

## **Dongfeng Trucks enters the Russian market**

15.08.2017 / Autostat

Dongfeng Trucks - a division of Dongfeng Motor Corporation for the production and sales of commercial vehicles - is now represented in Russia through the sole exclusive distributor, Dongfeng Motor Rus. The company has presented its model range of trucks in Russia: 8-tonnes Dongfeng KR-DFH5080B80, 12-tonnes Dongfeng KR-DFH5120B80 and DFL3310AW1 and DFL3251AW1 dump trucks, as reported by Dongfeng Motor Rus press office.

As one may remember, several independent distributors of Dongfeng Motors commercial vehicles used to operate simultaneously in Russia until recently, each of which had its own dealer network. Dongfeng Motor Rus acts as the sole distributor of Dongfeng since July 2017 and will supply the products directly from the factory. The company will keep around 30 of the previous dealers, having signed dealership agreements with them. Dongfeng Motor Rus is currently searching for new partners, alongside plans to expand its dealer network. More than 6000 Dongfeng trucks have been sold up to today, the main driving force behind the sales being the dump trucks during the period. 6x4 and 8x4 Dongfeng KC dump trucks are the first models, the company plans to promote and and sell directly in the Russian market. In addition, the chassis for 8 and 12 tonnes Dongfeng KR medium-duty trucks are already available for orders. Two other new models will be introduced to the market in 2018.

In the meantime, the company plans to open three warehouses for Dongfeng truck spare parts: in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Chelyabinsk. Dongfeng Motor considers the Russian market as a promising prospect for the DFM brand and the establishment of a direct distribution network confirms the serious intentions of the company in Russia. First of all, it's planned to pay attention to the organisation of a reliable after-sales service network, promotion of the DFM brand in the market, certification and the expansion of the model range. The parallel development of two segments: commercial and passenger transport will improve the recognition and the reputation of the DFM brand as a whole, according to Dongfeng Motor.

## **Tests have started on Chinese Yutong electric buses Moscow**

12.08.2017 / Vedomosti

Tests have started on Chinese Yutong electric buses in Moscow on 26 July. The usage of buses on motor fuel is planned to be stopped in the capital, according to the Mayor of Moscow: Sergei Sobyenin. "Buses on motor fuel will disappear from Moscow in three years time. We'll only buy electric buses. The ecology of the city will benefit greatly from this decision" - Sobyenin wrote on Twitter.

Chinese Yutong electric buses are equipped with electric engines and high-capacity batteries. The buses have a maximum velocity of 69 km/h. The vehicles can carry up to 73 passengers, 36 seated. The bus has operated in Moscow without passengers. The route runs between Fili and Kitay-Gorod underground stations. Fully charged, the buses can travel 200 km. The batteries are charged from an 380 volts electric network.

## **Nissan production has increased in Russia by 12% during the first half of the year**

14.08.2017 / Autostat

Nissan has manufactured 34,447 automobiles in Russia during the first half of 2017, which is equivalent to a 12% year-on-year growth. 21,302 crossovers have rolled off the St. Petersburg production line, exceeding last year's figure by 27%. As told by the Director of Public Relations of Nissan in Russia: Roman Skolsky to Autostat, the growth is primarily connected with the start of production of two key models for the Russian market: Nissan Qashqai and the new generation Nissan Murano. The company expects to keep the momentum of growth.

As stated previously, it's planned to increase production in Nissan St. Petersburg plant by approximately a quarter in 2017, in comparison with the previous year (36,458 units). For that purpose, a second shift will be introduced in the plant in October, creating around 450 new jobs.

According to Roman Skolsky, the government support also contributes to the growth in production, most importantly the measures aimed at the support and development of local production. "The approval of a new resolution aimed at export development, which will allow us to penetrate into new markets and increase production volumes, was an important step, from our point of view. Nevertheless, in our opinion, it's necessary to develop new support measures aimed at increasing the localisation of auto components. Tax incentives, reducing administrative barriers and subsidising costs, associated with investments in new products or modernisation, existing production capacities, compensation for homologation costs, certification, testing of product samples and the education of personnel, are important for suppliers falling into the category of small and medium size businesses. The development of car component suppliers is one of the key tasks of the automotive industry today" - said Roman Skolsky.

Qashqai, X-Trail, Murano, Pathfinder (St. Petersburg) and Terrano (Moscow) are the Nissan models manufactured in Russia currently. Nissan sedan models: Almera and Sentra are produced in AVTOVAZ plants in Tolyatti and Izhevsk. Nissan exports the automobiles it manufactures in Russia to Kazakhstan, Belarus and Azerbaijan.

In addition, Nissan has announced plans to export automobile spare parts to Europe in September last year. Nissan St. Petersburg plant has started the exports of Nissan X-Trail rear and front bumpers of its own production, allowing a significant reduction in the costs of components in comparison with their counterparts, which were imported from Japan until then. The bumpers are exported to the European central warehouse for spare parts in Amsterdam, which consolidates all the spare parts for the European market and organises sales to dealers throughout the continent in due course. Russian Nissan plant has been manufacturing 8 different types of bumpers for the dealers of the brand in the country for the last two years. These spare parts are for all four models manufactured in the factory: X-Trail, Qashqai, Pathfinder and Murano.

## **Sales of road-building and special-purpose vehicles have increased by 58% in Russia during the Q2**

11.08.2017 / RNS

The sales of road-building and special-purpose vehicles have increased by 58% year-on-year in Russia during the second quarter of 2017 to 2260 units, as reported by the Association of European Businesses (AEB). Russian market has grown by 44.8% within the first half of the year, with 3800 units.

Pent-up demand has an effect on the market growth, as told by the chairman of the AEB Road Construction and Special Equipment Manufacturers Committee: Andrei Komov. "Companies are forced to update the obsolete and non-utilisable fleet of vehicles, despite the high interest rates on loans and very high utilisation fees" - according to Komov.

"It's worth noting that we are still very far away from full market recovery. In order to reach the pre-crisis levels, the market should grow by minimum 100% in 2018. There's hope for the continuation of market growth, unless a negative regulatory impact is brought on the industry within the next 18 months" - Komov warns.

The sales of excavator-loaders have risen by 86% - to 507 units, crawler excavators by 60% to 717, chain-track tractors by 57% to 174, forklifts by 16% to 204 and wheel loaders by 31% to 293 units.

## **Russian vehicle production has increased by 19% within the first half of 2017**

12.08.2017 / ASM Holding

According to ASM Holding data, 728,853 transport vehicles (trucks, cars, buses) have been manufactured in Russia within the January-June 2017 period, which is equivalent to a 19.1% year-on-year rise.

Car production has increased by 19.4% during the aforementioned period y/y, with 642,950 units. The production of foreign brand cars in Russia went up 21.5% to 480,3 thousand vehicles.

LCV production has also grown in the same period, by 9.9% to 53,8 thousand units.

Truck production, including light trucks, has risen by 16.6% by the end of the first five months of 2017, amounting to 67,9 thousand units. The production of foreign brand trucks in Russia went up 73.4% to 10 thousand units.

Bus production, including minibuses, has increased by 16.7% during the aforementioned period, with 18,2 thousand units. The production of foreign brand buses in Russia went up 1.9% to 4,6 thousand units.

## Russian car market has grown by 19% in July 2017

08.08.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

According to the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee (AEB AMC), in July 2017, sales of new cars and light commercial vehicles in Russia increased by 18,6% compared with July 2016 or by 20,293 sold units, and amounted to 129,685 cars.

This year in January—July period 848,214 cars were sold. Among the top ten bestselling models so far, all models are locally produced. Schreiber, Chairman of the AEB AMC commented: “Double-digit growth on the Russian car market continues for the third month in a row, unabated by the arrival of the peak holiday season. It appears that, finally, the middle-class buyer has woken up, encouraged by a brighter outlook on the economy and embracing the package of purchase incentives put together by the government. The recent sales trend is great news and feeding the optimism that 2017 will indeed become a turn-around year for the industry”.

## Russian truck market has grown 45% within the first half of 2017

06.08.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

According to data published by Autostat, the new truck market has amounted to 31,500 units within the first half of 2017, which equivalent to a 44.5% year-on-year increase and the market has reached 6600 units in June 2017, growing by 62,8% year-on-year.

Kamaz has kept the leadership of the market, with a share of 35% in the first half of 2017. The sales figure of the company is equivalent to 11,200 vehicles, up by 26,5% in comparison with the same period of the previous year. GAZ occupies the second place, with 3500 units (+5% y/y). The top-three is completed by Volvo (2100, +410%). Scania (1900, +156,3%) and Mercedes-Benz (1900, +309,1%) have also made it into the top-five.

## Russian LCV market has grown 25% within the first half of 2017

06.08.2017 / RusAutoNews.Com

According to Autostat, the new light commercial vehicles (LCV) market has amounted to 50,200 units within the first half of 2017, which equivalent to a 24.9% year-on-year increase. 9,000 light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in June (+15.5% y/y)

GAZ Group has become the market leader, with a share of 40%. GAZ sales have increased by 23.6% year-on-year during the first six months, with 21,900 vehicles. Another domestic manufacturer UAZ came second, with 11,200 units (+33% y/y) during the same period. Lada has become the third bestseller brand (4700, +59.5%). The top-five is completed by Mercedes-Benz (3700, +30.7%) and Ford (3000, +47.3%).

## **KAMAZ will apply for subsidies for driverless and electric vehicles in 2017**

07.08.2017 / RNS

KAMAZ plans to apply for subsidies, which will be allocated for the first time to unmanned vehicle manufacturers, as well as electric transport manufacturers in 2017, as told by a company representative to RNS. The amount of subsidies is still being determined, according to the representative. KAMAZ will invest approximately 400 million rubles in the development of unmanned vehicles.

KAMAZ plans to use autonomous trucks and buses in its factories in 2018 and launched the driverless mode in its long-haul tractors in 2021. Bus and truck transport will be fully automated until 2035.

The government expects to allocate a total amount of 612 million rubles for the compensation of part of the costs associated with the creation and organisation of the production of unmanned vehicles, according to the information given by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to RNS. Another 900 million rubles will be allocated to the manufacturers of urban overground electric transport, as told by the Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at a meeting on 21 July.

## **Automobile imports to Russia fell by 13% during the first half of 2017**

02.08.2017 / Autostat

According to Rosstat data, 96,500 automobiles have been imported to Russia during the first half of 2017, which is equivalent to a 12.7% year-on-year decrease.

Japanese Toyota has become the most popular imported brand to the Russian Federation with 18,500 vehicles (-41,5% y/y). The German premium Mercedes-Benz came second with an import figure of 17,400 units, indicating a 4.4% year-on-year rise. The top-three is completed by Japanese Lexus with 11,500 units (+7,5 y/y).

Land Cruiser Prado has become the most imported Toyota model with 6200 units during the first half of 2017 (+17.8% y/y). Lexus RX occupies the second spot (4700 units, +26,5% y/y.). Mercedes GLC-Class has the third place in the ratings (3200 unit, +41.6% y/y).

In June, the car imports to Russia have risen for the first time in 2017 (+16,8%).

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