

Car imports to Russia have risen for the first time in three years in August

29.09.2016 / Autostat

According to Autostat data, 21,100 automobiles have been imported to Russia in August 2016, which is equivalent to a 5.3% year-on-year increase.

Thereby, the imports have shown positive dynamics for the first time in three years. As one may remember, an increase in the number of car imports to Russia on a monthly basis had been recorded in September 2013 for the last time (+5.2%), which was followed by month after month gradual decline.

Japanese Toyota has become the most popular imported brand to the Russian Federation with 8200 vehicles, following a 3.5 times year-on-year increase. It should be noted that all top four spots of the rankings are occupied by Toyota models: RAV4, Land Cruiser, Land Cruiser Prado and Corolla. Another Japanese brand: the premium Lexus came second, with an August import figure of 2900 units, indicating a 8.6-fold year-on-year rise. Three Lexus models (LX, RX, NX) have made it into the top-ten most imported models.

The top-three is completed by the German manufacturer Mercedes-Benz, despite a 3.5% year-on-year shrinkage in import numbers in August (2600 vehicles). Mercedes-Benz has two models in the top-ten (GLE-Class and GLC-Class).

Mitsubishi i-MiEV electric car has left the Russian market

28.09.2016 / wroom.ru

The official sales of Mitsubishi i-MiEV electric cars in Russian market has been discontinued. As stated by the distributor of the brand: MMS Rus to Wroom.ru website, the resumption of the supply of the model to Russia is not planned in the near future, due to the increase in the price of the model, caused by the depreciation of the ruble against the Japanese yen. However, Mitsubishi i-MiEV may return to the Russian market, in the event of an improvement in economic circumstances.

Only 8 i-MiEV have been sold in Russia within the first eight months of the year, according to Autostat data. The official dealers of the brand have only sold 267 Mitsubishi i-MiEV in five years, on the other hand.

Mitsubishi i-MiEV had been the only official electric car model represented in the Russian market until recently. However, the sales of two other electric models have started in the country as of the beginning of September: Renault Twizy and Kangoo Z.E.

Martur has started manufacturing car seats for Renault Kaptur

26.09.2016 / Autostat

Martur, established in Ulyanovsk region, has launched a new range of car seats for Renault Kaptur. The current daily production capacity is 200 sets of seats, however, in parallel with the expansion of the production of Renault models, the car seat orders will increase, as told by the company.

Martur has started making serial production in January 2016, as stated by the press office of the government of Ulyanovsk region. More than 450 million rubles has been invested in the project. Around 400 people are currently employed in production. The company manufactures car seat assemblies for 700 vehicles daily. Renault Russia from Moscow and AVTOVAZ from Tolyatti are the main clients of the Ulyanovsk plant.

Turkish Martur was established as a foam manufacturer for automotive industry in 1985. The company is one of the world's leading car seat manufacturers at the moment. The company employs approximately 3000 people. Renault, Citroen, FIAT, Ford, Peugeot and Toyota are amongst the customers of the company. Offices and production sites of the company are in Turkey, Romania, France, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Italy and Russia.

Chinese manufacturer Changan has started serial crossover assembly in Lipetsk region

20.09.2016 / Interfax

The serial production of the Chinese crossover Changan CS35, presented at the Moscow Motor Show in late August, has started at the production facilities of Irito Group in the Krasninsky district of Lipetsk region, as stated by the head of the Innovation and Industrial Policy Department of the region.

"The conveyor has started to roll in September as previously planned and up to 1000 automobiles will have been assembled at the factory till the end of the year. Market analysis shows that a demand exists in Russia for this particular crossover model." - said the head of the department.

The annual production capacity of the facility in Krasninsky district has been calculated as 30,000 vehicles.

KAMAZ plans to export more trucks to non-CIS countries

22.09.2016 / [kolesa.ru](#)

The company CEO: Sergei Kogogin has said the following on the export policy of the Russian auto manufacturer for 2016: “Last year’s export ratio of non-CIS - 25% against CIS -75% has changed to 30% - 70% in 2016 - as stated by the head of KAMAZ. - Today, we’re witnessing an economic crisis in almost all CIS countries, raw materials being at the root of all problems. We had to re-orient the exports urgently and so we did. Our previous largest export market Kazakhstan has been replaced by Vietnam this year, which is followed by Cuba in the second spot.”

“We consider a return to the Vietnamese market in the near future. There’s no need for production yet, as the government of the country has changed the rules of the customs fees on complete automobiles and SKD. The delivery of complete trucks turned out to be more profitable than manufacturing on the spot - noted Sergei Kogogin. - However, our plant in the country is kept, operating in a stable manner, making profit. Repairs of vehicles and mining equipments are the main operations carried out at the plant. KAMAZ is the largest shareholder of the factory. As soon as the governments of Russia and Vietnam sign an agreement on a free-trade area, we will have the opportunity to resume operations at the factory.”

The Russian manufacturer tries to establish cooperation in India, alongside Vietnam: “The Indian market remains important for us, we have sold more than 1000 vehicles in the country”. The general director has added that the engineers have completed the development and the certification of the vehicles to the requirements of the Indian market and the first production lot has already been manufactured.

The government will allocate 3.3 billion rubles in order to support car exports

15.09.2016 / [Vedomosti](#)

The government has approved the conditions of the subsidy programme, aimed at the support of automobile and component exports. 3.3 billion rubles will be allocated for the purpose. The government will compensate up to 80% of transport costs to the border regions by land and 50% by sea and up to 100% of certification and homologation expenditures.

As published by Autostat previously, 611,000 passenger cars have been manufactured in Russia between January and July 2016 (- 18%), according to Rosstat data. 37,780 automobiles have been exported, indicating a 35.5% year-on-year decline, according to FTS data. The shrinkage is mainly related to the falling demand in Kazakhstan, the largest market for the Russian automotive industry. An approximate number of 60,000 automobiles are planned to be exported in total, within the frame of the programme.

Passenger car production has risen by 42% in August

16.09.2016 / Autostat

According to Rosstat data, 702,000 automobiles have rolled off Russian production lines within the first eight months of 2016, which is equivalent to a 13.1% year-on-year decline. In the meantime, 91,000 automobiles have been manufactured in August, indicating a 41.6% rise, in comparison with the same period of the previous year.

As published by Autostat previously, Russian Hyundai plant has started the production of the new Hyundai Creta model last month and Toyota factory the RAV4 crossover. In addition, the 10,000th Ford EcoSport crossover has rolled off the production line at Naberezhnye Chelny Ford Sollers plant, since the start of the production of the model in December 2014. The Russian plants of Renault and Toyota have stopped their production lines during the summer holidays and AVTOVAZ has returned to 5-days-a-week operating regime at the end of the corporate holidays, putting an end to the 4-day regime carried out since February.

Truck production has amounted to 80,000 units within the January-August period, which indicates a 6.3% year-on-year rise. 9600 trucks have rolled off Russian production lines last month, a figure equivalent to a 7.2% year-on-year growth. KAMAZ has manufactured more than 1200 trucks last month, following the two weeks suspension of production during company holidays in August. Avtotor has started the assembly of Hyundai HD light trucks, on the other hand.

Bus production has risen by 4.5% in Russia to 23,400 units by the end of the first eight months of 2016. Bus factories have manufactured approximately 4300 vehicles in August (+36.5%).

The truck market has grown by more than 20% in August

13.09.2016 / Autostat

The volume of the Russian truck market has amounted to 4700 units in August, according to Autostat data, which indicates a 21.1% year-on-year increase. Thereby, the market has grown in five consecutive months.

KAMAZ has kept its position as the leader of the Russian truck market, with around 38% share of the total volume in August. The figure is equivalent to approximately 1800 vehicles in quantitative terms, 34.8% up from last year. The second spot is occupied by another home brand - GAZ, with 678 vehicles (+49.7%). Belarusian MAZ completes the top-three (334, +38%). Japanese Isuzu (254, +13.4%) and German Mercedes (214, +3.9%) were the remaining manufacturers in the top-five.

It should be noted that the Russian new truck market has amounted to 31,300 units within the first eight months of 2016, 3.4% down from the same period of the previous year.

113,749 automobiles have been sold in August

08.09.2016 / RusAutoNews.com

The sales figure for new cars and light commercial vehicles went down by 24,969 sold units to 113,749 vehicles, following an 18.0 % year-on-year shrinkage in August 2016, according to the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee (AEB AMC).

895,357 automobiles have been sold within the January—August period of this year .

Joerg Schreiber, Chairman of the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee commented: “August was unable to break the downward trend in the year-on-year sales dynamics we have seen in recent months. We need to bear in mind however that last year's volume base was propped up by currency fluctuations prompting customers to pull ahead the purchase of their car. This did not happen this year - bad for the current month statistics but a good thing for sales in the coming months as customer demand won't be distorted by this factor. Another piece of good news is that, for the time being, total market sales have stopped to undercut the former historical low levels reached in 2009. Chances are strong that this story will continue in September”.

AEB's detailed market figures are available in our website: <http://rusautonews.com/statistics/>

More than 435,000 automobiles have been sold with the help of government support

09.09.2016 / Autostat

435,308 new vehicles of all types have been sold from 1 January to 28 August 2016, within the frame of three demand stimulation programmes (park utilisation programme, preferential car loans and preferential leasing). The relevant statement has been made by the press-office of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to Autostat.

263,675 automobiles have been sold within the first eight months of the year via the park utilisation programme. AVTOVAZ has become the leader of the programme (32% share), followed by Hyundai, Renault, Nissan and Volkswagen. 178,980 vehicles have been sold through preferential car loans, the most popular automobiles of the programme being the models of LADA (30% share), Hyundai, Volkswagen, Renault and Nissan. Over 30,000 units of commercial transport vehicles have been sold within the scope of the preferential leasing programme in 2016, generating more than 50 billion rubles in monetary terms. The amount of discounts granted by the government has amounted to 5 billion rubles, which is equivalent to the limit allocated by the financial programme from the federal budget.

Ford has increased the supply of components from Russia to Europe

07.09.2016 / Vedomosti

Ford Motor Company plans to triple the exports of Russian car components to Europe within the course of the next three years, as told by the vice-president of the purchasing department of the manufacturer: Hau Thai-Tang to Vedomosti.

Ford currently exports alloyed wheels (manufactured by SKAD), brackets (ZMZ) and spark plugs (Bosch) from Russia. The components are sent to the car assembly plant of the company in Germany and the engine factory in the United Kingdom. Six more companies will be added on the "export list" in the near future, manufacturing interior elements (Faurecia, Magna), stampings (Coskunoz, Peterform), glass (AGC) and weatherstrips, as specified by the representative of Ford Sollers. Metal and plastic component manufacturers will join the list in the future - said Thai-Tang.

"Ford Sollers is interested in the growth of component exports, in order to provide support to its suppliers" - said the representative of the joint venture. Despite the 14% shrinkage in passenger car and light commercial vehicle sales in Russia within the January-June period of 2016, Ford sales have risen by 40%, albeit the volume is still small, according to AEB data. Other manufacturers also have plans to improve their car component exports from Russia. Renault will supply car bodies for its Logan vehicles manufactured in Algeria. PSA Group uses components from Russia, however only for after-sales services in other countries yet, as stated by the company representative. Nissan has announced the start of bumper exports to Europe for Nissan X-Trail vehicles.

Ford Sollers makes engine production in Tatarstan, which equip Ford models manufactured in Russia. The company is studying export opportunities for engines and engine components, however, no decision has been taken yet, as told by Thai-Tang. The engine production of Ford in Britain has become more profitable, due to the devaluation of the pound, as a result of the planned exit of the country from the EU, Thai-Tang added.

The Russian authorities have promised to support the exports of automobiles, as well as car components as of this year, including the compensation of logistical expenses. These measures will encourage the Russian suppliers and global companies with factories in Russia to increase their exports, by reducing costs and improving the effectiveness of local production, comments Thai-Tang. Government support is common in developing countries, due to the help it provides in the compensation of two characteristic risks - the cyclical natures of the economies and the fluctuations in the local currencies, as noted by Thai-Tang. The demand stimulating measures are amongst the most common support tools, alongside subsidies on interest payments on loans, tax cuts and subsidies on logistics.

Nissan has started the exports of Russian production bumpers to Europe

05.09.2016 / Autostat

Nissan has started the exports of the spare parts manufactured at the company's St. Petersburg plant to Europe. The company will supply front and rear bumpers for its own production Nissan X-Trail vehicles (plastic products workshop), significantly reducing the cost of components in comparison with the analogue model as a result, which were previously delivered from Japan, as stated by Nissan press office. The materials used in the casting process of the bumpers are imported from Holland, where a granulate production site is situated. The bumpers will be delivered to the European central spare parts warehouse in Holland, which deals with the consolidation of all spare parts for the European market, for further sales to dealers throughout the continent.

The Russian plant of Nissan has been manufacturing 8 different types of bumpers for domestic dealers for 1.5 years. The factory currently supplies the Russian market with 4000-5000 bumpers annually. The components are used in the equipment of all four models manufactured at the plant: X-Trail, Qashqai, Pathfinder and Murano. The annual approximate number of X-Trail bumpers planned to be exported is planned to be risen from 6000 units in 2016 to 10,000 in 2017.

The export possibilities of service metal components (doors, bonnets etc.) are being studied at the moment, the production of which is currently made in the plant for the domestic market. The metal components in consideration are for X-Trail and Qashqai models.

As published by Autostat earlier, Nissan St. Petersburg plant has manufactured 16,785 automobiles within the first half of 2016, which is equivalent to a 14.2% year-on-year increase. The production has grown despite the market shrinkage, mainly thanks to the bestselling models Nissan Qashqai and X-Trail, according to the company statement. In addition, the production of the new generation of Nissan Murano has started in the St. Petersburg plant in June.

Mazda starts engine production in Russia

02.09.2016 / Vedomosti

The JV of Sollers and Mazda: MazdaSollers Manufacturing Rus (50-50% partnership) has signed a special investment contract with the Russian government today, which requires an investment of more than 2 billion rubles in an engine factory in Primorye Krai, as announced by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. The investor guarantees an investment amount of over 2 billion rubles in the organisation, for the purpose of reaching an annual production capacity of 50,000 engines in 2018 and the localisation of a number of technological operations, carried out in the production of basic components of the engines. Russia, on the other hand, has pledged to contribute to the development of the project in Vladivostok, through provision of government support measures. The company plans to organise the production of the new Mazda Sky engines, including the machining operations of the basic components of the units. More than 600 jobs will be created, as a result of the implementation of the project.