

New car sales in Western Europe grew by just 0.1% year-on-year (YoY) in July according to data released by LMC Automotive. The annualised selling rate (SAAR) climbed to 14.3m units a year in July, from 14.2m units a year in June.



- Germany continues to be the powerhouse of Western European car sales, thriving amongst a generally stagnant region. Sales increased 4.7% YoY in July, with the selling rate rising beyond 3.8m units a year.
- The UK market, however, was down 4% YoY in July, and the selling rate fell to 2.28m units a year.
- French car sales fell 1.8% YoY in July; however the selling rate continued to linger around the 2.2m units a year mark. Italian registrations were down 0.1% YoY in July, despite an extra selling day. The selling rate – which at 1.9m units/year is in line with the average for the year to date (YTD) – underlines the lacklustre pace of sales in Italy.
- The Spanish market disappointed also in July, contracting by 11% YoY in July, whilst the selling rate has fallen further, to 1.2m units a year.

For the YTD, Western European car sales are down 3% YoY, although the selling rate is currently averaging a relatively strong 14.4m units a year. Next month is likely to see significant YoY declines in almost all Western European markets, given an exceptional base effect. August 2018 posted the highest selling rate ever seen in Western Europe (18.4m units/year), due to purchases being brought forward ahead of the WLTP implementation. From September, the YoY comparisons should swing back into positive territory, but given the generally sluggish performance of most major markets in the YTD, full year growth is likely to remain subdued, LMC said.

LMC forecasts that for the year as a whole, the West European car market will turn out at

West Europe Market Flat in July

Sunday, 11 August 2019

14.23m units, virtually flat on 2018.

West European car sales by country, July 2019

	July 2019	July 2018	change	YTD 2019	YTD 2018	%change
W Europe	1,186,000	1,185,000	0.1%	8,848,000	9,124,000	-3%
France	172,000	175,000	-1.8%	1,339,000	1,364,000	-1.8%
Germany	333,000	318,000	4.7%	2,182,000	2,157,000	1.2%
Italy	153,000	153,000	-0.1%	1,235,000	1,275,000	-3.1%
Spain	117,000	131,000	-11.1%	809,000	866,000	-6.5%
UK	157,000	164,000	-4.1%	1,426,000	1,478,000	-3.5%