

Russian car exports have increased by almost 2.5 times in January

17.03.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

According to Russian Federation Customs House data, Russian car exports have increased by almost 2.5 times in January with 3700 units, generating \$51.9 million in total. 1500 vehicles have been sold to non-CIS countries for \$20.8 million and 2100 to CIS countries for \$31.1 million.

On the other hand, car imports to Russia have grown by 1.8% in January, reaching 11,200 units. The monetary value of car imports to Russia during the aforementioned period amounts to \$297.8 million. 10,700 vehicles have been imported from non-CIS countries for \$290.8 million and 500 from CIS countries for \$7 million.

GAZ Group enters Iran and returns to Turkey

15.03.2017 / Vedomosti

GAZ Group plans to start bus production in Iran in 2017, as told by the company chairman Vadim Sorokin. "We are currently carrying out tests on our buses - Vector and Cursor - in order to make sure that our engines will allow us to operate these vehicles under any conditions" - Sorokin said, as quoted by Interfax.

The production site has not been chosen yet and the company is in search for a production partner. Negotiations are being conducted with Iran Khodro. According to Sorokin, the organisation of the assembly of buses and LCVs in one place would be the ideal case. "If we can't achieve this, we'll have to work with two or three partners" - he added. As stated by GAZ Group in 2016, a provisional agreement had been made as to the supply of 900 LiAZ buses to Iran and the possibility of the organisation of local assembly had been discussed, without specifying any time limits.

In the meantime, GAZ Group will resume GAZel production in Turkey in 2017 (manufactured in cooperation with Turkish Mersa Otomotiv since 2012). The company plans to manufacture around 500 vehicles in the country, as told by Sorokin. "Business was frozen during the time of political crisis between Russia and Turkey. We have already started sending people to Turkey and a full car production cycle will resume soon. The range of manufactured automobiles will also be expanded" - Sorokin said, as quoted by TASS. "Turkey is a good springboard for us. We can supply Western Europe with cars from Turkey with an import duty of 10%, instead of 22% from Russia" - said Sorokin during an interview with Vedomosti in 2014.

The number of vehicles reached 49.7 million in Russia

14.03.2017 / Autostat

According to Autostat data, the number of motor vehicles in Russia has amounted to 49.7 million units, as of the turn of the year. 84% of the fleet belongs to passenger cars, with 41.6 million vehicles. 4% of the park consists of light commercial vehicles, almost 4 million units in quantitative terms. The number of trucks registered in the country is a little bit less (3.7 million), making up 7.5% of the market. Buses have a share of around 1% in Russian automobile park, with 400,000 units.

According to the results of the survey, the average age of a passenger car in Russia is 12.9 years. The average age goes down in foreign brands, to 10.4 years. The home brand fleet is considerably older, with an average age of 16.4 years (including CIS countries).

The youngest fleet belongs to China amongst foreign automobiles (5.8 years). Korean vehicles have an average age of 6.9 years. American cars come third (9.1 years). A European car is 10.4 years of age in average. Japanese have the oldest fleet amongst foreign brands (12.6 years).

UAZ is the home brand with the lowest average vehicle age (15.5%), which is a little bit younger than LADA (15.6%). Russian make cars have an average age of 20.5 years.

As noted by Autostat, the average age of vehicles in Russia amounted to 12.5 years last year. The increase in this indicator is largely due to the slowing down in the pace of fleet utilisation.

3000 hp supercar Saleen S7 has been put on the Russian market

10.03.2017 / RBK

The American supercar Saleen S7 has been introduced to the Russian market. The vehicle has a price tag of 45 million rubles.

Saleen S7 is assembled by hand. The car is equipped with a V-shaped 8-cylinder engine with two turbines. The engine power is over 3000 hp. In addition, the vehicle has been converted to all-wheel drive from rear-wheel drive - with the ability to disconnect the front axle.

The supercar is not suitable for public roads, due to low ground clearance. The vehicle is solely intended for racing. Saleen S7 is equipped with a parachute for braking.

Nissan Sentra production has resumed in Russia

13.03.2017 / Vedomosti

The production of Nissan Sentra sedan has resumed at Lada Izhevsk plant (part of AVTOVAZ) in March 2017, as told by a Nissan representative to Vedomosti. The model has not been manufactured during the January-February period. The representative has explained the reason for the suspension of the production of the model with the sufficient stock in dealer warehouses during the aforementioned period, which provided sales for several months in advance.

The production has resumed in March, due to the reduction in stocks, he stated on Monday. A senior manager from one of the dealer companies has also confirmed the current low stock levels, without specifying any figures. Despite the low demand for the vehicle, the company has resumed the production in order to prevent model range shrinkage, the manager noted. The Nissan representative did not give a clue, as to the planned Sentra production figures at Izhevsk plant for 2017, however, stated that the March production volume is low.

Approximately 1500 Sentra have been manufactured in 2016 (a year-on-year rise by 3.6 times), according to a source close to the management team of Lada Izhevsk. Sentra sales have shrunk by more than a double last year, to 2040 units, according to Auto Review data. As published by AEB, the total sales of Nissan have gone down by 23% in Russia in 2016 to 70,464 units, and by 11% in the passenger car and light commercial vehicle markets combined.

The share of Russian assembly foreign vehicles has risen by 57%

11.03.2017 / Autostat

The market share of Russian assembly foreign vehicles has reached 57.5% in 2016, reaching 755,000 units. The share was 40% in 2011. This is quite a natural process, as noted by Autostat, considering the number of foreign brand car assembly plants opened in the country in the last decade.

The gradual rise in the market share of foreign vehicles assembled in Russia during the last six years had a negative effect on car imports to the country. The share of imported vehicles has fallen from 35% in 2011 to the current level of 20.9% (274,000 units).

It should also be noted that even home brands (LADA and UAZ) have achieved a higher market share (21.6% or 284,000 units), exceeding the 20% barrier for the first time in several years.

Top 10 new cars in Russia in February

09.03.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

AEB published the new cars and LCVs sales figures for February 2017. The sales of new cars and LCVs in Russia decreased by 4,1% compared with February 2016 or by 4 574 sold units, and amounted to 106 658 cars, according to the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee.

This year in January—February 184 574 cars were sold in Russia.

Chairman of the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee Joerg Schreiber commented: “We see a very diverse sales performance by brand this month, in aggregate not enough to generate a plus for the total market as some of the traditional volume makers contributed less than they did in the same period one year ago. The possible reasons for that are manifold but can be assumed as temporary which should improve the outlook for total market sales in the coming months”.

10 BEST SOLD MODELS OF CARS IN RUSSIA FOR

FEBRUARY 2017/2016

#	MODEL	BRAND	February		
			2017	2016	YoY
1	Rio	KIA	7 033	7 017	16
2	Granta	Lada	5 260	6 335	-1 075
3	Vesta	Lada	5 101	2 955	2 146
4	Creta	Hyundai	4 055	-	-
5	Polo	VW	3 577	3 226	351
6	Duster	Renault	3 240	4 197	-957
7	Solaris	Hyundai	3 081	8 130	-5 049
8	Sandero	Renault	2 277	2 260	17
9	Logan	Renault	2 268	2 225	43
10	RAV 4	Toyota	2 244	3 057	-813

JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2017/2016

#	MODEL	BRAND	January - February		
			2017	2016	YoY
1	Rio	KIA	12 726	10 570	2 156
2	Granta	Lada	9 884	13 712	-3 828
3	Vesta	Lada	9 189	4 598	4 591
4	Creta	Hyundai	6 620	-	-
5	Polo	VW	6 127	5 881	246
6	Solaris	Hyundai	5 967	13 756	-7 789
7	Duster	Renault	5 088	6 576	-1 488
8	Rapid	Škoda	3 986	3 225	761
9	Niva	Chevrolet	3 901	3 592	309
10	XRAY	Lada	3 698	937	2 761

Data submitted by the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee; retail sales of imported and locally produced vehicles.

Note: The ranking is based on monthly results.

Skoda Kodiaq production will start in Russia in 2018

08.03.2018 / gazeta.ru

The assembly of the new crossover Skoda Kodiaq is planned for 2018 in Russia. The relevant statement has been made by the head of Skoda in Russia: Jan Procházka. According to Procházka, the final decision on the production site has not been made, which will either be in Kaluga or Nizhny Novgorod.

“The production will start in about a year. The model will be put on the Russian market in June, however, the first vehicles will be imported from the Czech Republic. The local assembly will be established later on” - said Procházka.

FAW has started manufacturing new models in Russia

06.03.2017 / NAPI

Chinese car manufacturer FAW has started the production of a new crossover at AVTOTOR factory in Kaliningrad. The sales of Besturn X80 will begin in the beginning of April 2017. The company plans to manufacture and sell two or three FAW models in Russia in 2018.

The medium-size urban crossover Besturn X80 was introduced to Russia during the Moscow Motor Show in August 2016.

FAW plans to expand its dealer network in Russia in the near future: the company intends to increase its current number of a little bit over 10 dealer centres by more than a double by the end of the year, up to 20-25 units.

FAW is represented by three passenger car models in Russia at the moment: FAW Oley and FAW V5 compact sedans, alongside FAW Besturn B50 medium-size sedan.

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