



New Vauxhall Vivaro van grabs a slice of January market

Dear Colleague,

A total of 23,557 LCVs were registered in January, with 22,236 registered in the same period last year, totalling a 5.9% increase. Vans weighing 2.0-2.5 tonnes saw the biggest increase, rising 41.7% to 4,366 units, with under 2 tonne vans following with a 26.3% jump. 4x4s also saw an increase, moving from 126 units in 2019 to 134 this January. However, pickups saw a -9.7% change, falling from 3,808 to 3,438 registrations, with vans weighing 2.5-3.5 tonnes seeing a small decline of -0.9% also, which could be due to supply restrictions on fleet orders.

The next Truck Executive meeting will be on Wednesday 15 April in London. If there are any issues you would like added to agenda, please send an email to the address below.

A reminder that the NFDA is your trade body and here to help and advise you on regulatory and operational issues that affect your business. However, if there are issues that we have not covered or you have concerns about, please do contact us on the NFDA helpline 01788 538303.

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LCV MARKET UP FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH

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The Ford Transit Custom was once again the most registered LCV of the month totalling 3,117 units sold, with the Ford Transit being the second highest seller at 1,897 units, spelling a good month for Ford. The Vauxhall Vivaro was the third highest seller, with 1,549 registrations.

There is optimism in light commercial dealerships that the demand for clean, efficient and reliable business transport puts this sector in good stead for 2020.

Particularly, the jump in registrations for small and mid-size vehicles that are commonly used as service vans indicates confidence from buyers in future business prosperity, returning to the market after recent political and economic uncertainties.

EU COMMERCIAL VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS REBOUND IN DECEMBER AND UP FOR THE YEAR



In December 2019, commercial vehicle registrations increased by 5.7% across the European Union, ending three months of decline.

New medium and heavy commercial vehicles 3.5t-16t

In December, EU demand for new trucks decreased (-9.4%) for the sixth month in a row. This was mainly the result of the decline in heavy-truck registrations, which made up the bulk of total truck demand. The region's main markets followed this negative trend, with Germany (-12.2%), Italy (-11.7%) and France (-10.5%) seeing double-digit drops.

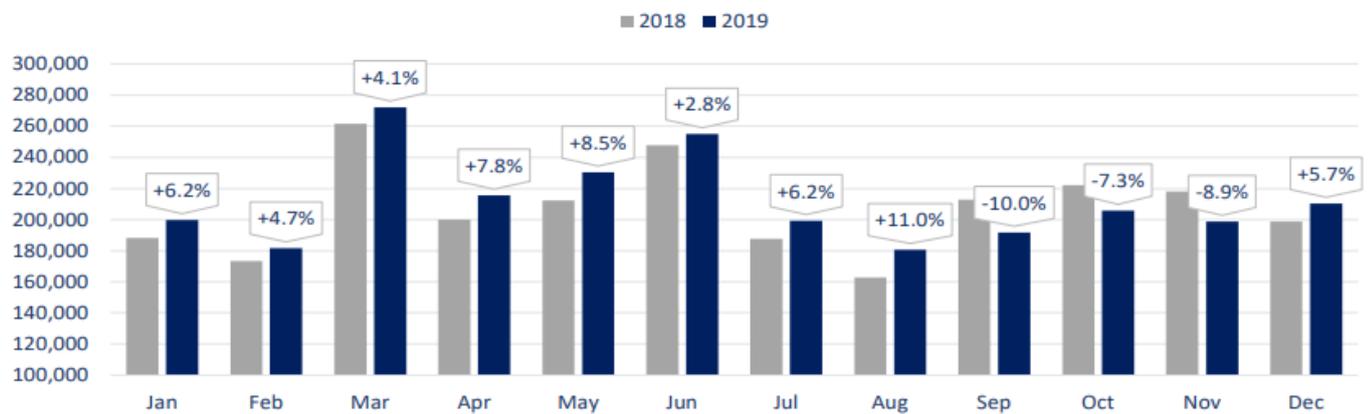
2019 ended positively for the EU truck market (+0.9%), despite the slowdown observed in the second half of the year. The United Kingdom (+9.5%), Germany (+4.2%), France (+1.5%) and Spain (+1.1%) all performed better than in 2018. Italy (-7.6%) was the only key market with falling demand.

New heavy commercial vehicles of 16t to 44t

December 2019 results of the heavy-duty segment were 13.6% lower than the same month in 2018, making it the sixth consecutive month of falling demand in 2019. The main reason for this downturn is the introduction of new, obligatory tachographs in heavy trucks from 15 June 2019. As a result, the major EU markets performed worse than the year before. Germany (-20.4%), the United Kingdom (-15.4%) and France (-11.9%) posted double-digit declines in the last month of the year.

In 2019, heavy-truck registrations across the EU remained more or less stable compared to 2018 due to the growth recorded in the first half of 2019. With the exception of Italy (-7.7%), all key markets posted gains last year: the UK (+9.2%), Spain (+2.8%), France (+2.1%) and Germany (+1.9%).

Total new commercial vehicle registrations in the EU - 12 month trend



VEHICLE REPAIR COMPANY FINED AFTER DEATH OF WORKER



A vehicle recovery and repair company has been sentenced after a new worker suffered fatal crush injuries during maintenance work, only hours after he'd started his new job.

Birmingham Magistrates' Court heard that on 24 November 2014, Albert Road Recovery and Repair Limited employee John Glenn was fatally injured when a rigid vehicle fell suddenly from an inadequate axle support prop at Siskin Parkway East, Middlemarch Business Park, Coventry.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) found that a cable reel drum jack was used to support the vehicle, which was not an appropriate piece of equipment for the task being undertaken.

Now dissolved, Albert Road Recovery and Repair Limited of Warley Hill Business Park, Brentwood, Essex was found guilty of breaching Section 2 (1) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and was fined £20,000, the highest amount available to this court.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector John Glynn said: “This incident led to the tragic death of John Glenn and occurred within hours of him starting his new job. It was completely avoidable.

“Not only did the company fail to adequately induct the new starter into their business, it failed to adequately instruct and supervise him on his first day and provided him with completely unsuitable tools and equipment. Had the company considered the risks properly, they would have had safe systems of work and approved vehicle repair equipment in place.”

Source: HSE

MAJOR INVESTMENT SPEEDS ARRIVAL OF NEW ELECTRIC VANS



British electric van company Arrival has received €100M of investment from Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corporation.

The deal marks the start of a strategic partnership aimed at accelerating the adoption of commercial electric vehicles globally.

It will also see Hyundai and Kia use key Arrival technologies to help achieve their recently announced goal to develop mobility services and electrify their vehicle fleets.

Arrival’s aim is to create EVs that surpass traditional vehicles in cost, design and efficiency. Its model will see these assembled using small footprint microfactories, located in areas of demand and profitable at thousands of units.

Avinash Rugoobur, Arrival’s Chief Strategy Officer said, “We are excited to come out of stealth mode with our partnership with Hyundai Motor Group, and our complementary expertise will allow us to rapidly design, build and roll out vehicles together.

Albert Biermann, President and Head of Research and Development Division at Hyundai Motor Group, added “The

eco-friendly vehicle market in Europe is expected to grow rapidly due to reinforcement of environmental regulations.

“Through the joint development of commercial electric vehicles with Arrival, we will be able to gain a competitive advantage and progressively establish our leadership in the global eco-friendly vehicle market.”

Youngcho Chi, President and Chief Innovation Officer at Hyundai Motor Group, said, “This investment is part of an open innovation strategy pursued by Hyundai and Kia. We will accelerate investment and cooperation with companies with advanced technology such as Arrival, to respond to the rapidly changing eco-friendly vehicle market.”

Source: SMMT

ELECTRIC DAFS CLOCK UP REAL-WORLD MILES



The first operators to add DAF’s CF Electric to their fleets have now clocked up a combined mileage of more than 150,000 kilometers – enough to travel around the earth four times.

A total of six fully-electric trucks have been in operation for around a year with DAF customers including Jumbo, Simon Loos and Tinie Manders Transport in the Netherlands and Rhenus Group in Germany.

This limited trial has allowed DAF and its customers to gather real-world operational data and the brand says it has now reached a point where it can put the model on wider sale.

“We have now reached the point where we can start to sell the CF Electric in limited numbers,” said Richard Zink, member of the Board of Management and responsible for Marketing & Sales.

“Think of a few dozen units on an annual basis. In order to guarantee excellent quality, we start up production in a controlled way. Simultaneously, we can thoroughly build up our service network, step-by-step. The CF Electric tractor unit is now available for customers in the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany’s North Rhine-Westphalia. Depending on the local battery charging infrastructure and after-sales possibilities, sales in other parts of Europe will be considered.”

According to DAF, the trial has helped customers to determine the business case of an electric truck and experience how it performs in the real world. It says that while customers were initially using only a limited part of their CF

Electric's 100 kilometres of range, some transport operators now drive around 250 kilometres a day with the vehicle.

"It is a matter of planning your trips cleverly," said Richard Zink. "The ability to quickly charge the batteries – with the right equipment fully charged in just over 30 minutes – means that additional kilometres are available quickly if required.

Source: SMMT

DRY VANUARY: BRITISH VAN DRIVERS EMBRACING HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES



With millions of Brits taking part in initiatives like Dry January and Veganuary last month to improve their health and wellbeing, inspiration can be taken from the nation's van drivers, who are embracing healthier habits all year round, according to new research by Vauxhall Motors.

The research, which reflects the views of more than 1,100 van drivers in the UK, reveals that many drivers are becoming increasingly health-conscious with nearly two fifths (37%) cutting back on alcohol in the last year, and more than a fifth (22%) cutting down or quitting smoking. The sacred 'van lunch' is being given a shake up too, with more than a third (34%) of van drivers starting to cook healthier meals in a bid to improve their diet and lifestyle.

The Vauxhall Motors research also shows that, in the past year, over a fifth (21%) of van drivers have tried alcohol-free beer or wine and almost two in ten (19%) have eaten meat free alternatives such as Quorn or jackfruit or vegan sausage rolls (20%). Other moves to improve their health include over a third (37%) of van drivers exercising at least once a week.

Patrick Fourniol, marketing director at Vauxhall Motors, comments: "Van drivers often spend a lot of time at the wheel which can make it trickier to prioritise healthy eating and exercise, but our research shows many are making it a priority.

Vauxhall Motors has partnered with anarchist chef, George Egg, who is touring the UK in the brand-new Vauxhall Vivaro to provide hardworking tradesmen and women with healthy fusion dishes to keep them going this year. George will be serving up culinary delights such as a 'Full English Salad' and a 'Vegan Paper Shredder Tagliatelle' after the survey found that a third (31%) of respondents wished they could eat healthier during their working week.

Source: Van User

REGISTRATION IS NOW LIVE FOR THE COMMERCIAL VEHICLE SHOW 2020



You are now able to register online for the Commercial Vehicle Show 2020!

Taking place from the 28-30 April at the NEC in Birmingham, the Commercial Vehicle Show hosts hundreds of exhibitors from all areas of the commercial vehicle industry.

You can register online [here](#), or for more information on the event click [here](#).
