

16 June 2011

Gradual road to recovery as European car sales increase in May

- Total European car market grew by 7.0% in May
- Majority of European markets experienced considerable sales increases
- Volkswagen's Golf remains Europe's best-selling car despite reduced sales in recent months

The Volkswagen Golf remains Europe's best selling car, with sales increased by 8.6% in May compared to 2010, although Year-to-Date sales have fallen by 7.4%.

The Ford Fiesta, with sales up by 2.7%, reclaimed 2nd place in the top 10 models from Volkswagen's Polo.

JATO's research identified four key findings:

- *The European new car market increased by 7.0% in May, but still shows declines of 0.3% year-to-date*
- *Of the top 10 models, seven recorded increased sales in May, compared with only two models in April.*
- *Similarly seven of the top 10 brands also recorded increased sales in May.*
- *Increased European sales have been driven by the positive performance in the German, French and Dutch markets.*

Many of the major European markets saw significant sales increases last month following an improvement in their economies but Greece and Spain experienced decreases of 15.3% and 23.5% respectively.

Volkswagen's recently revised Passat continues to record greatly increased volume, with a growth of 49.2% in May and 30.6% for the year to date,

while Ford's new third generation Focus is performing strongly with sales 18.6% higher than its predecessor recorded in May 2010.

Opel/Vauxhall posted sales in May 17.4% higher than a year earlier, with both Corsa and Astra claiming top 5 positions.

Commenting on the findings, Gareth Hession, Vice President, Research said:

"Despite an uncertain economic outlook, strong products from Volkswagen, Ford and Opel/Vauxhall are delivering excellent sales results."

Sales by Market

Country	May_11	May_10	% change May	May YtD_11	May YtD_10	% change YtD
Austria*	30,091	29,057	+3.6%	151,273	136,719	+10.6%
Belgium*	47,379	47,725	-0.7%	270,583	266,331	+1.6%
Cyprus	1,314	1,141	+15.2%	6,061	5,930	+2.2%
Czech Republic	15,482	15,861	-2.4%	72,128	70,445	+2.4%
Denmark	13,823	12,962	+6.6%	67,605	58,148	+16.3%
Estonia	1,722	911	+89.0%	7,005	3,957	+77.0%
Finland	13,031	10,704	+21.7%	60,058	50,199	+19.6%
France	197,701	186,268	+6.1%	1,014,912	971,905	+4.4%
Germany	304,543	249,708	+22.0%	1,334,197	1,179,532	+13.1%
Great Britain	150,431	153,095	-1.7%	846,513	913,436	-7.3%
Greece	10,069	11,887	-15.3%	45,422	83,141	-45.4%
Hungary	3,853	3,427	+12.4%	19,129	17,391	+10.0%
Iceland	1,062	390	+172.3%	1,890	790	+139.2%
Ireland	9,471	8,580	+10.4%	66,147	59,143	+11.8%
Italy	171,132	165,582	+3.4%	846,232	998,893	-15.3%
Latvia	955	481	+98.5%	4,170	2,003	+108.2%
Lithuania	1,248	658	+89.7%	5,279	2,614	+102.0%
Luxembourg	5,696	5,158	+10.4%	24,340	24,522	-0.7%
Norway	13,257	9,896	+34.0%	58,786	50,850	+15.6%
Poland*	19,313	17,196	+12.3%	109,040	91,306	+19.4%
Portugal*	18,148	19,249	-5.7%	78,174	89,217	-12.4%
Slovakia	6,519	5,014	+30.0%	27,918	23,238	+20.1%
Slovenia	5,513	5,551	-0.7%	27,173	26,740	+1.6%
Spain	78,854	103,075	-23.5%	359,069	483,595	-25.8%
Sweden	30,853	24,994	+23.4%	129,557	109,809	+18.0%
Switzerland	28,940	24,725	+17.0%	127,836	115,860	+10.3%
The Netherlands	50,053	36,821	+35.9%	278,431	219,411	+26.9%
Grand Total	1,230,453	1,150,116	+7.0%	6,038,928	6,055,125	-0.3%

* Denotes estimated data used for May_11

Top 10 Brands

Make	May_11	May_10	% change May	May YtD_11	May YtD_10	% change YtD
VOLKSWAGEN	156,766	133,816	+17.2%	731,162	678,269	+7.8%
FORD	99,208	91,205	+8.8%	491,292	528,541	-7.0%
OPEL/VAUXHALL	92,722	78,968	+17.4%	442,846	417,439	+6.1%
PEUGEOT	89,585	86,027	+4.1%	428,316	456,954	-6.3%
RENAULT	88,325	95,250	-7.3%	469,571	517,340	-9.2%
CITROEN	77,826	73,734	+5.5%	361,260	380,134	-5.0%
FIAT	68,181	72,665	-6.2%	324,961	406,538	-20.1%
AUDI	63,043	55,221	+14.2%	293,719	271,504	+8.2%
BMW	59,281	52,449	+13.0%	270,028	245,105	+10.2%
MERCEDES	53,900	54,468	-1.0%	241,745	238,033	+1.6%

Top 10 Models

Make & Model	May_11	May_10	% change May	May YtD_11	May YtD_10	% change YtD
VOLKSWAGEN GOLF	45,843	42,195	+8.6%	210,540	227,354	-7.4%
FORD FIESTA	32,722	31,867	+2.7%	162,463	204,979	-20.7%
VOLKSWAGEN POLO	32,026	30,381	+5.4%	156,576	153,779	+1.8%
OPEL/VAUXHALL CORSA	29,365	26,948	+9.0%	137,205	139,147	-1.4%
OPEL/VAUXHALL ASTRA	28,033	25,501	+9.9%	131,533	130,782	+0.6%
FORD FOCUS	25,960	21,881	+18.6%	117,986	123,201	-4.2%
RENAULT CLIO	25,243	28,464	-11.3%	135,829	160,663	-15.5%
VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT	25,119	16,831	+49.2%	108,452	83,040	+30.6%
PEUGEOT 207	24,224	26,343	-8.0%	117,356	144,401	-18.7%
FIAT PUNTO	20,577	21,389	-3.8%	102,053	127,225	-19.8%

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