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## **Russian new car and LCV market has shrunk by 10% in 2014**

15.01.2015 / OIB Russia

According to Association of European Businesses (AEB) data, 2,491,404 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in 2014. This is equivalent to a 10.3% decline, year-on-year. All of the ten most popular models have been manufactured within the country.

December vehicle sales figure is 270,653 (+2.4%). Joerg Schreiber, Chairman of the AEB Automobile Manufacturers Committee commented: "2014 ended with a strong finish, but with a cumulative volume loss of 10% remains a disappointing year for the Russian car market. In the face of the looming recession, expectations for 2015 are even lower: Our forecast for the total market of PC and LCV next year is 1,89 million units, equivalent to a 24% contraction of the market on a year-on-year basis".

## **The sales of Ford Sollers have shrunk by 40% in 2014**

15.01.2014 / Avtostat

Ford Sollers company has sold over 65,000 Ford brand vehicles in Russia in 2014 (-40%). The highest monthly sales figure has been recorded in December, with 9159 vehicles.

The opening of the modernised Naberezhnye Chelny factory was a significant development for Ford Sollers, in 2014. Thereby, the number of Ford Sollers factories has risen to three in the country. While Ford EcoSport has become the first model to be manufactured in the factory, the productions of Transit Custom and the new generation Ford Transit have started at Elabuga factory.

1674 Ford Transit have been sold in Russia in December. The sales of Transit and Custom have increased by 144% in 2014, year-on-year. The sales figure for Ford Kuga has reached 16,000 last year (+31%).

Ford Sollers will continue to expand its model range in 2015. The company is expected to start the production of the new Mondeo in Vsevolozhsk, in the near future. Following the production of the new Fiesta and Focus, the company will have renewed its automobile group completely.

Finally, Ford Sollers is currently working on the establishment of an engine factory in Elabuga.

## **Production has shrunk by 14% at UAZ in 2014**

15.01.2015 / Interfaks

Ulyanovsk Car Factory (UAZ) has manufactured 54,000 automobiles in 2014 (-14%). The company had announced the 2014 production target as 51,000 vehicles, at the beginning of the year. Thereby, the production plan has been exceeded by 5.9%.

UAZ has spent 1.4 billion rubles on modernisation during the previous year. Sollers affiliate UAZ is currently the biggest SUV manufacturer in Russia.

## **St. Petersburg Hyundai factory has increased production by 4% in 2014**

15.01.2015 / Avtostat

St. Petersburg based Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Rus factory has increased production by 4% year-on-year in 2014, with 237,000 vehicles. 132,300 of the manufactured automobiles are Hyundai and the remaining 104,700 KIA. The aforementioned production figure makes Hyundai the second biggest car manufacturer in Russia.

Hyundai has exported 11% of the automobiles it manufactured in Russia in 2014 (25,700 vehicles). The highest export has been made to Kazakhstan, with 21,900 vehicles.

The company plans to manufacture 228,000 automobiles in 2015. St. Petersburg Hyundai factory has manufactured over 820,000 vehicles, since its opening in 2011.

## **Russian Ministry of Industry and Commerce: “Car production will decline by 10% in 2015”**

14.01.2015 / Rossiyskaya Gazeta

Russian minister of industry and commerce Denis Manturov has stated that the car production has shrunk by 10% in the country in 2014 and added that a lower shrinkage rate is not being expected for 2015.

In addition, the minister has told that the measures to be taken in order to support the automotive sector this year will take shape towards March. A new induced automobile credit programme will not be amongst the aforementioned measures, almost certainly. Rossiyskaya Gazeta quotes the minister's words on direct price reductions' being more effective than induced credits.

The decline in car production will affect both Russian and foreign brands. However, it's being predicted that the foreign brands will suffer more losses, due to the depreciation of the rouble and the decline in the purchasing power of the population.

## **Avtovaz will increase prices by 9%**

13.01.2015 / Kommersant

Russian car manufacturer Avtovaz has announced price rises of average 9% as of 15.01.2015. The lowest increase rate will be at Lada Granta, with 5.4-5.8%. The company chairman Bo Anderson has stated that their hopes for a relatively fast recovery in Russian economy have not been materialised.

Avtovaz had increased prices by 2.8% in average in March 2014, for the last time.

As one may remember, in December the prices -of imported automobiles especially- had increased dramatically, due to the collapse of the rouble.

## **Russia has switched to Euro-4 class vehicle fuels**

12.01.2015 / RBK

Russia has switched to Euro-4 class vehicle fuels as of 1 January 2015. In other words, Euro-3 class petrol and diesel fuels will not be used in vehicles anymore. Russia will allow Euro-5 class fuels only, as of the end of 2015.

## **Chevrolet Niva production has shrunk by 22% at GM-Avtovaz in 2014**

12.01.2015 / Avtostat

Tolyatti based GM-Avtovaz has manufactured 45,067 automobiles in 2014 (-22.2%). The company press office has announced the total number of vehicles sold in Russia and imported abroad as 46,023 (-18.7%) for 2014. Chevrolet Niva model automobiles are being sold at 162 sales points in Russia and at 10 points in CIS countries.

GM-Avtovaz will resume operations on 18 January, following the new year holiday taken on 31 December.

The price tag of Chevrolet Niva, manufactured in the factory, has been increased by 20,000 rubles, as of 1 January. The new prices are as follows; Chevrolet Niva L - 489,000 rubles, LC - 518,000 rubles, air-conditioned LE - 547,000 rubles, GLS - 560,000 rubles, GLC - 587,000 rubles.

## **According to Russian dealers, the automobile market will recover in 2016-2017**

26.12.2014 / Avtostat

According to the survey conducted amongst the members of the Russian Auto Dealers Association (ROAD), the dealers are of the opinion that following the shrinkage in automobile demand in 2015, the market will start to recover in 2016 or 2017.

34% of the participants of the survey do not intend to postpone their investment projects or lay off staff, despite the situation the market is in. 69% of the participants think that the demand shrinkage will result in the consolidation of the sector. While 33% stated that they study merger and purchase opportunities, 77% discuss about selling some of the sales centres. 60% of the participants expect the market to recover in 2016, 37% in 2017. 45% predict a market shrinkage rate of over 15% in 2015 and a fifth of the participants by more than 20%.

64 auto dealers have participated in the survey from Central, Volga, Siberia and Ural federal regions, in addition to Moscow City, Moscow region, St. Petersburg and Leningrad region.

## **Car sales have risen by 1% in St. Petersburg in November**

24.12.2014 / Auto-Dealer-SPb

According to Auto-Dealer-SPb data, 170,567 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in St. Petersburg within the January-November period (-8%). November sales figure is 17,805 (+1%). The market had grown in April in the city for the last time (+2%).

The agency officials state that the market will grow to a certain extent in December as well. However, the market will have shrunk by 7-8%, by the year-end.



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