

Russian automobile market has shrunk by 38.5% in October

10.11.2015 / OIB Russia

According to Association of European Business (AEB) data, 129,958 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in Russia in October (-38.5%). Thereby, the number of vehicles sold within the January-October period remained at 1,322,681, following a 33.6% decline.

The chairman of the AEB Car Manufacturers Committee Joerg Schreiber has made the following comment: "Following a brief softening in August-September, the pace of market decline is picking up speed again in October. A key reason for this trend reversal is the now stabilized ruble exchange rate, the sudden slump of which in August had led to pull-ahead sales which are now missing. Also, the suspension of the government scrappage & trade-in program, originally introduced in September last year, is impacting retail demand in an unfavorable manner".

The latest prediction published by AEB stated an annual figure of 1.57 million vehicles for this year (-37%).

Top-ten bestselling models for October (Data: AEB)

HYUNDAI SOLARIS	9507	-10%
LADA GRANTA	9308	-45%
NEW KIA RIO	9017	+26%
VW POLO	4637	+21%
RENAULT DUSTER	4205	-20%
RENAULT LOGAN	3234	-50%
RENAULT SANDERO	3094	-4%
CHEVROLET NIVA	3039	+19%
LADA LARGUS	3029	-54%
LADA KALINA	2907	-40%

Russian car imports fell by 52% in nine months

09.11.2015 / Autostat

According to data published by the Russian Federal Customs Service (FTS), the automobile imports have shrunk by 51.9% by the end of the first nine months of the year, with 258,800 vehicles. The monetary value of the aforementioned imports has been calculated as \$4 billion 804.5 million.

14,600 trucks have been imported within the same period (-71.1%). The monetary value of truck imports is equivalent to \$598.5 million.

Russia's automobile exports also shrank by 25.2% within the first nine months, with 72,000 vehicles (\$792.9 million). The truck exports figure is 12,700, on the other hand (-14.8%, \$306.1 million).

Volkswagen Kaluga plant has started the assembly of the new generation T6 series

06.11.2015 / Autostat

Volkswagen car factory, established in Kaluga, has started the assembly production of T6 series (Transporter, Caravelle, Multivan) light commercial vehicles. As one may remember, the new T6 series had been launched in Amsterdam in Spring. The aforementioned vehicles have been on the Russian market since September. 4140 VW light commercial vehicles were sold in Russia, during the first nine months of 2015 (-56%).

MAG has plans to manufacture buses and trucks in Ulyanovsk

03.11.2015 / Russian ministry of industry and commerce

A MoU, proposing the establishment of six bus and truck production plants in the region, has been signed among Ulyanovsk Regional Administration, Ulyanovsk Region Development Agency, Park-Ulyanovsk industrial park and MAG Motor Company on 29 October.

The press announcement made by the Russian ministry of industry and commerce states that the aforementioned plants will be established in Dega-Ulyanovsk agro-industrial park and the relevant agreement had been signed between the governorship and the park administration in April 2014.

MAG Motor Company director general: Viktor Sumkin has made the following statement: “We will have finished the construction of a small assembly facility by the end of 2017, at the first stage. Thereafter, we will establish six plants on 65 hectares land. The plants will manufacture MAG brand trucks, buses and minibuses.”

The completion time for the project has been stated as year 2022, in the announcement made by the ministry. The total investment amount has been announced as 8 billion rubles, 2.5 billion rubles of which will be used during the initial stage. An annual production capacity of 3200 trucks and 700 buses is planned for the year 2021.

IzhAvto has reduced its production plan for 2015

03.11.2015 / Interfax

AVTOVAZ affiliate Izhevsk Automobile Factory (IzhAvto) has pulled down its 2015 production plan from 106,000 automobiles to 75,000. AVTOVAZ chairman Bo Andersson has said the following: “The market has shrunk by 34%. Today our production depends on customer orders only. Therefore, we have revised our production plans. In case the situation changes, we may increase production as before.” According to Autostat data, IzhAvto has manufactured 54,500 automobiles during the first eight months of the year. The manufactured models are as follows: Lada Granta sedan and liftback, Lada Vesta, Nissan Sentra and Tiida.

The market share of domestic production has increased by eight points in Russia in a year

02.11.2015 / Autostat

According to Autostat data, 78.6% of the automobiles sold in Russia within the first nine months of the year have been manufactured domestically. The ratio was 70.1% by the end of the same period of last year. Thereby, the market share of domestic production has increased by 8% year-on-year.

The share of domestic production increases in Russia every year. The ratio was 67.3% in 2013, 64.2% in 2012 and 44.3% during the pre-crisis year of 2008. In other words, the share of domestic production has nearly doubled in seven years.

On the other hand, Japan has the top spot according to the origins of the imported automobiles, with a share of 6.5%. Japan is followed by Germany (5.6%), Great Britain (2.2%), Czech Republic (1.5%), S. Korea (1%), USA (0.8%), China (0.6%) and Uzbekistan, Sweden and Turkey (0.5%). Pickups such as: Toyota Hilux, Mitsubishi L200 and Nissan NP300 are being imported from Thailand and South Africa. The import numbers and the shares in total of the two countries are 3391 (0.3%) and 1617 (0.2%), respectively.

Ford Sollers factories will suspend operations for two months

30.10.2015 / Vedomosti

Vsevolozhsk plant, where Ford Sollers partnership manufactures Mondeo and Focus, will stop production between 18 November - 15 January. The company has also announced plans to part company with a number of employees. 1500 people are currently employed at the facility, with an annual production capacity of 160,000 automobiles.

Two Tatarstan plants of the company will also remain idle for a while, however there are no staff lay-off plans at the moment. Production will stop at 115,000 annual automobile production capacity Naberezhnye Chelny plant, where EcoSport and Fiesta are manufactured, between 12 November - 10 December and between 12 November - 11 January at 85,000 capacity Elabuga plant, which manufactures Transit, Explorer and Kuga.

Ford Sollers sold 26,546 automobiles in Russia, as of the first nine months of the year (-41%). The market shrinkage has reached 33% by the end of the aforementioned period, according to AEB data.

Nissan St. Petersburg plant discontinues the production of Teana sedan

30.10.2015 / Autostat

Nissan has decided to end Teana sedan production at its St. Petersburg plant, due to the shrinkage in the D-segment of the Russian automobile market, excluding the premium brands. In addition, the company is revising its production plans, due to the market shrinkage experienced in three consecutive years. St. Petersburg plant will reduce the number of shifts from two to one, from Spring 2016 onwards. This means lay-off for 500 people.

The company has started the production of Qashqai in St. Petersburg, on the other hand. The model was previously being manufactured at the Sunderland plant of Nissan. The company's intention to localise the production of models sold in the Russian market is the reason behind the move. Models currently being manufactured at Nissan St. Petersburg plant: X-Trail, Pathfinder, Murano and Qashqai.

September has become the best month in 2015 for St. Petersburg automobile market

27.10.2015 / Auto-Dealer-SPb

According to Auto-Dealer-SPb data, 90,829 new cars and light commercial vehicles have been sold in St. Petersburg within the first nine months of 2015 (-34%). The September sales figure, which is the highest recorded on a monthly basis this year, is 11,494 (-27%). The best sold three brands in the city in September are ranked as: KIA, Renault and Hyundai. Hyundai is the only brand amongst the top-ten, which increased its sales figures (+17%). The agency officials draw attention to the relatively stronger market positions held by brands, which achieve to maintain the demand for the top seller models in their portfolios, thanks to the government inducement programmes, besides making efforts to increase localisation rates. It's worth remembering that Ford, Volkswagen and Skoda, amongst such brands, are being equipped with engines manufactured in Russia.

Fujikara has established a car cable factory in Chuvashia

21.10.2015 / Autostat

Japanese automotive supply industry company Fujikara Automotive Europe has opened the cable plant it established in Cheboksary, Chuvashia Republic. The agreement concerning the establishment of the factory had been signed between the Republic of Chuvashia and Fujikara Automotive Rus in December 2014.

The company will supply Volkswagen with the cables it manufactures. According to the statement made by the Chuvashia Presidency Office, the factory has been established with an investment of 260 million rubles. 125 people are employed in the plant.

AEB: “1.5-1.6 million automobiles will be sold in Russia in 2016, according to the best-case scenario”

26.10.2015 / OIB Russia

Joerg Schreiber, the president of the Association of European Businesses (AEB) Car Manufacturers Committee, has stated that 1.5-1.6 million automobiles will be sold in the country in 2016 according to the best-case scenario or 1.2-1.3 million in the opposite case, during his speech at the Union of Russian Car Dealers congress. The AEB official expects a sales figure of 1.57 million vehicles for this year (-37%).

Schreiber also highlights the difference between the AEB and the ministry data. Accordingly, the official figures are below the AEB figures by 3.4% for 2013 and 14.4% as of the first nine months of 2015. Schreiber is of the opinion that the difference can be justified by factors such as the purchases made by the citizens of the neighbouring countries.

Russian vice minister of industry and commerce Alexander Morozov had announced the expected automobile sales figure for this year as 1.5 million vehicles, a while ago. One-third of the predicted figure is formed of sales within the frame of the government promoted programmes.

Tatiana Lukovetskaya, the general director of one of the biggest dealers in the country: Rolf, states that it will be possible to make more accurate predictions following the November-December results. Alexander Zinovyev, the director of sales department at Avtospetscenter, is of the opinion that an annual sales figure of 1.6-1.7 million is within the reach for the year 2016, as long as the ruble follows a steady course. A Sollers representative, on the other hand, has told Vedomosti newspaper that the sales will fall to 1.1 million vehicles level, in the absence of government support.

Russian car imports down by 58% in 8 months

19.10.2015 / Autostat

According to data published by the Russian Federal Customs House (FTS), car imports to the country have gone down by 58% year-on-year during the January-August 2015 period, with 205,800 vehicles. The monetary value of the aforementioned imports has been calculated as \$3.9054 million. 10,700 trucks have been imported within the same period (-76.9%). The monetary value of the truck imports is equivalent to \$464.8 million.

The car exports of Russia have also shrunk by 26.1% by the end of the first six months of the year, with 64,700 vehicles (\$709.9 million). 11,300 trucks have been exported (-15%). The total truck export is worth \$271.6 million.

Car production down by 24.5% in Russia within January-September

16.10.2015 / Interfax

According to Russian Federal Statistics Service (Rosstat) data, 956,000 automobiles have been manufactured in Russia within the January-September period (-24.5%). Truck and bus production figures for the same period are 89,800 (-20.3%) and 25,800 (-14.8%), respectively.

Rosstat has only published the production dynamics in its report, excluding the monthly production figures. Accordingly, car production has shrunk by 11.1% in September, truck production by 4.2% and bus production by 22.5%.

