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May 16, 2008

EUROPEAN CAR MARKET MAKES RECOVERY

- **April up 9.4 %**
- **Market up 0.6% year-to-date**
- **VW Golf Europe's best-selling car**
- **Volkswagen remains most popular marque**

JATO Dynamics, the world's leading provider of automotive data and intelligence, today reports that after a difficult March due principally to the early Easter holiday, April marked a reversal in the sales performance for the European car market, posting a 9.4% increase (120,235 units) over the same month a year earlier, with a total sales volume of 1,396,845 units.

With a generally positive start to the first quarter of the year, the year-to-date figures for the European market are encouraging, with the market up 0.6% (33,684 units) to total year-to-date sales of 5,484,777 units, compared to the same period last year.

Brand Performance

Volkswagen continues to lead the European market, topping the sales league in both April and year-to-date, ahead of Ford, Opel/Vauxhall, Renault and Peugeot.

Top Ten Brands

Make	Apr_08	Apr_07	% Change Apr	Apr YtD_08	Apr YtD_07	% Change YtD
VOLKSWAGEN	152,116	135,135	+12.6%	551,391	534,177	+3.2%
FORD	108,874	98,631	+10.4%	459,588	464,563	-1.1%
OPEL/VAUXHALL	111,319	103,520	+7.5%	443,981	468,432	-5.2%
RENAULT	109,752	105,610	+3.9%	415,414	417,592	-0.5%
PEUGEOT	98,409	94,198	+4.5%	390,001	394,447	-1.1%
FIAT	91,764	83,253	+10.2%	368,822	350,495	+5.2%
CITROEN	81,009	75,841	+6.8%	321,084	333,620	-3.8%
TOYOTA	73,363	73,397	-0.0%	298,429	326,713	-8.7%
MERCEDES	70,132	58,773	+19.3%	256,239	242,817	+5.5%
BMW	66,249	52,585	+26.0%	241,838	216,432	+11.7%

Following the positive upward trend in April, manufacturers posted significant increased registrations compared to the same period a year earlier. Smart was up 55.9%, Dacia up 35.4%, BMW up 26.0%, Nissan up 19.5%, Mercedes up 19.3%, Volkswagen up 12.6%, and Ford up 10.4%

Year-to-date mirrored the sales increases made in April, with Volkswagen up 3.2%, Fiat up 5.2%, Mercedes up 5.5%, and BMW up 11.7%.

Top Models

The Volkswagen Golf reclaimed its place as Europe's top-selling new car in April with 45,785 units registered, ahead of the Peugeot 207 with 42,207 units, the Renault Clio (34,286 units), Opel/Vauxhall Corsa (34,225 units), Ford Focus (34,076 units), Opel/Vauxhall Astra (32,687 units), Fiat Punto (30,307 units), Ford Fiesta (26,902 units), Volkswagen Polo (26,205 units), and the Volkswagen Passat (25,078 units).

Year-to-date, the Golf continues to outsell all other models in Europe (up 23.3% YtD), followed by the 207 (up 7.3% YtD), Focus, Corsa, Astra, Clio, Fiesta, Punto, Polo (up 3.6% YtD) and Passat.

Top Ten Models

Make & Model	Apr_08	Apr_07	% Change Apr	Apr YtD_08	Apr YtD_07	% Change YtD
VOLKSWAGEN GOLF	45,785	35,345	+29.5%	170,119	137,978	+23.3%
PEUGEOT 207	42,207	38,389	+9.9%	165,084	153,833	+7.3%
RENAULT CLIO	34,286	35,160	-2.5%	131,989	145,247	-9.1%
OPEL/VAUXHALL CORSA	34,225	30,244	+13.2%	140,222	148,851	-5.8%
FORD FOCUS	34,076	33,318	+2.3%	140,417	152,150	-7.7%
OPEL/VAUXHALL ASTRA	32,687	31,512	+3.7%	132,270	139,741	-5.3%
FIAT PUNTO	30,307	34,579	-12.4%	120,207	150,826	-20.3%
FORD FIESTA	26,902	28,897	-6.9%	124,907	134,408	-7.1%
VOLKSWAGEN POLO	26,205	23,406	+12.0%	100,363	96,831	+3.6%
VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT	25,078	24,931	+0.6%	91,412	105,330	-13.2%

National Trends

The European market in April is dominated by the significant growth of the Eastern European markets, with Lithuania spearheading the charge (up 66.8%) year-to-date, whilst a recovering market in Germany (up 7.6% for the same period), also helped to boost the European car market during the month (up 0.6% overall).

A rise in vehicle sales was also recorded in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland.

Country	Apr_08	Apr_07	% Change Apr	Apr YtD_08	Apr YtD_07	% Change YtD
Austria	29,017	29,415	-1.4%	102,795	104,734	-1.9%
Belgium	61,703	47,713	+29.3%	231,567	211,571	+9.5%
Cyprus	1,809	1,695	+6.7%	7,707	7,557	+2.0%
Czech Republic	18,526	14,749	+25.6%	61,234	52,411	+16.8%
Denmark	10,035	12,286	-18.3%	47,397	49,267	-3.8%
Estonia	2,797	2,882	-2.9%	10,232	10,532	-2.8%
Finland	15,494	12,297	+26.0%	61,724	52,485	+17.6%
France	198,558	172,621	+15.0%	724,679	691,812	+4.8%
Germany	320,778	264,871	+21.1%	1,056,692	982,407	+7.6%
Great Britain	175,668	170,163	+3.2%	859,005	858,639	+0.0%
Greece	28,033	22,611	+24.0%	107,104	101,908	+5.1%
Hungary	14,576	13,358	+9.1%	54,197	54,424	-0.4%
Iceland	622	1,107	-43.8%	3,944	4,210	-6.3%
Ireland	13,363	16,890	-20.9%	106,408	117,207	-9.2%
Italy	202,754	209,145	-3.1%	870,575	950,975	-8.5%
Latvia	2,250	2,838	-20.7%	8,240	10,733	-23.2%
Lithuania	2,535	1,538	+64.8%	9,372	5,618	+66.8%
Luxembourg	6,419	5,612	+14.4%	19,908	20,033	-0.6%
Norway	11,704	8,854	+32.2%	41,678	42,596	-2.2%
Poland	28,062	25,307	+10.9%	115,016	98,043	+17.3%
Portugal	17,100	16,279	+5.0%	72,328	65,727	+10.0%
Slovakia	8,612	6,191	+39.1%	28,287	22,341	+26.6%
Slovenia	7,730	6,177	+25.1%	26,529	22,763	+16.5%
Spain	123,566	121,489	+1.7%	471,248	531,249	-11.3%
Sweden	27,478	27,169	+1.1%	89,301	95,571	-6.6%
Switzerland	25,559	24,532	+4.2%	92,101	86,484	+6.5%
The Netherlands	42,097	38,821	+8.4%	205,509	199,796	+2.9%
Grand Total	1,396,845	1,276,610	+9.4%	5,484,777	5,451,093	+0.6%

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Editorial note: JATO Dynamics background

JATO was founded in 1984 and provides the world's most timely, accurate and up-to-date intelligence on vehicle specifications and pricing, sales and registrations, news and incentives. The company has representation in over 40 countries, providing unique local market expertise. The JATO client base includes all of the world's volume vehicle manufacturers, giving them the ability to react to short-term market movements, plan for long-term developments and ultimately to meet consumers' needs. JATO data has also been adapted for consumer use in motoring web portals where customers can see the advantages and disadvantages of a specified model against any other while major leasing companies use JATO data to drive the vehicle quotation process. Visit JATO at www.jato.com

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