

September 17, 2007

HEALTHY SALES DRIVE EUROPEAN MARKET

- August market for new cars remains up by 2.5% compared to 2006
- Year to date, 2007 figures increases to 0.5% up on last year's market
- Peugeot 207 once again Europe's favourite model (YtD)
- UK market showing stronger overall performance

JATO Dynamics, the world's leading provider of automotive data and intelligence today reports that the European market for new cars continued to grow by 2.5% (or 22,823 units) in August 2007 compared with August 2006, to a total volume of 920,498 units. With August traditionally being a quieter period, the market still grew at the same level as the previous month, but total sales for the year have edged slightly forward by 0.5% (51,717 units) to a total of 10,627,879 units.

Brand Performance

Despite a fall in sales compared to the same period last year, Volkswagen continues to stake its claim as Europe's top-selling car brand, ahead of Opel/Vauxhall (up 6.3% in August and 0.3% YtD), Ford (up 1.4% YtD), Renault and Peugeot (up 0.1% YtD). The order of brand performance this month reflects the order of the top five brands year-to-date.

Top 10 performing brands – August 2007

Make	Aug_07	Aug_06	% Change Aug	Aug YtD_07	Aug YtD_06	% Change YtD
VOLKSWAGEN	105,036	105,057	-0.0%	1,084,689	1,117,621	-2.9%
OPEL/VAUXHALL	72,941	68,627	+6.3%	903,856	901,397	+0.3%
FORD	66,885	68,454	-2.3%	873,782	862,106	+1.4%
RENAULT	61,189	67,554	-9.4%	801,376	902,154	-11.2%
PEUGEOT	57,181	59,304	-3.6%	754,228	753,509	+0.1%
TOYOTA	56,973	57,477	-0.9%	621,243	594,304	+4.5%
CITROEN	53,767	56,500	-4.8%	648,496	636,361	+1.9%
MERCEDES	51,212	47,551	+7.7%	488,753	487,626	+0.2%
FIAT	48,093	43,800	+9.8%	661,143	614,576	+7.6%
AUDI	42,741	43,090	-0.8%	452,608	429,925	+5.3%

"The fact that sales have continued to grow during this period reflects the strength of the current European new car market," says Nasir Shah, Global Business Development Director for JATO. "The Golf continues to be a key player for the Volkswagen marque this year, whilst the Astra and Corsa models remain an equally important source of growth for Opel/Vauxhall."

"However, Toyota is one of the most noticeable performers thanks to the new Auris, and a continued upward trend in sales for the Prius reflects the increasing concern about the environment. The C4 Picasso and Grand C4 Picasso models are still in popular demand which allowed Citroen to increase its Year to Date sales by 1.9%," says Shah.

The introduction of the new Fiat Bravo and 500 models has continued to bolster sales with the Italian firm, posting a rise in sales of 9.8% in August (7.6% YtD). Mercedes followed a similar trend helped by the new introduction of the updated C-Class saloon, which equated to a rise in sales in August by an impressive 7.7% for the month (0.2% YtD).

Top Models

The Volkswagen Golf overtook the Peugeot 207 as Europe's top-selling new car in August 2007 with 27,704 units sold (up 13.3%), ahead of the Opel/Vauxhall Astra (23,240 units), Peugeot 207 (22,701 units up 31.2%), Opel/Vauxhall Corsa (21,122 units, up 32.9% with its new model), Renault Clio (20,062 units), Ford Focus (19,530 units), Volkswagen Polo (18,771 units, up 7.9%), Ford Fiesta (18,433 units, up 0.7%), Volkswagen Passat (17,746 units), and Fiat Punto (17,094).

Year-to-Date, the top sellers were 207, Focus, Golf (up 1.0%), Astra, Corsa (up 49.0%), Punto, Clio, Fiesta (up 2.8%), Passat and BMW 3-Series (up 7.1%).

New models to the market that have also enjoyed notable success in the European market during August include the Nissan Qashqai, Fiat Bravo, Kia Cee'd, Hyundai i30, Fiat 500, Opel/Vauxhall Antara, Skoda Roomster, Chevrolet Captiva, Audi A5/S5, and Volvo C30.

Top 10 performing models – August 2007

Make/Model	Aug_07	Aug_06	% Change Aug	Aug YtD_07	Aug YtD_06	% Change YtD
VOLKSWAGEN GOLF	27,704	24,449	+13.3%	281,157	278,356	+1.0%
OPEL/VAUXHALL ASTRA	23,240	23,333	-0.4%	274,026	297,576	-7.9%
PEUGEOT 207	22,701	17,307	+31.2%	299,365	90,389	+231.2%
OPEL/VAUXHALL CORSA	21,122	15,891	+32.9%	273,959	183,886	+49.0%
RENAULT CLIO	20,062	23,889	-16.0%	263,541	297,762	-11.5%
FORD FOCUS	19,530	24,016	-18.7%	283,040	310,915	-9.0%
VOLKSWAGEN POLO	18,771	17,394	+7.9%	197,064	191,800	+2.7%
FORD FIESTA	18,433	18,306	+0.7%	244,213	237,673	+2.8%
VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT	17,746	19,700	-9.9%	207,375	224,438	-7.6%
FIAT PUNTO	17,094	19,793	-13.6%	270,637	280,217	-3.4%

Models showing significantly increased sales volume following a full-model update include the Mercedes-Benz C-Class, Opel/Vauxhall Corsa, Renault Twingo, Smart Fortwo, Ford Mondeo, BMW X5, Mitsubishi Outlander, Honda CR-V, Audi TT and MINI. Furthermore, the Dacia Logan, Seat Altea and BMW 1-Series benefited from the addition of new versions that increased their appeal.

Market performance

The Eastern European new car markets continued to lead the charge in terms of growth with Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia recording significant increases in their new car markets in August. Poland continued its recovery with YtD volumes up 25.7% on 2006. Cyprus is also important to note with volumes rising by 30% in August, and 23% YtD.

..... CONT...

The German market continues to struggle compared to its showing in 2006 with August registrations 2.2% lower, a stronger performance than in the early months of the year, but meaning that YtD the market is 7.6% down on 2006.

Austria and Denmark equally are facing harder times with reduced markets compared to last year for both August and the YtD (down 3.8% and 4.5% respectively).

National Trends

Country	Aug_07	Aug_06	% Change Aug	Aug YtD_07	Aug YtD_06	% Change YtD
Austria	21,330	23,022	-7.3%	209,527	217,771	-3.8%
Belgium	33,882	33,018	+2.6%	381,988	393,988	-3.0%
Cyprus	1,806	1,389	+30.0%	15,893	12,916	+23.0%
Czech Republic	12,970	12,757	+1.7%	111,561	102,977	+8.3%
Denmark	10,100	12,094	-16.5%	101,619	106,416	-4.5%
Estonia	2,566	2,355	+9.0%	22,006	17,048	+29.1%
Finland	10,778	11,068	-2.6%	98,640	108,030	-8.7%
France	111,249	113,955	-2.4%	1,375,653	1,374,746	+0.1%
Germany	239,381	244,757	-2.2%	2,075,019	2,246,497	-7.6%
Great Britain	77,649	77,961	-0.4%	1,521,225	1,487,897	+2.2%
Greece	21,518	19,266	+11.7%	208,857	198,385	+5.3%
Hungary	15,045	14,405	+4.4%	115,228	123,597	-6.8%
Iceland	1,360	1,080	+25.9%	11,333	13,447	-15.7%
Ireland	8,911	9,083	-1.9%	175,233	165,912	+5.6%
Italy	104,524	98,522	+6.1%	1,744,563	1,640,895	+6.3%
Latvia	2,699	2,192	+23.1%	22,875	15,531	+47.3%
Lithuania	1,929	1,216	+58.6%	13,685	9,153	+49.5%
Luxembourg	2,929	2,801	+4.6%	36,412	37,327	-2.5%
Norway	10,786	8,793	+22.7%	88,534	71,872	+23.2%
Poland	22,490	17,444	+28.9%	196,289	156,168	+25.7%
Portugal	13,006	11,692	+11.2%	141,872	139,741	+1.5%
Slovakia	5,828	5,453	+6.9%	46,486	43,374	+7.2%
Slovenia	4,645	3,979	+16.7%	45,330	41,730	+8.6%
Spain	99,363	95,677	+3.9%	1,109,852	1,127,047	-1.5%
Sweden	23,062	22,241	+3.7%	195,699	185,348	+5.6%
Switzerland	19,702	17,467	+12.8%	188,519	181,805	+3.7%
The Netherlands	40,990	33,988	+20.6%	373,981	356,544	+4.9%
Grand Total	920,498	897,675	+2.5%	10,627,879	10,576,162	+0.5%

****Where actual data was not available at the time of release, estimated data has been used****

-Ends-

Editorial note: JATO Dynamics background

JATO was founded in 1984 and provides the world's most timely, accurate and up-to-date information 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's 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

For further press information, please contact:

Peter Haynes at Automotive PR. Tel: +44 (0) 207 494 8056

Mob: +44 (0) 7738 883259

Email: phaynes@automotivepr.com