double the capacity of its St. Petersburg plant next year.

Toyota St. Petersburg plant had started the production of the renewed Camry in November. 7510 of the model have been sold within the first quarter of the year (+2%). The vehicle occupies the top spot in D/E segment as of the first quarter, with a market share of 35.1%.

BMW has postponed its plans to establish a factory in Russia

07.05.2015 / Kommersant

The chairman of the German car manufacturer BMW: Norbert Reithofer has announced postponement to plans to establish a factory in Russia. Reithofer has stated that the economic crisis in Russia and the decline in new automobile sales up to 40% have prevented the company from taking the final decision on plans to make joint production with Avtotor. Currently, BMW automobiles are being manufactured at Kaliningrad Avtotor factory in Russia, with SKD method.

Russian government will offer protection to foreign car manufacturers against the exchange rate fluctuations

05.05.2015 / Kommersant

According to Kommersant newspaper via sectoral sources, the Russian government is getting ready to take measures, towards supporting the foreign car manufacturers making production in the country. Officials from the ministry of economy, interviewed by the newspaper, have also confirmed that changes to the industrial assembly regime regulations are on the agenda. The officials have told that the changes will take place in order to reduce the negative effects of the symptoms of crisis observed in the economy, on the automotive sector of the country. The amendments, which are expected to come into force sometime around the end of the second quarter and the beginning of the third, will affect over 70 companies, which signed the industrial assembly regime agreement with the government, within the frame of the bylaws number 166 and 566.

Although the ministry officials hold back any detailed information, the updated sources state that the amendments will be made on the formula used in the calculation of the localisation rate. Accordingly, the insertion of a coefficient, which will offset the risks arising from exchange rate fluctuations, to the formula is on the agenda. The current localisation rate depends on the customs costs of the imported automobile components and the general costs of the manufactured vehicles, excluding the taxes. The car manufacturers, who signed the industrial assembly regime agreement, are under the obligation to meet a certain rate of localisation every year and reach 60% localisation before 2020.

In 2005, the year when the industrial assembly regime agreement was launched, \$1 was equal to 28.78 and €1 to 34.19 rubles. As of 01.05.2015 the rates were as follows: \$1 = 51.12 rubles and €1 = 57.16 rubles. Thereby, due to rising costs of the imported components in rubles, the localisation rates declined, although technically the ratio of imported components remained unchanged.

The manufacturers may fall under the risk of missing out on achieving the required rates of localisation, unless changes take place in industrial assembly regime regulations. This might result in the forfeit of the right to import customs-free components. The tariffs implemented on component imports go up to 15% for manufacturers, in the absence of the industrial assembly regime.

According to latest data, the localisation rates of companies are as follows: Ford Sollers: 40%, VW Group: 42%, Renault Russia: 75% and Nissan St. Petersburg factory: 39%.