

New commercial vehicles January to June 2021

Ongoing camper boom in the first half of 2021 in Switzerland

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Demand for motor homes in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein remains high. This is shown by the half-yearly data on the commercial vehicle market in both countries from auto-schweiz, the Association of Swiss Automobile Importers. In the first six months of the year, 4,786 new passenger transport vehicles hit the roads, of which 4,438 were campers alone – an increase of 37 percent over the previous year's figure of 3,240. The market for light commercial vehicles is also picking up considerably, growing by 21.2 percent to 15,698 new registrations. After six months, heavy commercial vehicles stand at 1,904 registrations, 1.9 percent more than a year ago. The total number of transport vehicles registered for the first time since the beginning of the year is 22'388, an increase of 22 percent on the 18'353 new registrations in the first half of the year 2020.

The recovery after the pandemic-related economic slump is currently reflected in many data. For example, the latest economic outlook from the Swiss federal government's group of experts and the KOF Swiss Economic Institute predict gross domestic product growth of between 3.8 and 4.0 percent for 2021. Both institutes have again revised their forecasts upwards. After the slump of 13.5 percent in the Corona year 2020, strong catch-up effects are now noticeable in the Swiss commercial vehicle market.

In the first half of the year, 15,698 new **light commercial vehicles** were put on the road, a growth rate of 21.2 percent, a good fifth more than a year ago. The segment is traditionally a good indicator of the current state of the economy. Accordingly, demand for vans and the like is now picking up strongly. However, it is 7.9 percent short of the market level of 17,052 redemptions reached before the Corona crisis in the first half of 2019. "So there is still room for improvement," sums up auto-schweiz media spokesman Christoph Wolnik, "but we are sensing a clear normalisation of the market. Supply and demand for electric drives are also picking up, with their market share in light commercial vehicles at four percent after the first half of the year." A year ago, vans with purely electric drives or plug-in hybrids would have accounted for only 1.8 percent of the market, Wolnik added.

Heavy commercial vehicles were able to slightly exceed their previous year's level of 1,869 new registrations in the first half of the year by 1.9 percent. With 1,904 new trucks, the market recovered well in the second quarter, but the level of 2,636 registrations in 2019 is still quite a way off (27.8 percent). Particularly in the market for heavy commercial vehicles, macroeconomic effects arrive only with a delay, as many vehicles are still being built up or converted accordingly for some time before they are delivered to customers.

Meanwhile, motorhomes are experiencing a continuing boom, and with them **passenger transport vehicles**. By the end of June, 4,786 new registrations had been registered in this vehicle group, 35.4 percent more than in the first half of 2020. Camper vans account for more than 90 percent of this, with 4,438 units, and their growth alone is 37 percent. Camper vans came through the Corona crisis in the first half of 2020 with almost no market losses. The remaining vehicle categories, such as cars, buses and minibuses, were more or less in balance. However, the market for coaches continues to be depressed, with only 43 new vehicles hitting the roads in the first half of the year – two years ago this number was more than three times higher at 152.

Together with the 124,547 passenger cars, a total of 146,935 new motor vehicles were put on the roads in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein in the first half of 2021. Compared to the previous year's figure of 121,554, this represents an increase of 25,381 new registrations or 20.9 percent.

Detailed registration figures by brand are available at www.auto.swiss.

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