

The shrinkage in Russian vehicle market remained at 2% in February

12.03.2014 / OIB Russia

According to data announced by Association of European Business (AEB) yesterday, 206,476 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in February. This figure is 2% lower in comparison with the same period of the previous year. Thereby, the number of cars and LCVs sold in Russia within the first two months of 2014 has reached 372,740 (-4%).

IzhAvto will manufacture 100,000 automobiles in 2014

11.03.2014 / Avtosreda

AvtoVAZ has approved the 2014 Business Plan of Izhevsk Car Factory (IzhAvto). Accordingly, the company will manufacture 100,000 automobiles this year. Plans to start the production of a Nissan model at the factory, in addition to Lada Granta, had been announced previously. It's predicted that this model will be Sentra.

The factory, which currently manufactures Lada Granta Sedan, will add Lada Granta Hatchback to its model range in Spring. IzhAvto manufactured 57,771 Granta Sedan in 2013.

GAZ has started the serial production of double row GAZel Next

07.03.2014 / Avtostat

Nizhny-Novgorod based Gorky Car Factory (GAZ) has started the serial production of the double seat row version of the new generation of GAZel Next light commercial vehicles, designed to carry both passengers and load. The vehicle has been modified thus, in order to be used in areas such as: municipal services and transfer of repair and service crews.



Nissan will invest €60 million in its production line at AvtoVAZ

06.03.2014 / Avtostat

Japanese car manufacturer Nissan will make an investment of €60 million in its new production line at AvtoVAZ. The company is planning to increase the capacity of its St. Petersburg factory from the current level of 50,000 vehicles to 100,000, with a new investment of €167 million.

According to the statement made by the company, the production of new Qashqai will start in St. Petersburg factory in 2015. The factory currently manufactures X-Trail, Teana and Murano model automobiles.

Nissan aims to triple its Russian sales within the next four years and reach a market share of 10%.

KamAZ production has fallen by 9.2% in 2013

26.02.2014 / Avtostat

Russian truck manufacturer KamAZ has manufactured 42,882 trucks and chassis in 2013 (-9.2%). On the other hand, the company has started the production of M1842 model tow trucks in January. KamAZ aims to increase its share in tow trucks segment from 2-5% to 25% with the introduction of the new model. The cabin design of M1842 is based on Mercedes-Benz Axor series. The engine of the vehicle also belongs to Mercedes-Benz Axor: the 428hp OM457LA.

KamAZ has sold 43,800 vehicles in domestic and foreign markets last year (-4%). The company's production and sales target for this year is 43,500 vehicles (-0.7%). 2000 of this figure is expected to be formed of M1842 model.

St.Petersburg market has grown by 1% in January

25.02.2014 / Auto-Dealer-SPb

According to Auto-Dealer-SPb data, 10,935 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in the city in January 2014 (+1%). Thereby, the the automobile market of the city has shown a positive dynamics in three consecutive months. Renault has become the market leader in January. St. Petersburg market is equivalent to 7.2% of the Russian market. This ratio was 6.7% last year.

On the other hand, premium class car sales have increased by 26% in St. Petersburg in January.

Russian LCV market has shrunk by 10.8% in January

24.02.2014 / Avtostat

7777 light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in January 2014 (-10.8%). Thereby, the country's LCV market has displayed a negative dynamics for six months in a row.

63.7% of the vehicles sold belongs to Russian brands. GAZ has once again become the market leader with a sales figure of 3260 vehicles in January (-20.6%). 41.9% of the market is held by GAZ. UAZ, whose sales declined by 22%, occupies the second place. The sales figure of the brand is 985 vehicles. Volkswagen leads the foreign brands with a sales figure of 761 vehicles (+88.4%). Lada follows these three brands with a sales figure of 694 Largus and VIS in January (+25%). Ford, on the other hand, has sold 466 vehicles (-41.4%).

A quarter of car production in Russia has been made in St. Petersburg in January

20.02.2014 / Auto-Dealer-SPb

According to Auto-Dealer-SPb data, 30,000 automobiles have been manufactured by St. Petersburg based Toyota, GM, Nissan and Hyundai factories in January (-5%). This figure is equivalent to 25% of all car production in Russia in January. This ratio was 20.5% in 2013. Auto-Dealer-SPb relates the 5% decline in production to GM's late return to production in 13.01.2014, following the new year holidays.

The models manufactured at the four factories established in the city are as follows; Chevrolet Cruze, Opel Astra, Chevrolet Trailblazer, Nissan Teana, Nissan X-Trail, Nissan Murano, Toyota Camry, Hyundai Solaris and Kia Rio.

Derways has started JAC S5 production

17.02.2014 / Avtosreda

Cherkessk based Derways Car Factory has started the production of JAC S5 crossovers. The model will be put on the Russian market in March. According to the statement made by the Russian distributor of the brand, the other JAC models sold in Russia will be imported from Ukrainian Bogdan factory and China.

SUV segment has become the market leader in Russia in 2013

19.02.2014 / AutoBusiness Review

36% of new automobiles sold in Russia in 2013 belongs to the SUV segment: 932,000 vehicles. Thereby, SUV segment has overtaken B segment in sales for the first time. SUV sales have increased by 10% in comparison with the previous year.

Compact models such as: Renault Duster, Chevrolet Niva and Lada 4x4 have become the best-selling SUV vehicles. 647,000 of these models have been sold in 2013 (+16%). This figure is equivalent to a quarter of the market.

Medium SUV segment, on the other hand, has grown by only 0.6%, in comparison with the previous year. Mitsubishi Outlander is the segment leader (+24%). In contrast, large SUV segment has shrunk by 3% in 2013. Toyota Land Cruiser Prado and Land Cruiser 200 are the segment leaders.

Car production in Russia has shrunk by 14.1% in January

18.02.2014 / Rosstat

According to data published by the Russian Federal Institute of Statistics: Rosstat, 117,000 automobiles have been manufactured in the country, within the first month of 2014 (-14.1%). The leader of Russian automotive: AvtoVAZ has manufactured 22,640 vehicles in January (-36%). In addition, the company manufactured over 2200 Nissan Almera at the Tolyatti factory. This figure is expected to rise to a level of 5500-6000 vehicles in the forthcoming period.

Russian truck industry has also experienced a 58.8% decline in production in January. The total production figure is 3200 vehicles. It should be remembered that the biggest truck manufacturer of the country: KamAZ has resumed production only on 23.01.2014, due to holidays and days off. Another Russian commercial vehicle manufacturer: GAZ did not operate during the whole month of January either, due to modernisation works and days taken off work.

Finally, 844 buses have been manufactured in Russia in January (-59.3%).

GAZ Group is planning to invest 5 billion rubles in new models

17.02.2014 / Prime

Pyotr Sereda, in charge of development in GAZ Group light commercial vehicles department, has announced that the company is planning make a new investment of 5 billion rubles in regeneration of the model range until the year 2017. Sereda has highlighted the development of light-tonnage truck models as the company's main project this year.

On the other hand, the Group has put the minibuses designed on GAZel Next LCV platform on the market. GAZ manufactures the 17-seater minibuses at the Nizhni-Novgorod factory. According to Sereda, production of 27-seater buses will be the next target for the Group.

AvtoVAZ has caused Renault a loss of €34 million in 2013

14.02.2014 / RBK

Renault has made a loss of €34 million from its participation in AvtoVAZ in 2013. AvtoVAZ had brought Renault a loss of €186 million to Renault in 2012 as well. Renault's worldwide net profit reached €586 million in 2013. The net profit was €1.75 billion in 2012.

35.9% share of AvtoVAZ is held by Nissan. This rate will go up to 50.01% in mid-2014. The General Director of Renault: Carlos Ghosn has told ITAR-TASS that despite the current difficulties AvtoVAZ is experiencing, the company is expected to move into profit before 2016. Ghosn has also emphasised that Renault has full confidence in Bo Anderson and his team.

Russian car imports down by 17% in 2013

13.02.2014 / Prime

Russian automobile imports have declined by 16.9% in 2013, with 894,100 vehicles. According to Federal Customs House data, the monetary value of the imported vehicles is \$16.997 billion.

The number of imported trucks has fallen by 26% last year. The monetary value of the 88,800 imported trucks has been calculated as \$2.868 billion.

The exports of Russia, on the other hand, have increased by 22% in 2013. The monetary value of the 137,900 automobiles imported has reached \$1.485 billion. The number of exported trucks is 27,000 (+43.6%). The monetary value of truck exports is \$607.5 million.

FIAT couldn't start Ducato production in Moscow

12.02.2014 / Reuters

According to Reuters, FIAT has once more postponed its light commercial vehicles production project in Russia.

In Spring 2012, the creditor of Moscow based ZiL factory: Sberbank and Moscow City Council had agreed to organise LCV production, contracted to an annual capacity of 40,000 vehicles, at the old truck factory. Upon reaching an agreement with Renault and Nissan, a partnership was established under the name of MosavtoZiL and in order to benefit from government promotions, Himeks company, which held an unused Industrial Assembly Regime agreement, was purchased. FIAT Ducato production was expected to start at ZiL within the first quarter of 2014. However, an agreement is yet to be signed with the Italian manufacturer.

The General Director of MosavtoZiL: Igor Kulgan has told Reuters: "FIAT has not signed a legally binding agreement yet. The signature of the agreement would enable us to fulfil the requirements within the frame of the Industrial Assembly Regime. For this reason we have cancelled the bidding for equipment purchase."

The first bidding for equipment purchase was planned for 04.02.2014. The purchase was due to be financed by Sberbank. Reuters' sources within Sberbank state that the bank is still behind the project. The total finance of the project is 16 billion rubles.

On the other hand, the second potential partner of MosavtoZiL: Renault has not yet made a final decision either. The company executives have told Reuters that they are still in evaluation process.

VTB Kapital analyst: Vladimir Bespalov has made the following comment: "FIAT failed to consolidate its position while Russian market was growing. Now, on the other hand, is not the right time to organise production. The competition is growing more and more fierce with falling sales."

According to Avtostat data, 179,727 new light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in 2013 (-3.4%).

Russian vehicle market has started the year with a 6% decline

10.02.2014 / OIB Russia

According to data published by Association of European Business (AEB), 152,662 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia within the first month of 2014 (-6%). All of the top-ten best-sold models have been manufactured in Russia.

Can Russian automobile export hit the 1 million vehicles mark?

11.02.2014 / Vedomosti

The consulting firm: KPMG has conducted a poll within the Russian automobile market. According to the prediction of the participants, Russian automobile exports will increase sevenfold in the forthcoming years and hit the 1 million vehicles mark. While 44% of the participants estimate this process to take in between 3-5 years, 33% make a longer prediction of 6-9 years.

According to ASM Holding data, Russia has exported 142,600 automobiles in 2013. 88,000 vehicles have been sold to Kazakhstan.

The biggest Russian automobile exporter: AvtoVAZ has exported 78,602 automobiles in 2013 (+11%). 72% of the exports have been made to Kazakhstan, 9% to Ukraine, 6% to Azerbaijan and 4% to European countries.

Ulrik Andersen, in charge of Russian automotive at KPMG, is of the opinion that the exports will increase in parallel with the enhancements made in the capacities of Russian factories by foreign manufacturers. Anderson reminds that the existing and the planned annual capacity in the country is more than 3 million vehicles. This amount is above the market volume. According to ASM data, 2.6 million vehicles have been sold in the country in 2013. Andersen states that the CIS countries are the main export markets for Russia and Hyundai/KIA, Volkswagen, Renault/Nissan and GM also export automobiles to these countries, besides AvtoVAZ.

The Deputy Minister of Industry and Commerce in Russia: Alexei Rakhmanov shares the prediction that the automobile exports of the country will have reached 1 million vehicles within the next 3-5 years. Avtostat Executive Director: Sergei Udaltsov, on the other hand, is of the opinion that this process will take 6 to 9 years. The main factor stimulating the increase in exports is the growth in the markets of the CIS countries. ASM data show that the Kazakh market has grown by 80% in 2013. Ukrainian market has shrunk by 10.2%, in contrast with the 50% increase in automobile sales in Belarus.

The foreign manufacturers speaking to Vedomosti state that no increase in exports is being planned. Russian market is the primary target for Volkswagen and GM. Toyota has sold 3042 and 255 of the 35,685 automobiles manufactured in St. Petersburg to Kazakhstan and Belarus, respectively. An executive from the factory has stated that these figures may increase, depending on the demand in the aforementioned countries. Nissan factories in Russia have not yet started selling automobiles abroad. However, the company is investigating the possibility of making exports to Kazakhstan and Belarus, under the brand name of Datsun. Datsun production will start at AvtoVAZ facilities from 2014 onwards. St. Petersburg based Hyundai/KIA factory, on the other hand, exports 10% of its production to CIS countries.

KamAZ sales have declined by 2.8% in 2013

06.02.2014 / Finmarket

KamAZ has sold 38,070 trucks in Russia last year (-2.8%). Sergei Kolesnikov, in charge of the marketing department of the company, has highlighted the fact that the Russian truck market has shrunk by 28% in 2013. In other words, despite the falling sales, the market share of KamAZ has risen to 45% from 34%. KamAZ's 2014 sales target is 43,500 vehicles.

According to the data Kolesnikov refers to, while the share of Ural, another competitor in the market, increased from 5% to 6%, the share of Belarusian manufacturer: MAZ shrank from 13% to 9%. The total share of foreign brand trucks has fallen to 40% from 48%.

Volkswagen production has increased by 4.5% in Russia in 2013

05.02.2014 / Avtostat

The 2013 production figure of Volkswagen Group Rus in Russia has been announced as 188,000 (+4.5%). The press office of the company has stated that the VW and Skoda model automobiles manufactured in Kaluga and Nizhni-Novgorod have been included in this figure. Accordingly, 150,000 automobiles have been manufactured in Kaluga in 2013 (-14%). The transfer of Skoda Octavia production to GAZ factory in Nizhni-Novgorod is being shown as the reason behind the decline in production. GAZ Group has manufactured 38,000 Skoda Yeti, VW Jetta and new generation Skoda Octavia in 2013.

Volkswagen has sold 70,554 Polo Sedan in Russia in 2013 (+7%). The sales figures for VW Tiguan and Skoda Octavia A5 are 27,824 (-11%) and 32,153 (-38.2%), respectively. The sales figure of the second most popular Skoda model in Russia: Fabia is 22,292, on the other hand (-3.2%).

The other models and their sales dynamics are as follows; VW Touareg- 8792 (-13.3%), T5- 6714 (-7.6%), Skoda Yeti- 13,645 (19.5%), Skoda Octavia A7- 13,663, VW Jetta- 20,290 (+37.5%).